

# Philmont Programs and Treks

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NCAC High Adventure Committee  
November 20, 2022



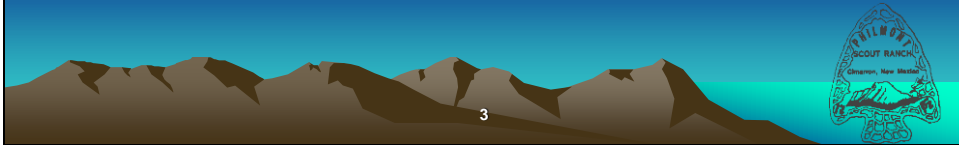
# The Philmont Trek

- 11-day/10-night backpacking trips (also 9- and 7-day) (Sat/Sun only)
  - 35 pre-selected itineraries ("treks")
  - 50 - 90+ miles total length
  - Elevations range from 6,500 feet (base camp) to 12,441 feet (Baldy)
- All cooking is done on backpacking stoves
- Two days of training by a Philmont Ranger



# The Philmont Trek

- All personal gear, crew gear and food is carried on your back (30-50+ lbs.)
- Each night is spent at a different backcountry camp (100+ total camps)
- Program opportunities at ~37 backcountry staff camps



# Common Terms/Concepts

- "In Over The Tooth" vs. Turnaround/Trailhead
- The Baldy Loop/Layover Day
- "Doing program" (staff camps)
- Food pickup
- Conservation project
- Trail camps
- Dry camps
- Long days (miles, elevation, program, conservation project)
- Sister crews



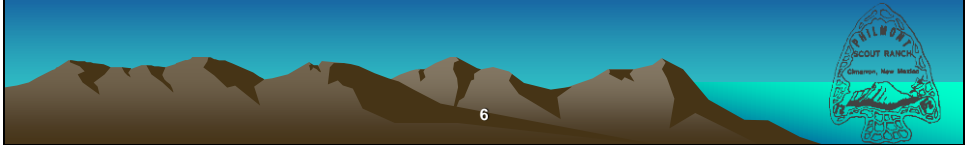
# Choosing A Trek

- Things to Consider:
  - Program Opportunities
    - Decide AS A CREW which programs you want to do
    - Many popular programs are offered at multiple camps (rock climbing, horseback riding, spar pole climbing)
    - May be able to do program at a pass-thru camp (depends on demand from crews that have it on their itinerary)
  - Total Mileage
  - Difficulty (Trek rating)
  - North or South or both (2 in '21 and '22, 4 in '23?)
  - The High Peaks - Baldy, Phillips, Tooth of Time
  - "Other factors" (later)



# Trek Ratings

Super Strenuous	30-35	86+	3+	Less	17+	More	More
Strenuous	21-29	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑
Rugged	12-20						
Challenging	1-11	50+	1-2	More	13/14	Less	Less
	Trek # (2021)	Miles	Peaks	Program Time	Age	Experience	Fitness



## Avoid...

- "Under-Trekking"
  - Choosing a Trek That Is Too Easy
  - Too Much Down Time
- "Over-Trekking"
  - Doing More Miles Than Crew Can Physically/Emotionally Handle
  - Missing Program Opportunities
  - Constantly Hiking



# The Trek Selection Process

- Treks Book and Guidebook to Adventure will be online **around December 8th** (e-mail notice to lead advisors, as registered in Gateway)
- Includes day-by-day trek breakdown, with programs, map elevation profiles, food pickups, conservation projects, etc.
- Trek selection (lottery) registration opens **around January 12, closes February 16**





# Selecting Your Trek

- **Crew** collects and reviews resources
- **Crew** meets to review programs, collect interests, and discuss trek difficulty
- **Crew** meets to select top six choices (eight if sister crews)



# Resources

- Get a Philmont map (Tooth of Time Traders)  
[www.toothoftimetraders.com](http://www.toothoftimetraders.com)
  - Overall vs. North or South Country (more detailed)
- Download the 2022 Guidebook to Adventure (details about Philmont programs and trekking, which don't vary much from year to year)
- Download the 2022 Treks Book (details on programs vs. camps)
  - Caution - This is just to give you a general idea. Many treks are modified to some degree every year<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmonttreks/experiences/>

