

I'm not ready....

2023 Edition

Random thoughts and tips about Philmont.



This document, its photos and all of its content are copyright ©2023 by the NCAC-HAC. This document may be freely copied and distributed subject to the following restrictions:

- This document must be distributed in its entirety.
- This document may not be sold nor bundled with anything that is sold.
- It may not be altered in any way.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	4
2	New In Recent Years	4
3	Food	5
4	Gear.....	5
4.1	Foot Gear.....	6
4.2	Sleeping Bag and Pad.....	6
4.3	Rain Gear and Clothing.....	6
4.4	Backpack	7
4.5	What Not To Take On The Trail.....	7
5	“I’m Not Ready” To Hike.....	8
6	Conservation Project.....	8
7	Tooth of Time Traders	8
8	Stoves and Fuel Bottles.....	8
9	BEARmuda Triangle	9
9.1	Fire Ring.....	9
9.2	Bear Bags and Cable	9
9.2.1	Hoisting the Bear Bags	10
9.2.2	What’s the Oops Bag For?.....	11
9.3	Smellables	11
9.4	What Is This Sump Thing?.....	12
9.5	Trash.....	12
10	Water Purification.....	13
11	PHILTent	13
12	Camp Sites	14
13	Crew Organization.....	14
14	Thorns and Roses.....	15
15	Terrain Awareness	15
16	Rain Fly.....	16
17	Maps.....	16
18	Trail Latrines.....	17
19	Crew Leader Copy	17
20	Forms	18
20.1	Medical Form	18
20.2	Other Forms.....	19
21	Backpacks as Checked Baggage.....	19
22	Backcountry Latrines	20
23	Provisional Crews	20
24	Branding.....	20

Table of Figures

Figure 1. The BEARmuda Triangle.....	21
Figure 2. The Fire Ring.....	21
Figure 3. Bear Bags.....	22
Figure 4. Hanging the Bear Bags.....	22
Figure 5. WP Sticks for the Bear Ropes.	23
Figure 6. The Sump.....	23
Figure 7. The Sump Bowl.....	24
Figure 8. The PhilTent.	24
Figure 9. The PhilTent (w/o Rain Fly).....	25
Figure 10. Site Map.....	25
Figure 11. Site Map with Bear Warning.....	26
Figure 12. UTM Coordinate Posts.....	26
Figure 13. Sample Duty Roster.....	27
Figure 14. Traditional Rain Fly Setup.	27
Figure 15. Alternate Rain Fly Setup.	28
Figure 16. Rain Fly Notes.....	28
Figure 17. Philmont Map Marked-up at Logistics.....	29
Figure 18. Crew Leader Copy.....	29
Figure 19. Philmont Brand.....	30

1 Introduction

About the title: When it is time to start hiking the Crew Leader calls out “Is anyone not ready?”, when silence results, one of the advisors will say “Hike On”.

Every effort is made to make the contents of this document accurate; however, policies and procedures change some every year at Philmont.

2 New In Recent Years

- 2016
 - Philmont no longer requires you checkout a complete set of pots and pans (most of which went into the crew locker). You can select the ones you want. You will be required to take at least two pots on the trail with you.
- 2015
 - Philmont is now inflexible as to where the conservation project is performed. Location and time are assigned to each crew, though there is some flexibility at to the time.
 - No packs under the rain fly.
 - The Porch Talk upon arriving in a staffed camp is now called a “Camp Welcome”
 - Sump Frisbee – the Frisbee with holes drilled in the center of it has been replaced with a Sump Bowl which is a bowl (higher edges than a Frisbee) with holes drilled near one side.

- PhilTents – the blue A-Frame PhilTents are all gone. They have been replaced with MSR Thunder Ridge dome tents. There are 2012, 2014 and 2015 models with slight differences.
- Eagles Soaring High (the Philmont devotional guide) – There is a new edition. If you don't get enough copies one of the Chaplains will gladly supply more.
- There is a new crew rain fly. Yellow instead of green. It is reputed to be lighter.
- Caterpillaring is no longer allowed at all.
- You wash the PhilTents when turning them in. Tubs of water are provided. You'll hang them up to dry. The staff will put them away.
- The health lodge has been renamed as the Infirmary.

3 Food

The food comes in a plastic bag containing a single meal for two. The food changes every year but its always high calorie, high fiber and high sodium. It is surprisingly good and there's plenty of it. It also takes up a lot of space in your pack so plan accordingly.

Dinner will always be hot (cooked) and lunch will always be a trail meal. Most years you get 1 hot breakfast, try to eat this on a layover day.

Tip: don't distribute breakfast until EVERYTHING is packed. Many crews prefer to eat breakfast while hiking.

If your itinerary includes a dry camp (no water), eat the dinner at noon somewhere there is water for cooking and cleaning.

Most staffed camps will have a swap box where you can drop off unwanted food and pick up items that are liked better.

Surplus trail meals from previous years are available for purchase from Philmont. It's not a bad idea to get some to use on one of the shake down trips. Order early because they do run out.

If you have special food needs, in some cases Philmont can accommodate you but in most cases they can't and you will need to bring food from home and Philmont will get it to the trail commissaries for you. Call the quartermaster at Philmont for details.

4 Gear

The Philmont web site has a list of suggested equipment Pay attention to the items Philmont can provide and the equipment the crew is expected to provide. For the personal gear, if it's not on the list you probably don't need it. It's surprising how little you actually need.

The emphasis is on small and light.

The four most important pieces of equipment are:

- Foot Gear (Boots and Socks)
- Sleeping Bag
- Rain Gear and Clothing
- Backpack

Tip: purchase a set of identical bowls for the whole crew and make them part of the crew gear (someone carries all of them). They stack nicely and don't take up as much space.

4.1 Foot Gear

Boots should be:

- Sturdy and in good shape – you don't want them failing in the backcountry
- Waterproof
- Well broken in BEFORE arriving at Philmont
- Provide ankle support
- Properly fit – this is more important than cost

Ultra-light, day hiker, etc boots are inappropriate for the rugged trails you will encounter no matter what the salesman may say.

Socks should be a wool or wool/poly blend. The socks are expensive but well worth it. Many people also use polypropylene sock liners.

Tip: Make everyone wear their boots on the plane to ensure that they actually have the boots with them.

Tip: IF your boots are two years old or have had a lot of use, replace the insoles.

You only go as fast and as far as your worst pair of feet.

4.2 Sleeping Bag and Pad

- If your sleeping bag is going to be carried inside your pack it has to compress enough to fit in backpack and leave enough room for all personal equipment, shared equipment and food.
 - Take your pack with you when you buy the sleeping bag to evaluate the bag size.
 - You may want to get a compression sack for your sleeping bag.
- If your sleeping bag is to be carried externally you will need a waterproof for it.
- 25 degree rating – it can go below freezing at the higher elevations
- Synthetic fiber – down won't keep you warm if it gets wet
- Sleeping pad – you are sleeping on it for 10 nights in a row. Closed cell foam is good enough for most people. $\frac{3}{4}$ length is sufficient for most people.

