

ROCS - 2009 Roving Outdoor Conservation School

The Roving Outdoor Conservation School is an exciting program at Philmont Scout Ranch for Scouts and Venturers who have an interest in **conservation** and **natural resource management**. Participants will enjoy a 21-day trek throughout Philmont's 137,493 acres of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains of northeastern New Mexico.

The School will offer each participant in-depth experiences in Conservation and Environmental Science. As the crew hikes the ranch, they will camp in many of the different forest types and **participate in activities** in the following areas: forestry, fire ecology, insects, fisheries management, wildlife management, geology, plant identification and dendrology, watershed management and range management. In addition part of the trek will practice "Leave No Trace" and "Tread Lightly" techniques.

During the ROCS trek, each crew will spend several days **building new trails** and rebuilding some of the existing trails. The crew will practice recreation management by improving trail and staff camps in the backcountry. Each crew will also have the opportunity to work on projects in support of the U.S. Forest Service. The experience of trail construction and campsite improvements will provide some great skills that will be useful in projects at local council camps or recreation areas throughout America when the participant returns home. The program is not simply working on various conservation projects and hiking, ROCS is ultimately a journey that challenges Scouts and Venturers in education, in service, and in adventure.

ROCS participants will work and hike in crews under the leadership of trained instructors. Crews will be composed of young men or young women (not coed) from all over the United States. All crew equipment such as tents, cooking gear and tools, will be provided by Philmont and all participants will be covered by campers' insurance.

Philmont Scout Ranch covers 215 square miles, with more than 350 miles of trails. Philmont ranges from 6,500 feet to 12,441 feet in elevation above sea level. Because of the remote settings and elevation, participants need to be prepared, both physically and mentally, to handle the challenges of the trek. Philmont experiences a wide variety of weather situations. Participants should be prepared for possible 100 degree days, 40 degree nights, as well as days of rain and even snow. All this adds to the ROCS and the Philmont experience.

REQUIREMENTS

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. (Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer)
- Be at least 16 years old by the date your program begins, but not yet 21 by its conclusion.
- Be physically fit, able to lift and handle materials up to 50 lbs. (Philmont height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced).
- Be in excellent physical condition, able to hike 10 or more miles per day with a 40-50 lb. backpack.
- ROCS Crews are not coed.
- *ROCS is a 21 day very strenuous program with minimal exposure to civilization. Participants should be aware as well as prepared for these conditions.*
- A complete physical examination is required. (Philmont's Health and Medical Record will be sent to those who are accepted.)

UNIT AND LOCAL COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The participant's unit leader and local council executive must approve only those young adults who meet the qualifications for this program. Philmont is not an easy experience and is a risk for those not physically prepared for the rigors of the New Mexico mountains.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the enclosed application. Apply early for best consideration, however, there is not a deadline. Have it approved by a parent or guardian, a unit leader and your Scout Executive. Attach one letter of recommendation to your application that attests to your backcountry experience and your character. **Mail your completed application to: ROCS, Philmont Scout Ranch, 17 Deer Run Rd, Cimarron, NM 87714.** Philmont will notify you of your acceptance. If accepted, a packet of materials will be sent to assist you in preparing for your Philmont work/trek experience.

PROGRAM COST/SCHOLARSHIPS

Participant cost is \$435 for the three week experience. **A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required with this**

application. The balance of the fee is due at the time of acceptance into the program. Additional expenses, including travel to and from Philmont, as well as miscellaneous purchases, are the responsibility of the participant. Those applicants not accepted will have their deposit returned. Participants canceling acceptance will be eligible for a refund if notification is received at Philmont by May 1, 2009. No shows are not eligible for a refund. **A limited amount of scholarship aid is available. The deadline to apply for scholarship aid is February 1.** See enclosed scholarship application.