**Watch for the 2023 versions**



# Philmont Scout Ranch

Cimarron, New Mexico



Overall Map  
Philmont GIS



# Program Descriptions

## Guidebook to Adventure

### **Blacksmithing**

The ring of hammer striking iron echoes through the mountains around *Black Mountain, Cyphers Mine, French Henry, Metcalf Station, and Rayado/Kit Carson*. Here staff blacksmiths will acquaint you with a working forge, blower, leg vice, hardie, and an array of tongs used to grip red-hot iron. They will discuss and demonstrate techniques for firing the forge, working metal, and tempering the finished product.

### **Burro Packing**

No animal is more closely associated with the colorful history of the Southwest than the burro. Burro packing methods are explained at demonstrated at *Ponil* and *Miranda*. Your tents and food may be packed on burrows using a diamond hitch.

Burros are available for use on the trail in the northern portion of the ranch, starting or ending at *Ponil* and *Miranda*. Burro traps (holding pens for overnight stops) are located at *Ponil, Pueblano, Miranda, Eikhorn, Flume Canyon, Head of Dean, and Baldy Skyline*. Hay for feeding is provided at these camps. If your itinerary provides for packing burros, take advantage of this unique opportunity to pack them just as the miners once did. All crews on a Burro Itinerary must take a burro.

### **Cantina**

*Abrev* and *Ponil* offer the opportunity for a thirst-quenching root beer in a Mexican or Western-style cantina. You can buy root beer for your whole crew or a cup for yourself.

### **Challenge Events**

A series of activities that will test the teamwork, skill, and resourcefulness of your crew awaits you at *Dan Beard, Head of Dean, and Urraca*. While the challenges can be met by every crew, the real contest is with yourself. Did you do your best? How would you do better next time?



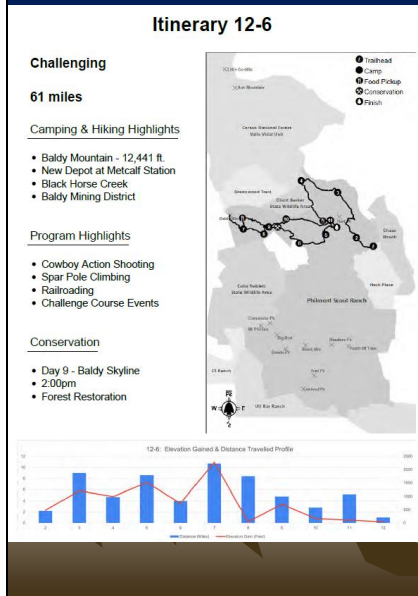
Programs Included in 12-Day Itineraries																																						
ITINERARY NUMBERS:	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35		
	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Distance (approximate):	51	54	53	54	54	61	58	53	56	54	59	59	57	61	55	61	69	60	60	65	66	72	68	67	65	69	66	65	75	66	73	82	86					
Trek Camps:	X	4	5	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	6	4	4	6	4	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	4	6	6	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6			
Dry Camps:	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	1	2	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Aerobically:	X																																					
Archery - 3 Dimensional:								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X								
Astronomy:																																						
Abseil (Climbing):																																						
ATV/Boat Course:	X																																					
Baldy Mountain Hike:		X	X												X	X	X									X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Backpacking:	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Bowfishing:																																						
Burn Pacing:		X																																				
Campfire Evenings:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Canine:	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Challenge Events:	X	X	X	X																																		
Challenge Dinner:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Challenging Dinner:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
COPE:																																						
Cowboy Action Shooting:	X	X	X																																			
Demonstration Forest:	X	X	X	X																																		
Death Over Dessert:	X																																					
Fishing:	X																																					
Flint Tying:	X																																					
Fall Weather Forecasting:																																						
Geocaching:	X																																					
Gold Mining & Panning:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Historic Chase Ranch:																																						
Homesteading:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Horse Riding:		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Jacinta Apache Life:																																						
KC Carson/Rajado Rancho:																																						
Land Navigation, GPS Technology:	X																																					
Lead Shot Shooting Range:																																						
Lodge/Cabin Tours:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Low Impact Canyoning:																																						
Mexican Dinner:																																						
Mini Trip:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mountain Biking:																																						
Mountain Man Rendezvous:	X	X	X	X																																		
Muzzle Loading Rifle:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
New Mexican Homestead:	X																																					
Pistol/Cool War Debates:																																						
Rainforest:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rock Climbing & Rafting:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Rocky Mountain Fur Co.:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Search & Rescue/Wild Medicine:																																						
Shooting/Roasting - 30-06:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Shotgun Shooting/Roasting - 12 Ga:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Soar Pale Climbing:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
The Hazing & Grizzly Bear:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Tomahawk Throwing:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Tooth of Time:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Western LureShooting:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wetlands Conservation:	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Treks Book  
Programs vs Treks