4.3 Rain Gear and Clothing

Rain Gear:

- Sturdy two piece rain suit – ponchos don't work or hold up well enough; the ponchos that cover both a person and a pack, even the heavy duty ones, are not recommended – what happens when you're not hiking? Either the person or pack is going to get wet.
 - The rain jacket can be used instead of a jacket in cool weather
 - The pants can be used as long pants for the activities (horse riding, rock climbing, etc) that require long pants.
 - Zippers on pant legs long enough so that you can put on without taking your boots off
 - Small and light
 - Have a hood or take a separate rain hat
- Some crews experience lots of rain on a daily basis.

Clothing:

- NO COTTON should be worn while hiking
- Fast drying
 - Polypropylene shirts
 - Nylon hiking shorts with synthetic underwear or compression shorts or just use the shorts that have a liner and don't require underwear.
- Hat with all around coverage – keeps the intense sun off your ears and neck
- Warm clothing is a must. Temperatures frequently drop dramatically during and after rainstorms and nights can be chilly, especially at higher elevations. A fleece jacket works well, as does synthetic long underwear (top and bottom).

4.4 Backpack

You are going to be carrying a lot of weight for 11 days in a row.

- A padded waist belt is a must – transfers weight from your shoulders to your hips. Make sure it can be tightened enough so that it doesn't slip down over the hips. Everyone will lose an inch or two off their waist and hips.
- A sternum strap is nice to have
- It must be big enough to hold your personal gear, your share of a tent, crew gear and food (at least 4300 cu in (70 liters) external frame/5000 cu in (82 liters) internal frame). The crew “owns” 1/3 of your pack.
- Pack cover – trash bags don't cut it for that many nights. Make sure it's big enough to cover everything and is easy to put the cover on quickly.

4.5 What Not To Take On The Trail

- Deodorant – everybody smells the same
- Cotton Clothing – especially denim
- Shampoo or other soaps – use camp suds for everything
- Too many clothes – see the gear list
- A “big” multi tool or knife
- Your own toilet (all purpose) paper – use the Philmont issued paper

5 “I’m Not Ready” To Hike

The way this is being taught has changed slightly.

After every stop while hiking the Crew Leader calls out “Anyone Not Ready?”. When there’s silence one of the ADVISERS (usually the sweep) says “Hike On” and everyone starts hiking.

6 Conservation Project

Your crew will be assigned a three hour conservation project to be performed under the supervision of the Conservation staff. Completion is required in order to get your Philmont patch. It also counts toward the 10 hours of service required for the 50 Miler Award. Philmont is not flexible about where you perform the project. There will be both morning and afternoon sessions. The project site will either be near a camp where you are staying or near a place you will pass by.

Tip: The morning session is often really crowded with lots of crews. If you can get there early enough, do the afternoon session.

7 Tooth of Time Traders

Philmont has a wonderful trading post with an extensive selection of good quality equipment, gear and souvenirs, Tooth of Time Traders (<http://toothoftimetraders.com>). It carries just about anything that you may have forgotten except **broken-in** boots.

They require photo ID for credit card and check purchases.

Backcountry trading posts are located at some backcountry commissaries. They have a varying supply of gear, stove fuel, souvenirs, snacks, etc. Participants may elect to purchase items using a “trail charge” and remit payment upon return to base camp. Please note that Philmont will not release your crew’s Arrowhead awards until all trail charges are paid.

8 Stoves and Fuel Bottles

Most crews use white gas stoves.

You need to mail stoves and empty fuel bottles to yourself at the ranch 3 weeks in advance. The Philmont post office will hold them for you. The stoves and fuel bottles cannot be taken on the plane. Make sure to mark the package with your expedition number. Save the box for mailing the stove and bottles home.

Include a funnel with a filter and a repair kit. Clean the fuel bottles with soap and water before shipping. Make sure the fuel bottles really are fuel bottles. The ranch has a big collection of aluminum bottles that they would not fill because they were not fuel bottles.

For that reason, I recommend getting the red MSR bottles so there is no question about suitability.

If you use canister stoves, purchase enough canisters for the entire trip in advance and mail them out along with the stoves 3 weeks in advance. ToTT stocks some types of canisters but you cannot be guaranteed that they will be in stock when you get there. Note: Philmont will NOT mail unused canisters back to you. Note: trail camps will no longer accept empty fuel canisters as trash. You have to lug them back to base camp.

The Philmont post office will pack and mail the stoves back to you after they allow them to air dry for the cost of postage.

9 BEARmuda Triangle

The BEARmuda Triangle consists of the places a bear is most likely to go should one enter your camp. The corners of the BEARmuda Triangle (Figure 1) are defined by:

- Fire ring – where you cook and eat
- Sump – where you clean pots, dishes, etc.
- Bear Cable – where you store smellables (in reality it may be 100 yards away)

Everything (including packs) goes inside the triangle EXCEPT the tents.

9.1 Fire Ring

In some years (but not most) depending on the amount of rain, small fires are allowed in the backcountry. The Fire Ring, Figure 2, is the only place where individual crews are allowed to build a fire.

In the morning you are required to dig out the ash and carry it ½ hour down the trail and then spread the ashes around in the woods.

You will cook and eat in the vicinity of the Fire Ring.

If you haven't built a fire, collect all of the water bottles at the end of the day and put them in the fire ring.

Tip: Some like to put their names on their Nalgene bottles. The only thing I've found that lasts any length of time is to use a label maker.

9.2 Bear Bags and Cable

Every campsite will have at least one bear cable nearby, Figure 3. A bear cable is a bare metal cable run between two trees and will be at least 15 feet off the ground. It could be as much as 30+ feet high.

Some of the newer bear cables have a sheath covering them presumably because it provides a lower friction surface. These newer cables also have a pulley at one end with the end of the cable being a loop that is within reach and makes it possible to lower the cable should you get a rope tangled.

Philmont will issue you two 100-foot ¼” bear ropes and several bear bags. The bear bags are plastic mesh seed bags. Make sure you get at least 5 bear bags (more is better). The bags supplied by Philmont are on the smallish side.

You should bring a carabineer (climbing grade not key ring grade) for the “Oops” Bag. My crews bring their own Oops Bag, larger than normal and specifically marked as such with a big red first aid symbol.

Tip: If you encounter a bear cable too high off the ground to get the rope over, tie the “Oops” rope to one end of the carabineer and throw it over instead then use it to haul the bear rope.

When does the bear bag get raised? The first two things that happen when you get into camp is put up the crew fly and raise the bear bags. The bear bags should stay raised unless there’s someone actively working with them.

