

Troop 507 Philmont Expedition Information Sheet and Sign-Up Form

Troop 507 has received approval for an expedition to the Philmont Scout Ranch in July of 2008. A trip to Philmont is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. It is the most sought-after high adventure trip in Scouting, and we are fortunate to have received a reservation through the annual lottery procedure used to award the limited number of expeditions to troops that have applied. To find out more about Philmont, please take a look at its website: www.philmont.com.

Please read the following carefully to determine whether your Scout meets the requirements to participate, and then determine whether you are willing for him to participate if he wants to sign up.

Informational Meeting: As part of the regular Wednesday Troop Meeting on 1/10/2007, an informational meeting for those boys who will be eligible to attend Philmont in 2008 and their parents will be held in a side room that evening. Past participants and scout leaders will be there to answer questions you may have and a brief slide show from our Troop's last trip to Philmont in 2005 will be presented. **Those interested in attending Philmont, please plan to attend.**

Sign-up Deadline: We must receive your Scout's \$50 reservation fee and application form with signature of parent/guardian no later than the regular Troop Meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2007. **An application form is on the last page of this document.**

Trip Dates: We are to arrive at Philmont Scout Ranch on July 17, 2008 (which means we will have to depart Naperville one to two days earlier, depending on how we decide to travel; we will work out exact travel arrangements and departure details later). We will depart Philmont on July 29, 2008, to return to Naperville, with our arrival back in Naperville again depending on the mode of transportation that we choose.

Location: Philmont Scout Ranch is located on 137,000 acres near Cimarron, New Mexico, in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northern New Mexico.

Personnel: We have approval to take three crews with 22 youth and 8 adult leaders.

Cost: The total cost per participant (Scouts and adults) will be the Philmont Expedition fee of \$560 per participant, plus the cost of round-trip travel from Naperville, lodging, meals, and miscellaneous. This does not include any equipment which it may be necessary for you to purchase. We will be better able to estimate the overall cost of the trip after we have settled the details of our travel plans. (Current round-trip Amtrak youth fare from Naperville to Raton, NM, is approximately \$150 per person, and a lower group fare may be available.) We will consider a special fund-raising project for participants to help defray the trip cost.

Schedule of Payments: Payments will be due on the following schedule:

1. \$50 deposit due by January 24, 2007.
2. Second payment of \$255.00 due by September 1, 2007.
3. Third payment of \$255.00 due by February 1, 2008.
4. Final payment (for transportation expense) due by April 1, 2008. (The amount of this payment will be announced after we have settled the details of our travel plans.)

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Age Requirements: The following age requirements must be met, and Philmont will not allow any exceptions to these. A participant must be either: (1) 14 years old by January 1, 2008, or (2) have completed the eighth grade and be 13 years old by the beginning of the trip on July 17, 2008.

Height/Weight Limits: Philmont has implemented height/weight limits to improve the health and safety of participants. Basically, a participant's weight must be proportioned to their height. Use the following table to determine whether you fall under the maximum acceptable weight for your height:

Height	Recommended Weight (lbs)	Maximum Acceptance
5'0	97 - 138	166
5'1"	101 - 143	172
5'2"	104 - 148	178
5'3"	107 - 152	183
5'4"	111 - 157	189
5'5"	114 - 162	195
5'6"	118 - 167	201
5'7"	121 - 172	207
5'8"	125 - 178	214
5'9"	129 - 185	220

5'10"	132 - 188	226
5'11"	136 - 194	233
6'0"	140 - 199	239
6'1"	144 - 205	246
6'2"	148 - 210	252
6'3"	152 - 216	260
6'4"	156 - 222	267
6'5"	160 - 228	274
6'6"	164 - 234	281
6'7" & over	170 - 240	295

Youth Participant Selection Criteria: If more eligible Scouts wish to sign-up for the trip than we can take, we will apply the following criteria to determine priority of acceptance:

1. Scouts who are active in the troop will have priority over those who are not active. "Active" is defined as having participated in at least 75 percent of unit meetings and campouts during the past six months.
2. Rank.
3. Age.

These criteria are designed to provide additional opportunity for Scouts who have been the most active in the troop and who have demonstrated their interest and Scout spirit through rank advancement and skills proficiency. Some preference is given to older Scouts because younger Scouts will presumably have other opportunities for high adventure trips before they complete their Scouting careers.