This might be the single most important page for picking a trek, because it shows which programs are available on which treks. Later there will be an example of how to use it.

# The Treks Book



- Two pages per trek
- First contains maps for each trek showing the general route for each itinerary
- Bottom chart shows mileage and elevation changes



This and all the later sample pages use the same trek – 2020 Trek 17- to illustrate the analysis.

# The Treks Book

- The top of the second page for each itinerary is a textual description of the trek, often providing critical hints about the programs that are or aren't included

**2022 PHILMONT ADVENTURE ITINERARY**


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**Itinerary 12-6** **Rugged (good mix of program and hiking) - 63 miles**

*This exciting trek offers a variety of great program elements, as well as a chance to summit Philmont's highest peak. Your adventure begins at Six-Mile Gate Trailhead with a short hike to McBride Canyon camp, setting you up for easy access to Hart Peak the next morning. The North Point is a timeline in history as you make your way to see the petroglyphs and archeological sites at Indian Writings. Head up to canyon to work on the railroad and in the forge at Melsol Station and enjoy the brand new depot! Be ready to face the challenges presented by the facilitators at Dan Beard as they run your crew through a series of elements designed to build teamwork. You'll work your way down Horse Canyon to grab some more commissary goods at Ponil before heading to your trail camp at Dean Skyline...enjoy tremendous views all the way to Colorado! Shoot over to the newly reopened Santa Claus Camp where you can load your own 12-gauge Shotgun shells and then head to the range and test your shooting skills. Your stop at Black Horse Creek Camp will be focused on exploring the mining history of the area and hiking Philmont's highest peak: Baldy Mountain. After your morning summit of Baldy, you'll head to Miranda to partake in the Fur Trapper Rendezvous. Have fun learning to throw tomahawks, shoot Muzzle Loading Rifles, then set up camp so you can be ready to meet and receive your own burro the next morning. You'll learn how to pack them properly before hiking with them to your next stop Baldy Skyline, which offers a view of the peak you just conquered and is where you will complete your conservation project. The next day will take you to the loggers of the Continental Tie and Lumber Co. at Pueliano. Here you can climb spar poles and make rail ties before ending the day with an exciting campfire "Company Meeting". Take good care of your burro, he will help get you down to Ponil. Feel what it was like to be in an old west town, take aim at the Cowboy Action Shooting range and enjoy a hearty Chuck Wagon dinner. Celebrate with a cold root beer and prepare for the raucous Cantina Show to top off the day! Your last morning will have you riding horses before hiking to the Ponil Trailhead, where a short bus ride returns you to Base Camp to celebrate your adventure before heading home.*

Day Camp	Miles	Gain	Loss	Program Features	Food Pickup
1. Camping HQ				Opening Campfire	

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This page is the key to much of the later analysis of a trek – it's crammed with a lot of information in a small space.