What goes in the bear bag? Smellables are anything that COULD have a smell. The weight of all of this stuff is considerable. It could be as much as 150 lbs so it takes everyone to hoist the bags.

9.2.1 Hoisting the Bear Bags

See Figure 4.

- Fold one of the ropes in half, tie a loop in the middle and clip the carabineer onto the loop.
- Coil the rope, hold on to the two ends and heave it over the bear wire.
- Tie the bags to the rope using a larks head knot. Keep all of the bags very close to the loop of rope in the middle. Hold one bag back to use as the Oops Bag.
- Run the rope for the Oops Bag through the carabineer.
- Hoist the bags and tie the ends off to separate trees.
- The Oops bag will also be tied off to two trees, DIFFERENT (if possible) from the two to which the main bear bags are tied.
- Be careful when taking the rope down. If you pull too hard it can wrap around the cable several times and the rope could be lost.
- The bags need to be high enough so they cannot be touched when jumping from the ground and far enough from the trees so they can’t be touched.

When tying the ropes to trees use Wilderness Pledge (WP) sticks to keep the rope away from the bark of the tree, see Figure 5.

9.2.2 What's the Oops Bag For?

- It's for last minute forgotten things. It's light enough for a single scout to raise and lower by himself.
- You may want to put the crew first aid kit in the Oops Bag so it's easy to find.
- Anything that a crewmember might need on short notice—such as prescription meds, allergy response, epi-pens, etc.—should go in the Oops Bag overnight.
- Some crews put their personal smellables in the Oops Bag so that they can find it for tooth brushing, etc.
- Some crews put that evening's dinner in the Oops Bag so they don't have to dig through all of the bags looking for it.

Tip: I use a “personal bear bag”. A small nylon bag that I routinely keep everything that I would put into the bear bag so I don't have to dig around in my pack for it.

9.3 Smellables

Philmont's list of smellables varies from year to year but will be something like this list:

- Blood* - like a bloody handkerchief from a nose bleed if the total volume is a spot greater than 2”
- Vomit* - you **MUST** clean it up
- Water bottles that have had bug juice* or Gatorade* in them. You can't get the smell out.
- Food
- Trash
- First Aid Kit
- Spare bear bags
- Camp Suds or any other soap
- Sump Bowl, spatula and scrubbies
- Duct tape (don't wrap it around water bottles, may make it a smellable)
- Clothing with food residue or vomit on them
- Sunscreen, chap stick, bug repellent, etc.
- Tooth Brush/Tooth Paste/Comb
- Foot Powder
- Spare batteries, Spare Film and Disposable Cameras
- Medicine
- Anything in question – its better to be safe than sorry
- Butane Lighters
- And so much more

*These are “Super” smellables. They **must** be cleaned up.

Should someone have something that they have to keep with them at all times, like an inhaler, wrap a used sock around it and stick it inside the toe of a boot.

Don't bring deodorant on the trail. Everyone smells the same.

Tip: Some crews will have everyone bring a sturdy wide mouthed bottle (such as a Gatorade bottle) and use it exclusively for bug juice. They ALL go up in the bear bag.

9.4 What Is This Sump Thing?

The sump is a piece of white PVC pipe sticking out of the ground with a screen over top of it, Figure 6. The screen is to keep out stuff that shouldn't get in it: like leaves, dirt and food residue. There's one near every campsite.

The purpose of the sump is for disposal of liquids left over from washing dishes, bathing and brushing teeth.

You will be issued a 1 gallon zip lock bag with supplies for cleaning dishes and pots. It will contain:

- A bottle of Camp Suds – highly concentrated – only need a few drops. This is the only type of soap that should be taken on the trail.
- Sump Bowl –It's an actual MSR 1 liter bowl with a bunch of holes drilled near one side for straining food residue from waste water, Figure 7
- Spatula – for pushing food residue around on the Sump Bowl
- Yum-Yum Bags – Small zip lock bags. The food residue goes in the yum-yum bag, which gets dropped off with the trash at the next opportunity.
- Scrubbie – a green scouring pad. The ranger will have you cut it into 10 pieces for use on 10 different nights. After use the piece goes into the yum-yum bag.
- Bottles of hand sanitizer for the cooks to use before cooking and everyone to use before eating.

Place the sump bowl on top of the sump; slowly pour the wastewater through the bowl using the spatula to push any food residue away from the holes. The residue goes in the yum-yum bag, which gets dropped off with the trash at the next opportunity.

To minimize the residue, have the scouts turn the utensils in for cleaning with NO food residue. Have them pour clean water into their cup/bowl, swish it around and drink it. This is called "Gut Sumping".

Brush your teeth at the sump. Be sure to wash the toothpaste down the sump with water.

Leave pots and personal eating gear at the sump overnight to dry after washing. Some crews will spread an extra bear bag or plastic sheet on the ground to put the gear on.

9.5 Trash

Your crew will generate lots and lots of trash. Each meal (packaged as a meal for two) comes in a plastic bag and each bag has lots more bags inside. It would not be unusual for each scout to generate 6 or more pieces of trash for some meals.

Compact your trash. Philmont doesn't mandate it (or even teach it) any longer but its still good practice. Fold it and pack it inside one of the plastic bags or boxes. It is possible to get lunch trash for an entire crew into one of the cracker boxes. Some people like to use little pieces of duct tape to keep the bags/boxes shut.

Most staffed camps can take trash. Staffed camps also collect the outer plastic meal bags for recycling so keep them separate.

On my crews, one of the quartermaster's duties is to collect, compact and carry that day's trash.

Tip: Practice one-piece trash. When opening packages, don't tear the top all of the way off. It's easy to leave the little piece behind.

10 Water Purification

Philmont issues Micropur tablets (chlorine based) for water purification. These come in a foil sheet of 10 individual tablets.

Keep the empty foil packets for exchange for new ones at the trail commissaries.

Tip: the packets are a little hard to open. You can nick the edge of the sheet (just a little) with a knife next to each tablet which makes it easier to tear.

11 PHILTent

Philmont uses the MSR Thunder Ridge tent; Figure 8 and Figure 9, (custom made for Philmont).

- Why to use the PHILTent?
 - Fairly roomy - you are in it for 10 nights
 - Can Get Replacement Parts at some Trail Commissaries
 - You are putting 10 nights wear and tear on someone else's tent
 - Can squeeze 3 into one in a pinch
 - No charge to use one
 - Don't have to haul your own tent to Philmont and back
 - Personal or troop tents may have food and other odors in them.
- Why not to use the PHILTent?
 - Not the lightest tent around
 - It's not your tent – you have to return it clean and in good repair. This may slow down the check-in process a little. If damage is your fault, you could be required to pay for it.
 - You will get to wash it before turning it in.
- Bring Your Own Tent Pegs and ground cloth. A plastic sheet will do for the ground cloth, cut it a couple inches shorter on each side than the footprint.
- Make sure you inspect the tent well before accepting the one they give you.

