

# What We Expect from Philmont Participants

NCAC HAC Training Session I

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# Who Participates?

- ◆ Scouts
- ◆ Parents
- ◆ Crew
- ◆ Council



# Scouts' Expectations

- ◆ Have FUN!
- ◆ Adventure of a Life Time
- ◆ Experience possibly the 'Ultimate Scouting Experience'
- ◆ Source of bragging rights for years to come
- ◆ Know what is expected from him/her



# Expectations - Parents

- ◆ Son/Daughter will be challenged and have fun – lots of fun
- ◆ They will be safe, but injuries can happen
- ◆ Scout Leaders will be competent and will ensure Crew is prepared
- ◆ Philmont staff is well-trained and committed to a great experience



# Expectations - Parents

- Reinforce training and preparation
- Be sure they have the essential gear they need
  - No need to purchase the top of the line gear – lots of affordable gear available
- Do not pack for your scout
- Do not hide medical conditions from adult advisor
  - Usually not a good idea to use this as medication holiday
- Do not helicopter – preparation and training is part of the experience



# Expectations - Parents

- Remember – your son's/daughter's trek is your two week vacation . . .



# Adult Advisors

- Make this a boy/girl – led adventure
- Train your crew leader – let him/her train the crew
- Plan sufficient shakedowns to be sure the crew is prepared – this is critical
- Facilitate team building, don't manufacture it
- Get in shape and take care of your health
- CPR and WFA training – good team building
- Enlist a paperwork assistant
- Talk to other adults who've been there



# Adult Advisors

- Attend to physical and emotional preparation of your crew
- Don't ignore major physical, emotional, medical concerns – address them prior to departure
- Communicate well with parents about medications relevant to participation
- Don't 'force' a scout who really does not want to go to Philmont. Create an environment where it is okay for a scout to make a healthy decision not to attend
- Don't ignore your health and fitness, and do not try to do it all by yourself





# Expectations - Crew

- ◆ Take ownership – this is your trek
- ◆ Mutual commitment to train and prepare
- ◆ Select a Trek that everyone accepts
- ◆ Each member carries/does his/her share of the load/work
- ◆ The Crew works as a unit, has pride in itself, and everyone is motivated



# Council's Expectations

- ◆ Crews will be prepared and follow established guidelines. You represent NCAC & BSA
- ◆ We expect scouts and leaders to uphold the Scout Oath and Law
- ◆ The Contingent Leader is the final authority
- ◆ Misconduct can result in being sent home
- ◆ Advisors - oversee and guide crew to be prepared for the trip
- ◆ All participants want to be part of the Crew
  - ◆ Not a good idea to send a scout who really doesn't want to attend



# Appearance

- We are on an official Boy Scout activity
- We are members of a team
- We wear the appropriate uniform properly, and proudly
- General Rules:
  - Class “A” uniform – for airline travel and evening meals – also upon arrival at Philmont on first day
    - Proper uniform pants (with belt), or shorts with Scout socks, and appropriate uniform shirt
    - No neckerchief or other neckwear required
    - Hat acceptable as long as it is BSA or no-logo
    - No merit badge or OA sashes, medals, etc. – keep patches basic
    - Tennis shoes and white or Scout [req. if shorts!] socks acceptable
    - No knives – even in the pockets
  - Class “B” uniform – for bus travel, sightseeing
    - Official contingent T-shirt replaces uniform shirt
- Only the Contingent Leader can adjust the uniform requirements to meet unusual requirements
- Individual crew advisors cannot adjust uniform requirements for their crews without the approval of the Contingent Leader



# Conduct & Discipline

- Fortunately, conduct problems are rare – well-trained scouts and crews rise to the challenge
- When problems do occur, they frequently fall into a few categories:
  - A scout who feels forced to attend
  - Scouts/crews who are poorly prepared
  - A scout taken off medications with no adjustment time or appreciation for how stressful high altitude backpacking can be
- Minor problems are handled through discussion with scout, advisor, Philmont staff
- More severe problems can result in limitations in privileges and at worst, being sent home



# Conduct & Discipline

Advisor (and crew leader as appropriate) should attempt to deal with any discipline-related issues that arise

If additional action needs to be taken:

During travel: notify Contingent Leader, who will take appropriate action

On the trail: notify the nearest staff camp

- If additional resources are needed, Philmont will dispatch a Chaplain or a member of Ranch Mgmt.
- Contingent Leader and NCAC staff will be notified



# Specifics

- Good Logistics = Successful Trek
  - Gear Shakedowns = MUST ATTEND
  - Prep Hikes = MUST ATTEND
  - Other Crew Activities = Good for Team-Building
  - Medical Forms = to Advisors in March
  - Stay current on payments
  - LOTS of paperwork... please do it!



# Pre-Trip Preparations

## Planning Meetings

- Team building
- Develop Schedule

## Preparatory Hikes

- Plan for at least three to four hikes/outings
- Physical Fitness

\* Advisor Hikes in spring (3/12 and 3/18) –

Catoctin Mountain Park

NCAC Contingent Adult Leaders Must Attend One

Unit Crew Adult Leaders are encouraged to join us.