# The Treks Book

Day	Camp	Miles	Gain	Loss	Program Features	Food Pickup
1	Camping HQ				Opening Campfire	
2	McBride Canyon *	2.2	482'	88'	Ranger Training; Water @ South Ponil; Trail Camp	Camping HQ
3	METCALF STATION	9.0	1,210'	1,082'	Climb Hart Peak, Petroglyph Tour @ Indian Writings; Rairoding, Blacksmithing, Campfire	
4	DAN BEARD	4.7	992'	308'	Challenge Course Events	
5	Dean Skyline *	8.6	1,513'	977'	Trail Camp	Ponil
6	SANTA CLAUS	4.0	739'	717'	12 Gauge Shotgun Shooting and Reloading	
7	Black Horse Creek	10.7	2,280'	1,050'	Mining History & Assaying @ Baldy Town; Trail Camp	Baldy Town
8	Maxwell	8.4	49'	1,237'	Climb Baldy Mountain; Mountain Man Rendezvous @ Miranda; Trail Camp	
9	Baldy Skyline	4.8	705'	169'	Pick up Burros @ Miranda; Conservation Project	
10	FUEBLANO	2.8	168'	1,166'	Tie Making, Spar Pole Climbing, Campfire	
11	PONIL *	5.2	109'	1,025'	Drop off Burros; Western Lore/Branding, Cantina, Cowboy Action Shooting, Chuckwagon Dinner, Carline Show	Ponil
12	Camping HQ	1.0	43'	118'	Horse Rides; Hike to Ponil Trailhead; Awards Campfire	

(\*) = Dry Camp (S) = Showers may be available

Departs from Camping Headquarters on Day 2 for Six Mile Gate Trailhead to go to McBride Canyon Camp  
Returns to Camping Headquarters on Day 12 from Ponil Trailhead

This is a Burro Packing Itinerary. If your crew chooses it, they **MUST TAKE THE BURRO**.  
Horse rides require that all participants weigh 200 lbs. or less. Spots limited, sign up in Logistics before departing base.

Campsite Elevations: 7,037' Minimum, 9,598' Maximum      Camps: 5 Staffed, 5 Trail, 2 Dry Camps  
Conservation:      Baldy Skyline      Sectional Maps: North

Crews passing through staff camps may have an opportunity to participate in some, but not all, program opportunities in the camp, based on availability.

**NO CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE FOR CAMPS, FOOD PICKUPS, OR BUS TRANSPORTATION AFTER ITINERARY SELECTION**

Pahmont Scout Ranch, BSA      38      2021 Itinerary Guidebook

- The bottom of the second page for each itinerary contains a daily breakdown of camps you will stay at, program opportunities, food pickup points, etc.



This page is the key to much of the later analysis of a trek – it’s crammed with a lot of information in a small space.



# Online Resources

- [Philtrek.com](http://Philtrek.com)
  - Programs, itineraries and detailed maps of every **2022** itinerary and trail segment (2023 sometime after Treks book is released)
- [www.philsearch.org](http://www.philsearch.org)
- [www.sccovington.com/philmont](http://www.sccovington.com/philmont)
  - Click on Philmont and General Information
  - Click on Itinerary Selection





12-day Treks

9-day Treks

7-day Treks

Trails

About

### ITINERARY SELECTION PROCESS

Top 3 Choices — Find the ideal itinerary!  
 Itineraries at a Glance  
 Compare / Overlay Itineraries

### CAMPS FILTER

### PROGRAMS

### 2020 ITINERARIES

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### RENDEZVOUS

### SPECIAL REPORTS

Changes from previous year  
 Turnaround usage  
 Camp usage (Crew load)  
 Camps not used  
 Archives — view itineraries from a previous year

Nine Mile Trailhead and returning back to base Camp.