Footprint Size	81" x 54"
Weight	5.7 Lbs.
Free Standing	Yes

Tent Pegs Required	8
Full Coverage	Yes w/vestibule

12 Camp Sites

Every trail camp site will have lots of tent sites. At every entrance into the site will be a site map, Figure 10 and Figure 11, posted on a tree identifying the tent sites, bear cable and water source. Each site will have a fire ring, a sump and one or more bear cables nearby. Do not select the first campsite upon entering a camp as it's common courtesy to leave those sites open for crews who may be arriving late in the day, perhaps even after dark. The nicest sites are often the more isolated ones further away from the main trail. At staffed camps, campsites will be assigned by the staff so proceed to the main cabin to check in.

Tip: using a digital camera with zoom and scroll capability, take a picture of the site map. You frequently have to reference the map later.

13 Crew Organization

The crew has 3 fixed jobs:

- Crew Leader – The scout in charge of day to day organization and operation of the crew.
- Chaplains Aid (this is in addition to other jobs) - Leads grace before meals, encourages attendance at religious ceremonies and leads the Duty to God program (daily readings from Eagles Soaring High)
- Wilderness Pledge GUIA (guide) (this is in addition to other jobs) - Helps crew understand and execute the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and LNT. Conducts discussions with the crew from a pamphlet that Philmont hands out.

The way the crew is organized is up to you. Every scout should have a job each day.

The following are possible jobs which rotate from day to day:

- Cooks – Usually 2 cooks. Determines meal to have next, distributes meals (breakfast/lunch) and cooks (dinner)
- Water – Usually 2 on water duty. Fetches water. Keeps water jugs full. Performs mass fillings and purification in Nalgene bottles. Keeps track of timing of the purification cycle.
- Cleanup – Usually 2 on cleanup. Cleans pots and individual cooking gear after dinner.
- Navigator (Naviguessor) – Carries the map and compass. Gets briefed by an advisor on the next day's route then briefs the crew at Thorns and Roses.
- Stoves/Fire - Setup/takedown stoves, collect firewood (if allowed), light and tend fire. Carries and scatters the fireplace ashes.
- Quartermaster - Compacts and carries that's day's trash, equipment checkout and return, resupply and food (re)distribution.

Advisors – Main responsibility is health and safety. If you have a crew with only a few scouts the advisors may want to be part of the duty roster rotation. The advisors should supervise when using the stoves and purifying water. Otherwise, **Let the Crew Leader Lead.**

Figure 13 is a sample duty roster. Have the crew leader prepare it in advance.

Tip: don't have tent mates doing the same job.

Tip: prepare a list of crew gear each person is carrying. There are often delays in hitting the trail when no one knows who should be carrying something even though they've carried it the last 3 days.

14 Thorns and Roses

Do a Thorns (what went poorly that day), Roses (what went well) and Rose Buds (looking forward to doing tomorrow) session every night. This involves everyone. Give everyone a chance to speak. It will give the crew a chance to discuss the day; tomorrow's work assignments, tomorrow's hiking and anything else that needs to be discussed. Anything brought up during Thorns and Roses should stay there (sort of like "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas").

15 Terrain Awareness

There are trail signs at most of the junctions. Don't trust them. It has been a long existing problem that some joker will rearrange the signs or turn the poles. Philmont has been replacing the signs at some junctions with 4' x 4' posts with the UTM coordinates on them, Figure 12.

Learn to read the map. The map tells you things about the terrain and where you should be going.

Tips:

1. Consult the map often
2. Deliberately miss fold the map so that the area you are in is on the outside
3. Orient the map so that what you see when you look at the map is the same as what you see when you look up
4. Questions to ask often:
 - a. Which general direction does the map say I should be going and am I going in that direction
 - b. What should the vegetation cover be: open, brush or trees
 - c. Should I be going uphill, downhill or level and how steep should the trail be?
 - d. Is the trail straight or lots of twists, turns and switchbacks
 - e. How long until the next landmark (trail junction, stream crossing, etc)
5. Always consult the map at every trail junction

Summary: If the trail analysis the night before said, "We are hiking uphill all morning headed West," and you find yourselves headed downhill with the big warm yellow thing in the sky shining in your eyes, BE MORE TRAIL-AWARE.

5 “T”s about Trail Signs

1. Don't 'T'ouch them – you leave behind salt and oil which turns the sign into a salt lick
2. Don't 'T'urn them – even if you know in your heart that they are pointing in the wrong direction
3. Don't 'T'rust them – #2 gets abused often
4. Don't 'T'inkle on them – See #1
5. Don't 'T'aste them – see #4

The last two are just jokes but the point remains: rely on the map and compass and not on trail signs.

16 Rain Fly

You are required to put up a rain fly (either a 12' by 12' one supplied by Philmont or your own) every night. If you use one of Philmont's fly's it will most likely NOT have any ropes. Bring 100 feet of 3 mm nylon cord to rig it with. A blue plastic tarp is adequate for the shakedown trips and cheap. Make sure the crew can get it up quickly. Bring 12 tent stakes for the tarp.

A breakaway stick is a stick that the lines are tied to so that they break and release the rope in a high wind rather than tear out the grommet.

Tip: trekking poles can be used instead of the poles issued by Philmont. Use the trekking poles handle-end UP (rather than having the handles on the (wet) ground and the metal points up).

Tip: for the ridgeline, the tension is on the rope and not the tarp.

TODO: get specs on new fly.

See Figure 14 and Figure 15 for various ways to rig the fly.

17 Maps

Philmont has two types of maps: the overall map which is a poster sized map showing the entire ranch and the sectional maps which cover either: the South Country, the North Country or the Valle Vidal. You will need BOTH the overall map (supplied by Philmont in the March packet) and the appropriate sectional maps for your trek. I recommend getting the sectional map(s) in advance from the trading post so the crew can train and get familiar with them. The maps are marked with the UTM coordinate system.

The sectional map will be marked up in logistics with colored markers and shapes indicating things such as food pickups, camps you'll be staying at, etc. The crew leader keeps this map. Figure 17 is a marked up map.

The sectional maps have more detail and are used for navigation. It's a good idea to get the sectional maps in advance from Tooth of Time Traders (toothoftimetraders.com).

Philmont has started replacing some trail signs with coordinate poles (Figure 12). These poles have the UTM coordinates on them.

Make sure the scouts can read the maps and understand the UTM coordinate system.

Tip: make up flash cards of map symbols using colored markers as a visual aid when reviewing the reading of a map. Premade flash cards are available from the NCAC High Adventure website.

