

# 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

**Arrival (~10 am), begin Base Camp Prep!**  
*(Order will vary!)*

- Welcome Center: CL/LA
- CHQ Brief (pack line!)
- Trail Bound Tent City
- Registration Desk
- Logistics (CL/LA)
- Nav Skills for crew
- Med Recheck
- Crew Photo
- Supply (food, gear)
- Gear Shakedown
- Mail Room (stoves)
- Crew Lockers
- Dining Hall (lunch & dinner)
- Tooth of Time Traders
- Leadership briefs
- Evening Campfire!



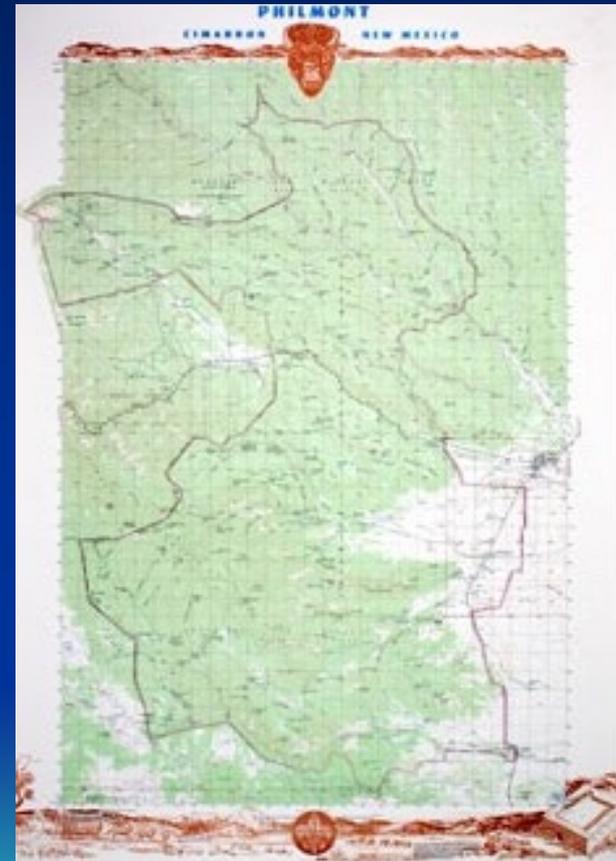
# Your Second Day at Philmont

- Early reveille!
- Bussed to Turnarounds in Back Country
- Upon arrival, Ranger briefs on more Back Country procedures (Red Roof Inn, trail signage, hiking etiquette...)
- Hit the Trail!
- Short mileage



# 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 in Back Country, 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 Three (2<sup>nd</sup> Trail Day)

- 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
  - Spike in radio calls: dehydration, injuries
    - Due to:
      - Ranger leaving crew
      - First day of significant hiking mileage and elevation gain
      - Crew that has under-trained starts to struggle



# Conclusion

- The better prepared your crew is when you arrive, the easier it will be for you, your Scouts, and the Ranger.
- Adult Advisors: Support the Ranger by letting him/her work thru the Crew Leader, allowing the Crew Leader to take the responsibility of leading the Crew.
- Crew Leaders: Take advantage of all the things your Ranger teaches you. You'll appreciate these skills once the Ranger departs.