Day	Note	Camp	Program
1		Base	Opening Campfire
2		Hells Fire Canyon	Ranger Training; Trail Camp; Low Impact Camping
3		Chase Canyon	Rock Climbing @ Chase Cow Trail Camp; Low Impact Camping
4	(s)	Indian Writings	Archaeology
5		Dean Cutoff	Burro Packing, Campfire (evening), Cantina, Chuck Wagon Breakfast, Chuck Wagon Dinner, Horse Rides, Trading Post and Commissary, Western Lore @ Portal Trail Camp
6		French Henry	Campfire (evening), Continental Tie and Lumber Company @ Pueblano Baldy Mountain hike, Blacksmithing, Gold Mining and Panning
7		Ute Meadows	Baldy Mountain hike, Trading Post and Commissary @ Baldy Town Trail Camp
8		Ute Meadows	Black Powder Rifle, Burro Packing, Mountain Man Rendezvous @ Miranda Trail Camp. Layover day
9		Head of Dean	Challenge Events
10		Santa Claus	Shotgun Shooting / Reloading 12 gauge
11		Trail Canyon	Trail Camp
12		Base	Awards Campfire

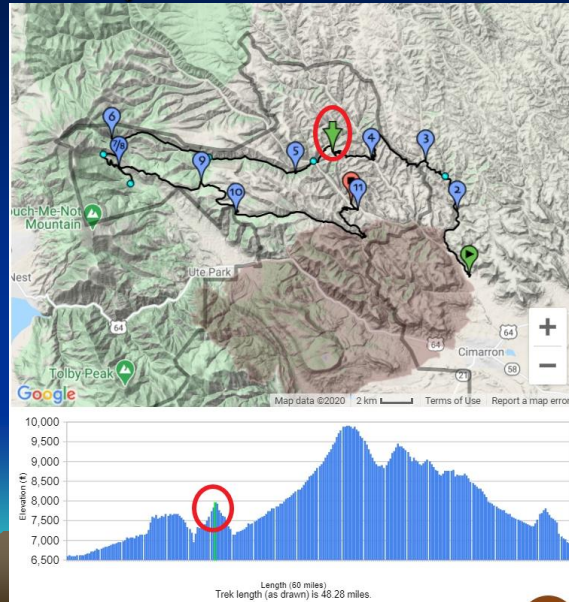
Departs from Camping Headquarters on Day 2 for Chase Turnaround to go to Hells Fire Canyon Camp.  
 Return to Camping Headquarters on Day 12 from 9-Mile Gate Turnaround.

Campsite Elevations: 6,640' Minimum, 9,600' Maximum  
 Camps: 4 Staffed, 6 Trail (0 dry) Camps; 1 Layover  
 Sectional Maps: Valle Vidal, North

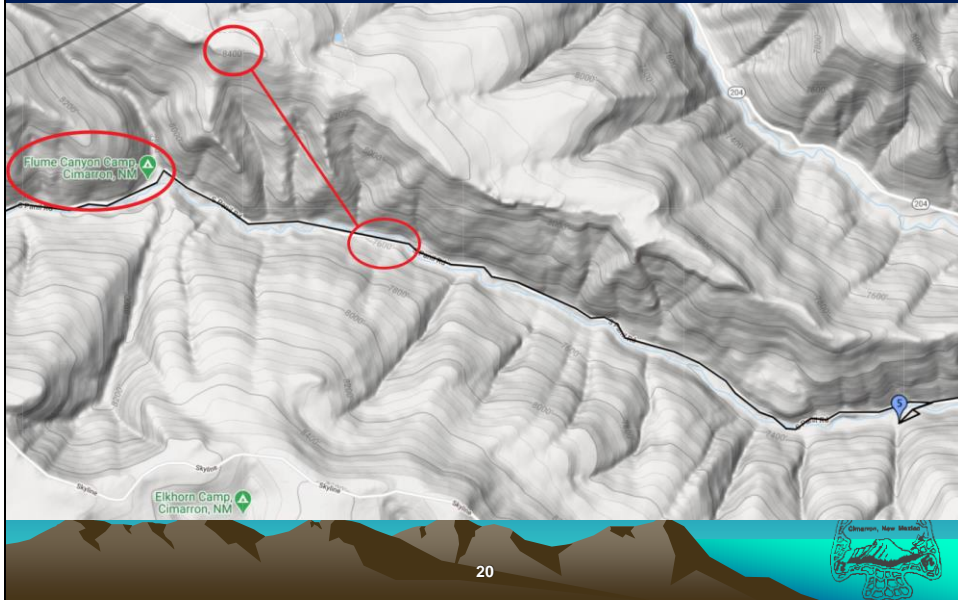
On the Philtrek site, this itinerary overview is essentially identical to the page in the Treks book – but this is only the top half of the web page.