18 Trail Latrines

These come in three forms: pilot-copilot (two seats side by side), pilot-bombardier (two seats back to back) and the Red Roof Inn (actually has a roof and walls). The older outdoor latrines are made of wood but are being gradually replaced by white plastic latrines, making them slightly easier to locate.

Try to minimize the amount of urine introduced into the latrine by "wetting a rock" (urinating) before you go in. Too much ammonia will kill the good bacteria and make it stink.

Tip: You will want to keep the All Purpose Paper (TP) in a zip lock bag to keep it clean and dry. If you take the paper core out, you can feed the paper out of the center of the roll (like a ball of string) and never have to take it out of the bag.

19 Crew Leader Copy

The Crew Leader Copy,

713-L-02 2015 PHILMONT ADVENTURE, ITINERARY NO. 9
CHALLENGING - 64 MILES

Crew Leader: _____ Adult Advisor: _____
Chaplain's Aid: _____ Ranger: _____
Wilderness Pledge Guide: _____ Council: National Capital Area
City: Bethesda State: MD

DAY OF TREK	DAY & DATE	CAMP	PROGRAM FEATURES	Conserv. Proj Site	Food Pick Up	Trail Meals
1	Mon 713	Camping Headquarters	Opening Campfire		NO	
2	Tue 714	Rayado River	Tour Kit Carson Museum, Ranger Training, Trail Camp		HQ	1.4 5.4 8.5
3	Wed 715	Crags	Cantina @ Abreu, Search & Rescue, Wilderness Medicine @ Carson Meadows, Trail Camp		HQ	1.5 5.5 8.6
4	Thu 716	APACHE SPRINGS	Fly Tying & Fishing, Tour Waite Phillips Fishing Lodge @ Fish Camp, Jicanilla Apache Life		HQ	1.6 5.6 8.7
5	Fri 717	APACHE SPRINGS	3-D Archery, Sweat Lodge		HQ	1.7 5.7 8.8
6	Sat 718	Porcupine	Homesteading @ Crooked Creek, Trail Camp		PJ	1.8 5.8 8.9
7	Sun 719	CLEAR CREEK	Rocky Mountain Fur Company, Black Powder Rifles		PJ	1.9 5.9 9.0
8	Mon 720	Red Hills	Hike Mt. Phillips & Comanche Peak, Trail Camp		PJ	1.10 6.0 9.1
9	Tue 721	BEAUBIEN	Hike Big Red & Bonito Peak, Western Lore, Branding, Chuckwagon Dinner & Cowboy Campfire		PJ	1.1 6.1 9.2
10	Wed 722	CRATER LAKE	Hike over Trail Peak, Continental Tie & Lumber Company,	Crater Lake		1.2 6.2 9.3
11	Thu 723	Shaefers Pass	Dry Camp - Water @ North Fork Urraca, Trail Camp		MP	1.3 6.3 9.4
12	Fri 724	Camping Headquarters	Climb Tooth of Time, Hike in via Tooth Ridge, Awards Campfire		NO	1.4 6.4 9.5

YOUR BUS: Departs Camping Headquarters for Rayado River Camp on Day 2 at 9:00 am to Rayado TA
Hike in to Camping HQ via Tooth Ridge Trail.

NUMBER OF CREW MEMBERS
MALE FEMALE TOT
YOUTH 8 0 8
ADULTS 4 0 4
TOTAL: 12

EXPEDITION PLAN APPROVAL
Crew Leader _____
Adult Advisor _____
Logistics/Inventory Planner _____
Conservation Project(s) _____
Site 1 _____
Hours Completed _____
Approved - Conservation Staff _____
Site 2 _____
Hours Completed _____
Approved - Conservation Staff _____

ADVANCE CLC

, is given to the Crew Leader at logistics. This is often called “Your Life” because it’s very important to the crew. It’s presented to the staff when you check in at a staffed camp, when you resupply at a trail commissary, signed when you perform your service project and other times. These things become much harder if it gets lost or destroyed. Keep it in a 1 gallon zip lock bag to keep it dry.

20 Forms

There are lots of forms:

20.1 Medical Form

Scout forms:

- BSA Health Form – fillable PDF – download from <http://philmontscout ranch.org>.
 - All parts need to be completed (A, B, C) for every participant
 - Part D should be provided to your doctor as well, it contains information on the restrictions: blood pressure, weight, etc.
 - Do you doctor a favor and fill in parts A and B in advance.
 - One common mistake is to be missing signatures: participant, parent/guardian (some states require both parents/guardians) and, most importantly, the doctor.
 - You MUST use the latest revision of the form (2014 as of this writing).

I strongly recommend getting the medical form prior to starting crew activities. At least get a copy of last year’s form.

20.2 Other Forms

Philmont Forms (these come in a packet from Philmont that arrives in late March):

- The Crew roster is now completed on-line. Sometime in February you will receive an email with instructions for logging on and completing the roster.
- Talent release for each scout and advisor
- Religious exemption from medical treatment (only if a participant requires it)

NCAC Contingents Only:

- NCAC Talent Release
- Release for the outfitter providing ground transportation
- White Water Outfitter release

Advisor Training Proof – bring photocopies of each. Must be current and from a BSA approved source:

- Wilderness First Aid (minimum two trained required for each crew)
- CPR (minimum two trained required)
- Hazardous Weather
- Youth Protection

Your Troop's:

- Whatever permission slip your troop uses (permission to treat, administer OTC drugs, etc)
- Others?

21 Backpacks as Checked Baggage

Checking a backpack can be a problem due to the odd shapes, straps everywhere, etc.

This is what we recommend:

- Nothing on the outside of the pack
- Tighten down all straps
- Buckle the waist belt the **WRONG** way around the pack
- Pack it in a plastic bag sealed with duct tape:
 - Some airlines have car seat bags. Their availability may be spotty.
 - Contractor grade (2+ mils) 42 gallon works nicely. Lowes sells a 24 pack of 3 mil bags that are perfect.
 - Tear a hole for the handle between the shoulder blades so you can pick it up and have a place to attach the baggage tag.
 - Be sure to bring enough bags and duct tape for the return trip as well

Tip: if traveling with multiple crews assign each crew a different color of duct tape so you can sort the packs by crew easily at baggage claim.

Tip: when getting the bags off the baggage carousel, just have everyone grab any bag and move off to the side. You can figure out which bag is who's later.

22 Backcountry Latrines

All of the backcountry camps, both staffed and trail, will have latrines. They come in three varieties:

- Pilot-copilot – trail camps. Open air box with two seats side-by-side.
- Pilot-bombardier - trail camps. Open air box with two seats back-to-back.
- Red Roof Inn – staffed camps. Yes there is a roof and walls.

Its preferable to minimize the urine introduced into the latrine. The ammonia kills the good bacteria and causes the latrine to smell bad. If possible, you should “wet a rock” before using the latrine.

