

Philmont Programs

Each itinerary is carefully developed to give your crew the maximum enjoyment of hiking and camping in the high mountains of the Sangre de Cristos. Itineraries also include certain staffed camps where you will pick up food and participate in program features. Although programs are not compulsory, they are recommended to get the most benefit from your Philmont experience.

Archaeology

The Ponil country in northern Philmont is rich with prehistoric artifacts of American Indians. At Indian Writings camp your crew can help reconstruct Philmont history while participating in this fascinating program and learning about Indians who inhabited this area.

An educated archaeologist and staff explain and supervise the program in the North Ponil Canyon. Activities may include assisting with excavations or preparing specimens and artifacts.

PLEASE NOTE: You can assist the archaeology program by being observant as you hike the trails. You may discover an artifact that will lead to further discoveries. Philmont's antiquities rightfully belong to Philmont and are most meaningful when left where found. Others can then share the benefit of your discovery. Please report all finds to one of the staff archaeologists at Indian Writings or to the Philmont Museum.

Black Mountain

Experience life as it was soon after the Civil War at the rustic Black Mountain camp settlement. Shoot .58 caliber black powder rifles, learn to do blacksmithing and meet former Fort Union soldiers. Black Mountain is one of Philmont's very popular living history theme camps.

Black Powder

You will use powder, patch, ball, ramrod, and cap to actually load and shoot a .50 or .58-caliber muzzle-loading rifle. This exciting, historic program is offered at Black Mountain, Clear Creek and Miranda.

Blacksmithing

The ring of hammer striking iron echoes through the mountains around French Henry, Black Mountain, and Cyphers Mine camps. Here staff blacksmiths will acquaint you with a working forge, blower, leg vice and hardie, and an array of tongs used to grip red-hot iron. They will discuss and demonstrate techniques for firing the forge, working metal, and tempering the finished product.

Burro Packing

No animal is more closely associated with the colorful history of the Southwest than the burro. Burro packing methods are explained and demonstrated at Ponil and Miranda. Your tents and food may be packed on burros using a diamond hitch. Burros are available for use on the trail

in the northern portion of the ranch, starting or ending at Ponil and Miranda. Burro traps (holding pens for overnight stops) are located at Ponil, Pueblano, Miranda, Elkhorn, Flume Canyon, Head of Dean, and Baldy Skyline. Hay for feeding is provided at these camps. If your itinerary provides for packing burros, take advantage of this unique opportunity to pack them just as the miners once did.

Burro Racing

Thrills galore await you in catching, packing, and racing a burro in competition with other crews. This activity at Harlan provides a memorable experience.

Cantina

Abreu and Ponil offer the opportunity for a thirst-quenching root beer in a Mexican or Western-style cantina. You can buy root beer for your whole crew or a cup for yourself.

Challenge Events

A series of activities that will test the teamwork, skill, and resourcefulness of your crew awaits you at Dan Beard, Head of Dean, and Urraca Camps. While the challenges can be met by every crew, the real contest is with yourself. Did you do your best? How would you do better next time?

Conservation

Philmont offers opportunities for involvement, participation, and observation of conservation practices. Most conservation projects involve trail construction or repair, which is very important in controlling erosion.

Three hours of conservation work under the supervision of a Philmont Conservationist is expected of each camper to earn the Arrowhead Award. Ten hours of conservation work is a requirement for the 50-Miler Award. The 3 hours earned at Philmont can be applied-the other 7 may be acquired back home. Some crews elect to complete more hours during their trek. Some crews complete all 10 hours at Philmont.

Philmont has a number of conservationists on its staff, each located strategically throughout the backcountry. Logistics will identify the best location for your crew to do your 3-hour project under the supervision of one of the conservationists who will help you qualify for both the Arrowhead Award and the partial of the 50-Miler Award.

Should your itinerary not provide for an area with a trail construction site, Logistics will identify an alternate project that can be done under the leadership of your Advisor.

Continental Tie and Lumber Company

The exciting legend of the loggers with the Continental Tie and Lumber Company will come to life through the staff at Pueblano and Crater Lake. They will share their skills of spartree "pole" climbing and the use of wood tools and instruments. Competition in exciting logging events