philtrek.com

Bottom  
of prior  
itinerary  
page



The bottom of the page contains a zoom-able image of the entire trek, and if you mouse over the elevation profile at the bottom, the green arrow moves along the map at the top.



You can zoom all the way in to see the elevation markings on the contour lines – here showing the first part of the trip from Day 5 to Day 6, where the conservation project is at Flume Canyon.

The screenshot displays the 'Clarks Fork — Aspen Springs' trail segment on the philtrek.com website. On the left, a 'TRAIL SEGMENTS' list includes various trails, with 'Clarks Fork to Aspen Springs' highlighted. The main content area features a map with a red trail line and a corresponding elevation profile below it. The elevation profile shows a range from approximately 7,800 to 8,400 feet. Text on the right provides trail segment data, including elevation details and a note that it is not included in a specific itinerary.

**Trail Segment Data:** (elevation data from Google® Maps)  
This trail segment goes between **Clarks Fork** at an elevation of 7516 ft. and **Aspen Springs** at an elevation of 7932 ft., covering 4.3 miles. This segment has a maximum elevation of 8290 ft. and a minimum elevation of 7516 ft., a range of 772 ft.

Not included in any 2019 12-day itinerary.

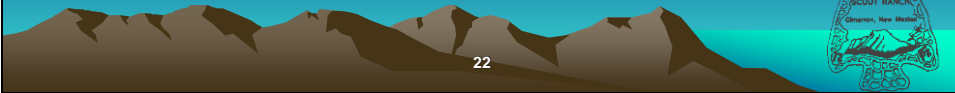
**Trail Segment Maps**

The trail segments portion of the site will show you the detail of any single trail segment, with elevation profile.

# Review Programs

- Everyone reviews the program descriptions in *Guidebook to Adventure*
- Discuss programs as a group to ensure everyone knows what each is about
- Identify programs your crew is most interested in

Remember - you can't do everything!



# Prioritize Programs

- Record preferences (weighted or not)
- Identify preferred programs/peaks

**Programs Included in 12-Day Itineraries**

ITINERARY NUMBERS:	12-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35		
Hiking Difficulty	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Distance (approximately)	51	54	53	54	54	55	55	53	56	57	58	60	60	61	61	60	59	60	60	65	66	65	66	63	66	69	67	72	71	71	75	80	82	86				
Trail Camps	4	4	3	6	6	5	5	5	6	4	4	6	5	5	4	6	5	4	5	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	6	6	6					
Dry Camps	1		3	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1					2	3	1	1	2	1	1							
Archaeology		X											X	X	X									X	X													
Archery - 3 Dimensional						X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X								X	X	X											
Astronomy																									X										X	X	X	
Abseil (Cairn-Throwing)														X		X								X												X	X	
ATV Rider Course		X																																				
Baldy Mountain Hike		X	X		X										X	X	X						X		X	X	X							X	X	X	X	
Blacksmithing		X	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bouldering															X	X																					X	
Burno Packing		X				X									X										X													
Campfire (evening)		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cantina		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Challenge Events		X	X	X	X	X							X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Chuckwagon Dinner		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
COPE													X																									
Cooley Adlon Shooting		X	X	X	X										X										X													
Demonstration Forest		X		X	X		X									X	X										X	X	X	X								
Dutch Oven Dessert		X																																				
Fishing		X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X							X	X	X	X									
Fly Tying		X																																				
Folk Weather Forecasting																									X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X
Geocaching		X						X	X																X													
Gold Mining & Panning		X	X	X	X		X	X					X	X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



This is a sample (randomly selected) of how you might highlight the programs that the crew indicates are their preferred ones. (This is only the top half of the page.)