Don’t bring “All Purpose Paper” (TP) from home. Philmont will issue the crew biodegradable toilet paper.

Don’t put anything into the latrine that’s not supposed to go there.

Before you sit down, lift the seat and drop it a few inches a couple of times. This will ensure that no creepy-crawlies are lurking nearby.

23 Provisional Crews

A provisional crew is one that is assembled from multiple Troops. If you are going to have scouts in your crew that you don’t know it’s a good idea to get a “letter of recommendation” from his SM/ASM stressing their strengths and weaknesses. This will help avoid any surprises later on.

24 Branding

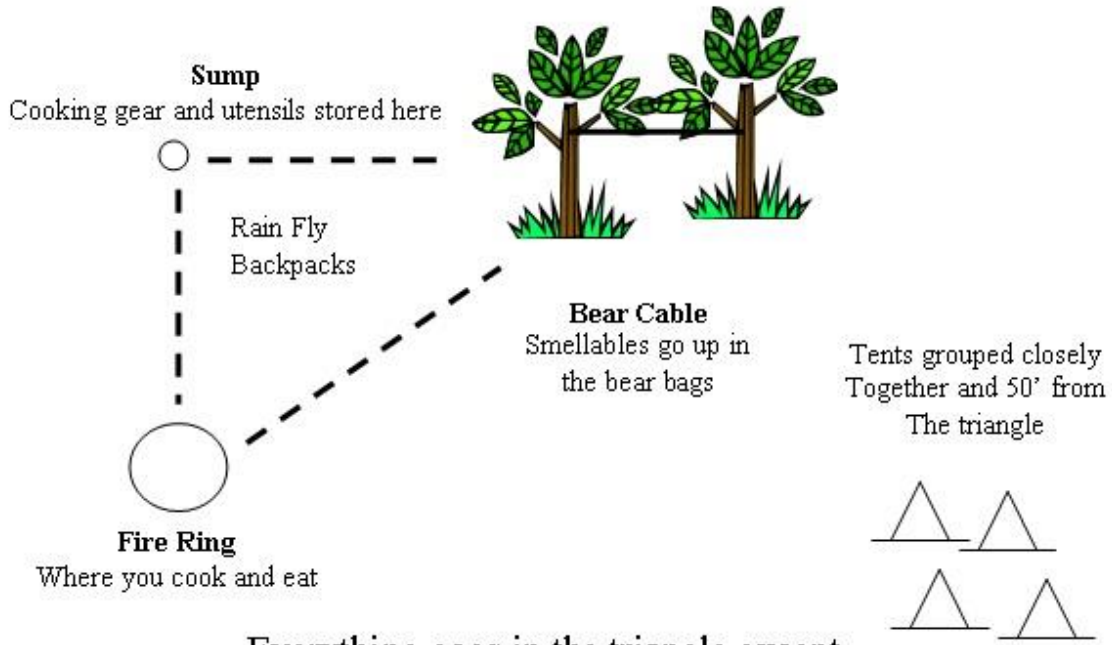
All of the camps with horses have branding. Branding is also available at base camp. There are at least two brands available: Slash Crazy S and Bar P. See figure 19.

Be careful when branding boots to be sure that you are branding leather and not manmade fibers, the brand will go all the way through.

You can also brand hats, etc. Sometimes they will be willing to brand Nalgene bottles.

Tip: take a leather swatch or two for each scout to brand.

The BEARmuda Triangle



Everything goes in the triangle except the tents.

Figure 1. The BEARmuda Triangle.



Note the animal burrow.
Figure 2. The Fire Ring.



Figure 3. Bear Bags.

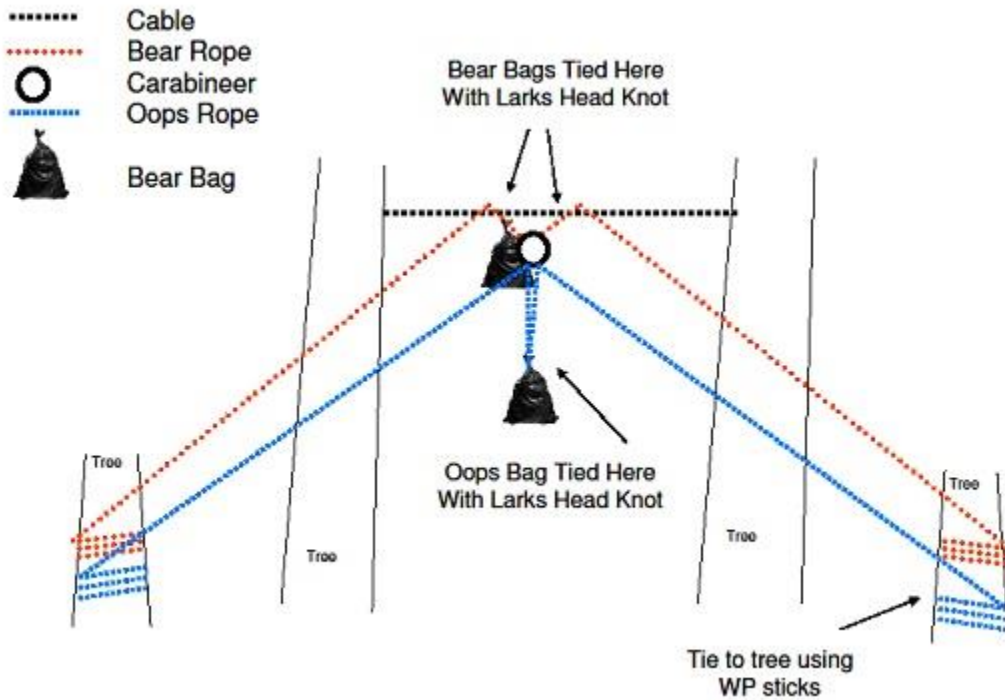


Figure 4. Hanging the Bear Bags.



Figure 5. WP Sticks for the Bear Ropes.



Figure 6. The Sump.



Figure 7. The Sump Bowl.



Figure 8. The PhilTent.



Figure 9. The PhilTent (w/o Rain Fly).

