

Hitting the Trail

THE FIRST THREE DAYS

Your Philmont Experience Begins

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Your Ranger

- Upon arrival at the Ranch (Day 1) each crew is assigned a Philmont Ranger
- Philmont Rangers are young men or women age 18-25 who are specially trained to teach you proper Philmont procedures
- Each crew is expected to treat their Ranger with respect – no exceptions



Your First Day at Philmont

- **Very busy!** (but crew may hurry up and wait at times)
 - Check in @Welcome Center, meet Ranger
 - Trail-bound Tent City
 - Health recheck
 - Logistics (Crew Leader & Lead Advisor)
 - Ranger Training
 - Outfitting Services
 - Food (3 days), Gear (bear bags & ropes, water purification tablets, cleaning supplies, etc. (tents, pots as needed)
 - Mail room (stoves)
 - Fuel
 - Security (crew lockers)
 - Opening campfire



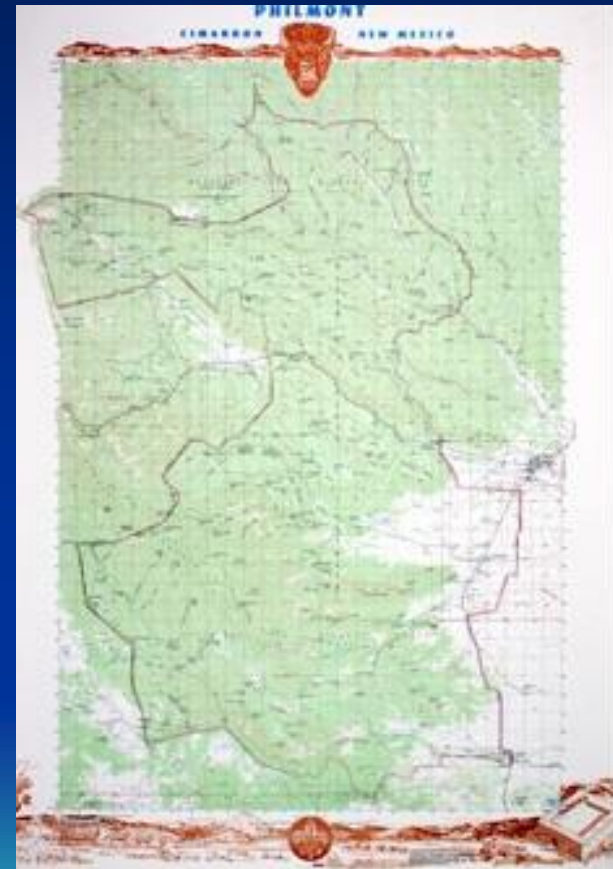
Your Second Day at Philmont

- After finishing the Base Camp logistics process on Day 2, you will be bused to one of six turnarounds in the Back Country
- Upon arrival at the turnaround, your Ranger begins teaching Back Country procedures (builds on initial training at Base Camp)



Topics Covered by the Ranger

- Proper hiking technique and pace
- Hydration
- Map and compass
- Emergency Procedures
- Use of Red Roof Inns (latrines)



On the Trail...

- First day's hike ~1-3 mi
 - Allows for acclimation to altitude and time for training
 - Allows you to 'shake out' personal gear issues
- First night will be at a Starting Camp
 - Ranger will teach more campsite skills



Campsite Skills

- Arriving at camp and selecting a site
- Bear safety procedures
- Setting up crew fly
- Proper storage of “smellables”
- Setting up tents
- Cooking and cleanup



Campsite Layout



Bear Bag

Minimum 50 Feet

Tents



Dining Fly



Fire Ring

**Bear-Muda
Triangle**

Sump



Bear Bags



Fire Ring/Cooking Area



Philmont Dining Fly



Sump



Day Two on the Trail

- Your Ranger will let the Crew Leader lead
- Ranger will offer feedback and suggestions when appropriate
- Second day is generally longer than first day, though shorter than remaining days



Day Three on the Trail

- Ranger leaves when crew departs camp
- Now you are really on your own
- Avoid “Day Three” syndrome
 - Day Three typically sees a spike in radio calls for dehydration and injuries such as sprains
 - Due to:
 - Ranger leaving crew
 - First day of significant hiking distance and elevation gain



Conclusion

- The better prepared your crews is when you arrive, the easier things will be for you, your scouts, and the Ranger
- Adult Advisors: The best way to support the Ranger is to let him/her work through the Crew Leader and allow the Crew Leader to lead
- Crew Leaders: Take advantage of all the things your Ranger teaches you. You'll use these skills when the Ranger departs