# Find Programs on Treks

- Which treks hit the most popular programs?

↓ Programs Included in 12-Day Itineraries

ITINERARY NUMBERS:	12-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35		
Hiking Difficulty	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Distance (approximately)	51	54	53	54	54	55	55	53	56	57	58	60	61	61	61	60	59	60	60	65	65	65	66	63	65	65	67	72	71	71	75	80	82	86				
Trail Camps	4	4	3	6	6	5	5	5	6	4	4	6	5	5	4	6	5	4	5	5	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	3	6	6	6	6				
Dry Camps	1		3	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	3	1	2	1			2	3	1	1	2	1	1									
Archaeology			X												X	X							X	X											X	X		
Archery - 3 Dimensional							X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X					X	X	X												
Astronomy																X								X		X							X	X	X			
Atlatl (Jart-Throwing)															X		X																			X	X	
ATV Rider Course	X																																					
Baldy Mountain Hike	X	X				X										X	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Bioastronomy	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bouldering																X	X																				X	
Burno Packing			X			X																		X														
Campfire (evening)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cantina	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Challenge Events	X	X	X	X	X										X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Chuckwagon Dinner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
COPE																X							X	X														
Cowboy Action Shooting	X	X			X											X									X													
Demonstration Forest	X		X	X		X										X	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dutch Oven Dessert	X																																					
Fishing	X																																					
Fly Tying	X																																					
Folk Weather Forecasting																																						
Geocaching	X																																					
Gold Mining & Panning	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Here we illustrate where you count how many treks (green) hit the greatest number of the preferred programs (yellow). In this case, all the green treks hit four of the yellow programs – oddly enough, Trek 2 actually hit five of the randomly selected ones.



# New Tool for Trek Analysis

- In 2021, Philmont introduced a new tool for evaluating treks, called Itinerary Explorer
- This allows for an automated approach to the sort of analysis described in the prior slides for assessing crew interests and identifying treks that match them
- However, it doesn't provide for the type of analysis described on slides 29-31



# Crew Capabilities

- Evaluate the capabilities of your crew carefully when choosing how strenuous your trek might be
- Crew members should discuss any limitations or concerns they may have
- Advisors need to know the experience level and capabilities of ALL members
- It may be helpful to decide first how strenuous a trek your crew should choose, keeping in mind that less time may be available for programs on tougher treks



# The Trek Shortlist

- Meet to identify the crew's trek choices
- Make sure your crew understands that it may not be possible to capture every single program activity they desire

This should produce a list of ~8-10 treks

There are no bad treks  
(just poorly chosen ones)



# Evaluating Treks

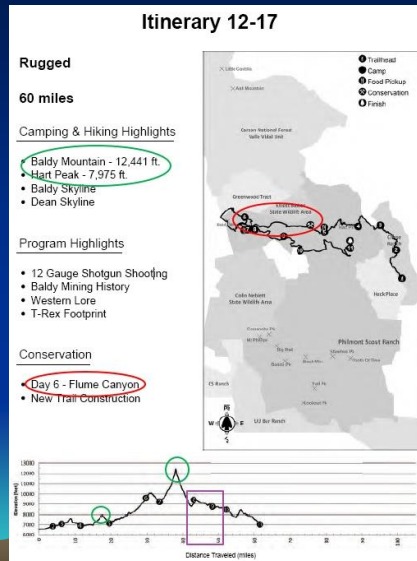
## Factors to consider

- Program, program, program!!!
- High peaks
- Multi-program camps
- Daily mileage and elevation change
- Food pickups - number and spacing
- Conservation project - and what else?
- Layover days
- Dry camps (meal options)
- Hot breakfast (yes, you can tell which days)



# Factors to Consider\*

\*See  
slide  
notes



- The first page for any trek will highlight things like peaks (green circle), matching the obvious peaks on the elevation profile (also green)
- It will also point out the day, time, and location of the conservation project (red circle), which can be spotted on both the map and the elevation profile (red circle and rectangle). In this case, the point of concern is that conservation is always a 3-hour project (9 AM-noon or 1-4 PM), and here it's on a long hiking day.