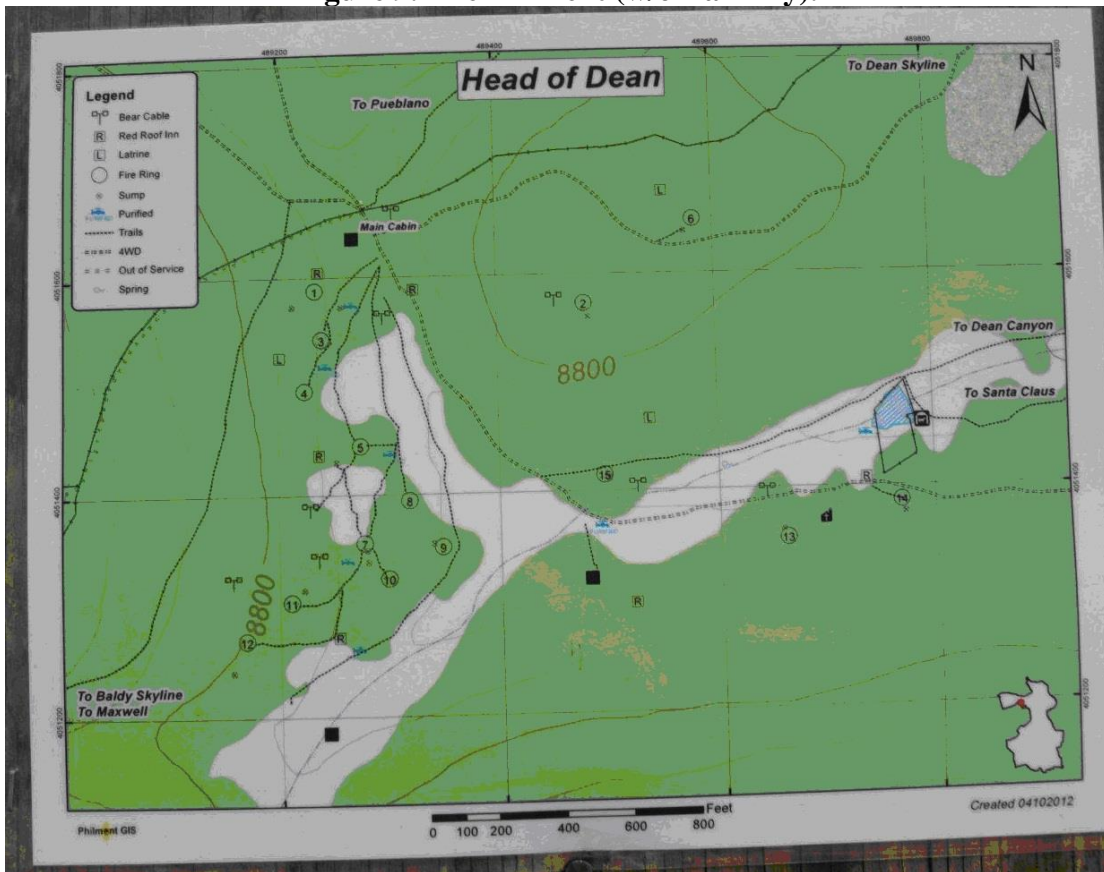


Figure 10. Site Map.

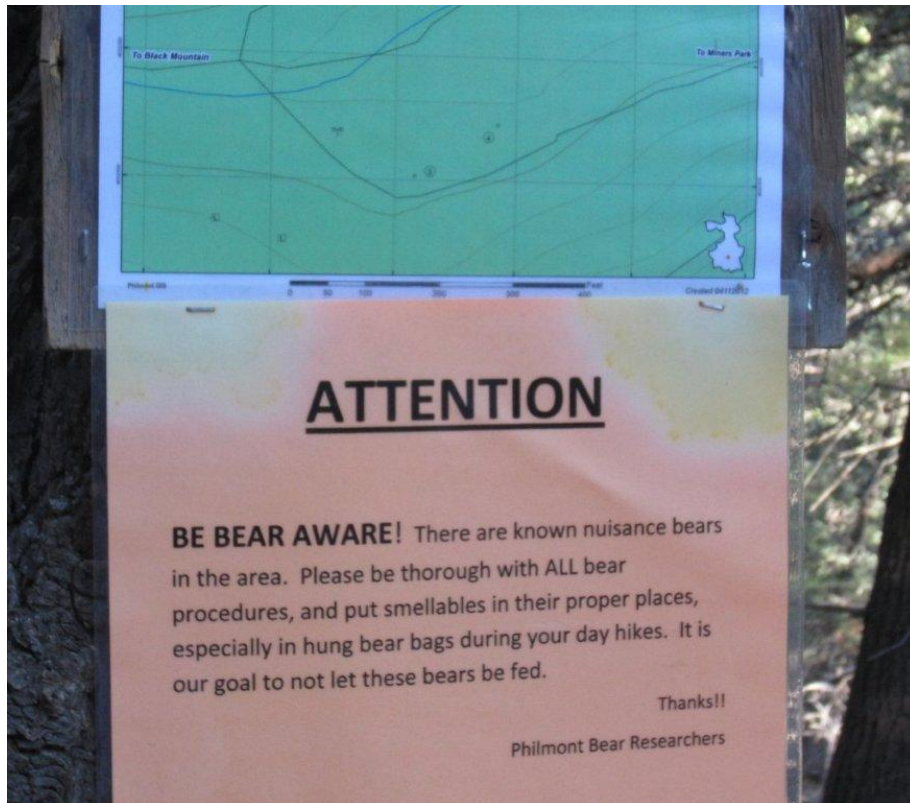


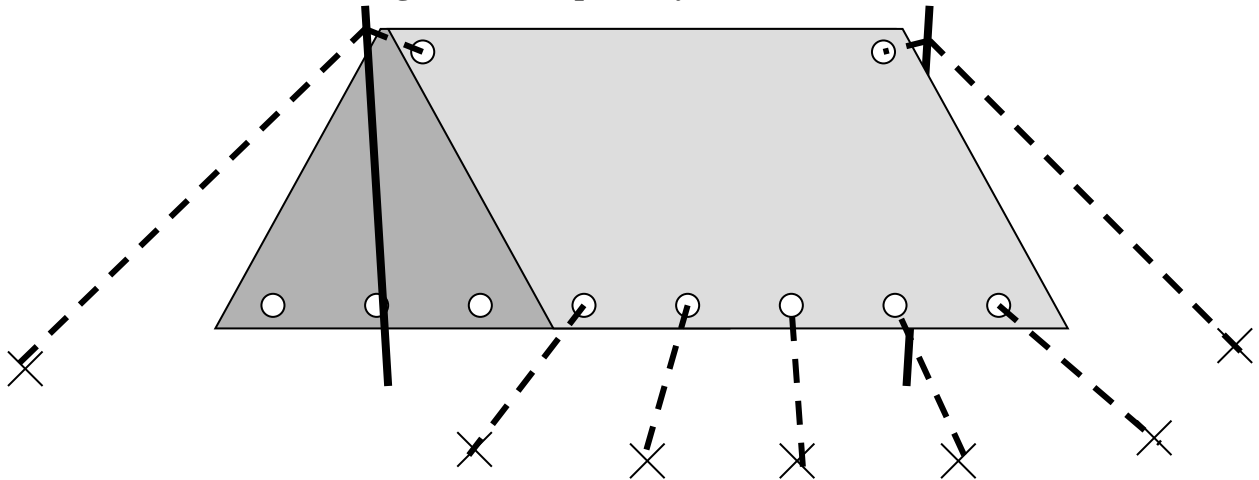
Figure 11. Site Map with Bear Warning.



