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

Fire Ring

Bear-Muda Triangle

Dining Fly

Sump

Tents
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