# Factors to Consider\*

(\*see notes)

Day	Camp	Miles	Gain	Loss	Program Features	Food Pickup
1	Camping HQ				Opening Campfire	
2	Hells Fire Canyon	3.9	485'	246'	Ranger Training; Main House Tour @ Chase Ranch; Trail Camp	Camping HQ
3	Chase Canyon	3.7	453'	148'	Rock Climbing & Rappelling, Bouldering @ Chase Cow	
4	INDIAN WRITINGS <sup>s</sup>	5.1	777'	956'	Archaeology, Atlatl Darts, Petroglyph Tour	
5	Dean Cutoff	5.8	1,339'	987'	Western Lore/Branding, Cantina @ Ponil; Trail Camp	Ponil
6	FRENCH HENRY	9.1	2,913'	687'	Tie Making @ Pueblano; Gold Mining & Panning, Mine Tour, Blacksmithing	
7	Ute Meadows	3.8	222'	691'	Mining History & Assaying @ Baldy Town; Trail Camp	Baldy Town
8	Ute Meadows	9.6	3,331'	3,365'	Climb Baldy Mountain; Mountain Man Rendezvous, Tomahawks @ Miranda; Trail Camp	
9	HEAD OF DEAN	5.3	600'	1,019'	Challenge Course Events	
10	SANTA CLAUS	3.9	305'	603'	12 ga. Shotgun Shooting & Reloading	
11	Trail Canyon <sup>d</sup>	9.2	699'	2,102'	Water @ Middle Ponil; Trail Camp	
12	Camping HQ	0.5	13'	130'	Hike to Nine Mile Trailhead; Awards Campfire	

(d) = Dry Camp (s) = Showers may be available

Departs from Camping Headquarters on Day 2 for Chase Trailhead to go to Hells Fire Canyon Camp  
Returns to Camping Headquarters on Day 12 from Nine Mile Trailhead

Campsite Elevations: 6,838' Minimum, 9,552' Maximum      Camps: 4 Staffed, 5 Trail, 1 Layover, 1 Dry Camp

Conservation: Flume Canyon      Sectional Maps: North

- Blue circles – highlighting showers and dry camps; with the dry camp, it usually identifies the nearest water, where you can either haul it from or (if on the way) consider cooking dinner at lunch time where you have water. Also pay attention to how soon the next day you get to water again.
- Red circle – conservation is noted at bottom as being at Flume Canyon, but is NOT identified in the list of activities (as it usually is, but not always); as noted on previous slide, it's on a day where (purple circle) you are otherwise hiking 9.1 miles, to say nothing of gaining almost 3,000 feet in elevation. On top of that, there are at least TWO programs at French Henry (blacksmithing and gold mining/panning), and normally a third (mine tour). So the caution is to watch for having to do a 3-hour conservation project on a long hiking day with one or more programs at the far end. (Somewhere there was another trek in which not only was the project on a long day, with program somewhere, but it ended up at a dry camp.)
- Black circle – food pickups are normally 3-4 days apart, meaning you pick up that many days food. In this case, picking up at Baldy Town means picking up 5 days of food, which is a LOT. The offsetting factor on this trek is that the next day is the Baldy layover day, so you won't actually be carrying 5 days of food the first day, and if you're lucky, you can get back in time for lunch on day 12 since it's only half a mile to the bus that morning, so you might not have a lunch to carry for 4 days. The caution is

to look at the number of days between food pickups, especially when there are only two as on this trek.

# Prioritizing Treks

- Go over the pros and cons of each trek before trying to rank them
- Have the Crew rank them from 1 to 6 (or 8)

The trek selection lottery will take place in mid-February, and you will have the results almost immediately





# Final Thoughts

- Choosing treks is the crew's responsibility
- There are many similar treks. If the crew picks some that are similar, they are all but certain to get something they will enjoy.