Adult Participants: We are required to send 3 or 4 adult leaders per each 8 or 9 boys who go, so adult participation is essential. Adults must be registered with BSA as adult leaders and have completed BSA required adult leader training. Adults not currently meeting those qualifications may sign up for the trip on the condition that they agree to register immediately as an Assistant Scoutmaster and complete the three required adult leader training courses in 2007. (Required training consists of three sessions lasting 2 hours, 8 hours, and one weekend respectively.) Each adult will also be required to become certified in First Aid and in CPR.

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Preparation Commitment: Those who apply must agree to participate in a number of training and preparation activities that we will conduct between now and trip departure. The group will continue to go on campouts with the troop (and possibly other special outings), but it will be involved in backpacking, hiking, and other special activities designed to fully prepare everyone to meet the rigorous demands that will be required of them at Philmont.

Philmont Risk Advisory: Please read the following information carefully. It is reproduced from materials sent to us by Philmont. Parents should take this into account in deciding whether to allow their Scouts to participate in this expedition.

Philmont has an excellent health and safety record with over 750,000 adults and young people having attended over the last 65 years. Philmont strives to minimize risks to participants and advisors by emphasizing proper safety precautions. Most participants in Philmont programs do not experience injuries because they are prepared, are conscious of risks, and take safety precautions. If you decide to attend Philmont, you should be physically fit, have proper clothing and equipment, and be willing to follow instructions and work as a team with your crew and take responsibility for your own health and safety. For further information, please thoroughly read the *Guidebook to Adventure* which will be mailed in mid-March. Like other wilderness areas, Philmont is not risk free and you should be prepared to listen to safety instructions carefully, follow directions and take appropriate steps to safeguard yourself and others.

Parents, guardians and potential participants in Philmont programs are advised that journeying to and from Philmont, and one's stay at Philmont, can involve exposure to accident, illness, and/or injury associated with a high elevation, physically demanding, high adventure program in a remote mountainous area. Campers may be exposed to occasional severe weather conditions such as lightning, hail, flash floods and heat. Other potential problems include: injuries from tripping and falling, motor vehicle accidents, worsening of underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma, heart attacks, heat exhaustion and falls from horses.

Philmont's trails are steep and rocky. Wild animals such as bears, rattlesnakes and mountain lions are native and usually present little danger if proper precautions are taken. Please refer to the *Guidebook to Adventure*, speak with previous Philmont participants, or call Philmont for further information concerning risks and measures which can be taken to avoid accidents.

Philmont has staff trained in first aid, CPR and accident prevention, and is prepared to assist in recognizing, reacting, and responding to accidents, injuries and illnesses. Each crew is also required to have adult leaders trained in first aid and CPR. Medical and search and rescue services are provided by Philmont in response to an accident or emergency. However, response times can be affected by location, weather or other emergencies and could be delayed six or more hours.

[End of Philmont Risk Advisory]

Please review all of the preceding material, talk with your Scout, and decide whether he should apply for our Philmont Expedition. If you decide to apply, please remember the various deadlines noted above, especially the \$50.00 deposit and application form due no later than our regular Troop Meeting on January 24, 2007.

Please feel free to email or call me if you have questions about our Philmont expedition.

Yours in Scouting,
Jim DerKacy
Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop 507
Naperville, Illinois
jaderkacy@wowway.com
630-416-1530 (home)

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To register for the Philmont Expedition, detach this page, fill in the requested information, and return with a deposit of \$50 by Jan. 24, 2007.

Waiver of Responsibility

I, _____, have read the preceding “Philmont Risk Advisory” section. In consideration of the benefits to be derived, and in view of the fact that the Boy Scouts of America is an educational institution, membership in which is voluntary, and having full confidence that every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety and well being of my Scout son/ward, named _____, on the Troop 507 Philmont Expedition in July, 2008, I agree to his participation and waive all claims against the leaders of this trip, officers, agents, and representatives of the Boy Scouts of America, and the sponsor.

In the event of an emergency, the troop Philmont Expedition leaders and the staff of the Philmont Scout Reservation have my permission to obtain medical treatment for this scout at the nearest hospital or doctor, at my expense, as restricted on the Emergency Data sheet on file with Troop 507.

(Signature of parent or guardian)

(Date)

Activity: Troop 507 Philmont Expedition

Date: July 15 - 31, 2008