Figure 12. UTM Coordinate Posts.

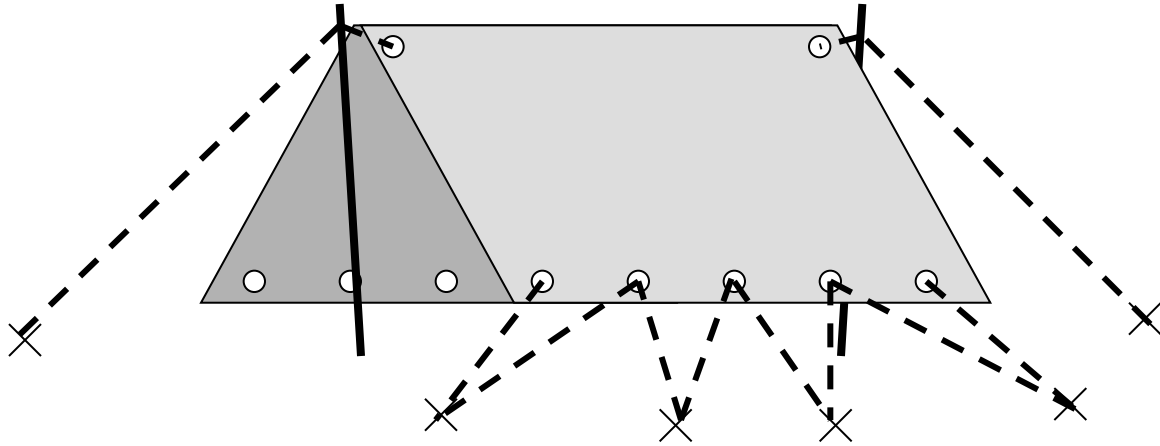
Crew Leader												
Chaplains Aide												
WP GUIA												
	Day											
Job	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Cook 1	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2
Cook 2	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3
Cleanup 1	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4
Cleanup 2	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5
Water 1	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6
Water 2	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7
Q'Master	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8
Naviguessor	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9
Stoves/Fire1	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10
Stoves/Fire2	Scout10	Scout1	Scout2	Scout3	Scout4	Scout5	Scout6	Scout7	Scout8	Scout9	Scout10	Scout1

Figure 13. Sample Duty Roster.



- 12 Tent Stakes
- Larks Head knot to tie ridge line to poles
- EVERY Grommet Gets a Breakaway stick
- Requires 100' Nylon Cord

Figure 14. Traditional Rain Fly Setup.



- 10 Tent Stakes
- Larks Head knot to tie ridge line to poles
- Only Ridgeline Gets Breakaway Sticks
- Guy lines - Tie rope to corner grommet. Remainder “Float”

Figure 15. Alternate Rain Fly Setup.

- 12' x 12' Nylon Tarp (Philmont Will Issue)
- Tent Stakes (You Will Bring)
- 2 Collapsible Aluminum Poles (Philmont Issue) or 2 Trekking Poles (You Bring and leave Philmont supplied poles in locker)
- Lots of 3 mm nylon rope for ridgeline and guy lines (You Will Bring)
- Keep ridgeline and guy lines rigged when the tarp is taken down
- Tension is on the ridgeline and not the tarp

Legend for Rain Fly figures

- Grommet
- - Rope
- | Tent Pole or Trekking Pole
- × Tent Stake

Figure 16. Rain Fly Notes.



Figure 17. Philmont Map Marked-up at Logistics.

713-L-02 2015 PHILMONT ADVENTURE, ITINERARY NO. 9
CHALLENGING - 64 MILES

Crew Leader: _____ Adult Advisor: _____
 Chaplain's Aid: _____ Ranger: _____
 Wilderness Pledge Guide: _____ Council: National Capital Area
 City: Bethesda State: MD

DAY OF TREK	DAY & DATE	CAMP	PROGRAM FEATURES	Conserv. Proj Site	Food Pick Up	Trail Meals
1	Mon 713	Camping Headquarters	Opening Campfire		NO	
2	Tue 714	Rayado River	Tour Kit Carson Museum, Ranger Training, Trail Camp		HQ	L-4 S-4
3	Wed 715	Crags	Cantina @ Abreu, Search & Rescue, Wilderness Medicine @ Carson Meadows, Trail Camp		HQ	B-5 L-5 S-5
4	Thu 716	APACHE SPRINGS	Fly Tying & Fishing, Tour Waite Phillips Fishing Lodge @ Fish Camp, Jicarilla Apache Life		HQ	B-6 L-6 S-6
5	Fri 717	APACHE SPRINGS	3-D Archery, Sweat Lodge		HQ	B-7 L-7 S-7
6	Sat 718	Porcupine	Homesteading @ Crooked Creek, Trail Camp		PJ	B-8 L-8 S-8
7	Sun 719	CLEAR CREEK	Rocky Mountain Fur Company, Black Powder Rifles		PJ	B-9 L-9 S-9
8	Mon 720	Red Hills	Hike Mt. Phillips & Comanche Peak, Trail Camp		PJ	B-10 L-10 S-10
9	Tue 721	BEAUBIEN	Hike Big Red & Bonito Peak, Western Lore, Branding, Chuckwagon Dinner & Cowboy Campfire		PJ	B-1 L-1 S-1
10	Wed 722	CRATER LAKE	Hike over Trail Peak, Continental Tie & Lumber Company	Crater Lake	PJ	B-2 L-2 S-2
11	Thu 723	Shaefers Pass	Dry Camp - Water @ North Fork Urraca, Trail Camp		MP	B-3 L-3 S-3
12	Fri 724	Camping Headquarters	Climb Tooth of Time, Hike in via Tooth Ridge, Awards Campfire		NO	B-4 L-4 S-4

YOUR BUS: Departs Camping Headquarters for Rayado River Camp on Day 2 at 9:00 am to Rayado TA.
 Hike in to Camping HQ via Tooth Ridge Trail.

NUMBER OF CREW MEMBERS		
YOUTH	MALE	FEMALE TOT
8	0	8
ADULTS	4	0 4
	12	0
TOTAL:	12	

EXPEDITION PLAN APPROVAL

Crew Leader _____
 Adult Advisor _____
 Logistica (Inventory Planner) _____
 CONSERVATION PROJECT(s) _____
 Site 1 _____
 Hours Completed _____
 Approved - Conservator: _____
 Site 2 _____
 Hours Completed _____
 Approved - Conservator: _____

ADVANCE CLC

Figure 18. Crew Leader Copy.



Figure 19. Philmont Brand.