TRAVEL

Shuttles are available from the Albuquerque, New Mexico and Colorado Springs and Denver, Colorado Airports to Philmont. The shuttles leave the airports at 1:00 to 3:00 pm, depending on location, on the day **before** your scheduled starting date, arriving at Philmont at 6:30 to 7:30 pm (approx). The return shuttle leaves at 6:00 am on your departure date, arriving at the Airports at 9:45 to 11:30 am, again depending on location. You may also consider a bus or train arrival at Raton, New Mexico (40 miles from Philmont). A roundtrip shuttle is available from Raton. If you do not arrive by shuttle from Albuquerque, plan to arrive at Philmont between 8:00 - 11:00 am on your scheduled starting date. Shuttle Information and registration forms will be included in your packet. ROCS is a twenty-one (21) day program. Participants depart the morning of the twenty-second (22nd) day (July 7, 14, 21, 28, & Aug 4 are departure dates).

ROCS SESSION DATES FOR 2009

#1: June 16 - July 7 #3: **June 30 - July 21 (Female Session)** #5: July 14- Aug 4
#2: June 23 - July 14 #4: July 7 - 28

Please Note: If less than six participants register for a session by April 1st, the session may be cancelled. Participants will be promptly notified and alternative programs suggested.

ROCS CODE OF CONDUCT

The general welfare of any group depends on the conduct of each individual member. This ensures the success of the school project and provides the maximum benefit to every participant. As a ROCS participant, I understand this and support the reasonable demands of conduct expected of me.

AS A ROCS PARTICIPANT, I WILL:

- Live the Scout Oath and Law or Venturer Code and Oath.
- Observe, respect, and strive to live the Philmont Wilderness Pledge.
- Observe the rules of the Philmont Conservation Department and my Instructor.
- Wear my full official BSA Class A uniform or work clothes as required. Unofficial decorations are not part of the official uniform.
- Attend and participate in all functions of the program.
- Be personally responsible for damage and loss of property.
- Observe quiet hours.
- Respect all safety procedures and learn to properly use equipment.
- At all times, be considerate of participants and staff at Philmont Scout Ranch.
- Understand that fighting with another participant or staff member is prohibited, and will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant.
- Understand the purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, tobacco, or illicit drugs at any time during the program, will not be permitted and will result in dismissal from the program at the expense of the participant. This standard shall apply to all participants. Compliance with state law regulations will apply at all times.

PHOTO (TALENT) RELEASE STATEMENT

I hereby assign and grant to the Boy Scouts of America the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and /or sound recordings made during my visit to Philmont Scout Ranch by the Boy Scouts of America, and I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America from any and all liability from such use and publication.

I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage and/or distribution of said photographs/film/video tapes/electronic representations and /or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Boy Scouts of America and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

By signing below, I acknowledge I have read and promise to abide by the code of conduct for ROCS, have read and understand all the information about the Roving Outdoor Conservation School, and agree with the Photo (Talent) Release Statement.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

2009 ROCS APPLICATION

(Please type or print clearly)

NAME _____ EMAIL _____
first middle last

HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE NO. _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

*DATE OF BIRTH _____ (*Be 16 years of age by program start date but not yet 21 by its conclusion)

CURRENT INFORMATION: Gender _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Height _____ Weight _____
male / female

SCOUTING AND OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE:

(Circle One)

Now Registered with: Troop, Team or Venture Crew # _____ Tenure _____ Rank _____

Council # _____ Council Name _____

Leadership Positions Held _____

Previous Philmont Experience _____ Year(s) _____

Other High Adventure Experience / Backpacking Experience (please be specific) _____

Total no. of backpacking overnights _____ Longest backpacking expedition in: Days _____ Miles _____

Extracurricular Activities _____

Honors / Awards Received _____

Camp Staff Experience (When and Where) _____

I PREFER THE FOLLOWING SESSION:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____ 3rd Choice _____

I request a vegetarian meal plan: Yes _____ No _____

_____ \$50 deposit enclosed _____ \$435 full fee enclosed (checks payable to Philmont Scout Ranch)

BEWARE OF POTENTIAL RISKS

Philmont offers High Adventure backpacking treks and program activities in relatively inaccessible mountainous terrain. Parents, advisors and youth participants should be alert to the potential for injury. Philmont strives to minimize risks to participants and advisors by emphasizing proper safety precautions. Philmont staff members will instruct you regarding safety measures to be followed. Each participant is expected to follow these safety measures and to accept responsibility for their health and safety.

PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL:

My son/daughter has my complete permission to participate in ROCS during the period indicated on this application. I understand that the program is physically demanding and involves a degree of risk and a potential for injury. We also acknowledge and agree with the Photo (Talent) Release Statement.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

UNIT LEADER APPROVAL:

I attest this applicant is a member in good standing and approve his/her participation in ROCS

Unit Leader Signature _____ Date _____

LOCAL COUNCIL ACTION:	
Council # _____	Council Name _____ Region _____ Area _____
We certify that _____ (applicant's name) meets the age and physical requirements for ROCS and is a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.	
_____ Signature of Scout Executive or Representative	_____ Date

FEE SCHEDULE:

The total cost is \$435. A \$50 deposit must accompany this application. The remaining balance of \$385 will be due upon receipt of confirmation.

NOTE: Deposit fee, all required signatures of approval and one letter of recommendation must accompany application.

Please make check payable to Philmont Scout Ranch and mail to:

**PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH
ATTN: ROCS
17 DEER RUN RD.
CIMARRON NM 87714**

Philmont Contact Information: Phone: 575.376.2281

Email: camping@philmontscoutranch.org

Web Address: www.scouting.org/philmont

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**FOR PHILMONT USE ONLY**

Recommendation Letters \_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant Notified \_\_\_\_\_

Packet Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Exp. # \_\_\_\_\_

**RISK ADVISORY - PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH**

Philmont has an excellent health and safety record with over 860,000 adults and young people having attended over the last 65 years. Philmont strives to minimize risks to participants and advisors by emphasizing proper safety precautions. Most participants in Philmont programs do not experience injuries because they are prepared, are conscious of risks, and take safety precautions. If you decide to attend Philmont, you should be physically fit, have proper clothing and equipment, be willing to follow instructions and work as a team with your crew and take responsibility for your own health and safety. For further information please thoroughly read the *Guidebook to Adventure* which will be mailed in mid-March. Like other wilderness areas, Philmont is not risk free and you should be prepared to listen to safety instructions carefully, follow directions and take appropriate steps to safeguard yourself and others.

Parents, guardians and potential participants in Philmont programs are advised that journeying to and from Philmont, and one's stay at Philmont, can involve exposure to accident, illness, and/or injury associated with a high elevation, physically demanding, high adventure program in a remote mountainous area. Campers may be exposed to occasional severe weather conditions such as lightning, hail, flash floods and heat. Other potential problems include: injuries from tripping and falling, motor vehicle accidents, worsening of underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma, heart attacks, heat exhaustion and falls from horses.

Philmont's trails are steep and rocky. Wild animals such as bears, rattlesnakes and mountain lions are native and usually present little danger if proper precautions are taken. Please refer to the *Guidebook to Adventure*, speak with previous Philmont participants, or call Philmont for further information concerning risks and measures which can be taken to avoid accidents.

Philmont has staff trained in first aid, CPR and accident prevention, and is prepared to assist in recognizing, reacting, and responding to accidents, injuries and illnesses. Each crew is also required to have at least one member trained in wilderness first aid and CPR. Medical and search and rescue services are provided by Philmont in response to an accident or emergency. However, response times can be affected by location, weather or other emergencies and could be delayed six (6) or more hours.

**PHILMONT WEIGHT LIMITS FOR BACKPACKING & HIKING**

Each participant in a Philmont trek must not exceed the maximum acceptable limit in the weight for height chart shown below. The right hand column shows the maximum acceptable weight for a person's height in order to participate in a Philmont trek. Those who fall within the limits are more likely to have an enjoyable trek and avoid incurring health risks. Every Philmont trek involves hiking with a 35-50 lb. backpack between 6,500 and 12,500 ft. elevations. Philmont recommends that participants carry a pack weighing no more than 25-30% of their body weight.

**Participants 21 years and older who exceed the maximum acceptable weight limit for their height at the Philmont medical recheck, will not be permitted to backpack or hike at Philmont.** For example, a person 5'10" cannot weigh more than 226 lbs. All heights and weights will be measured in stocking feet.

**For participants under 21 years of age who exceed the maximum acceptable weight for height, the Philmont physicians will use their best professional judgment in determining participation in a Philmont trek . Participants under 21 years of age are strongly encouraged to meet the weight limit for their height. Exceptions are not made automatically and the maximum allowable exception will be 20 lbs. Discussion in advance with Philmont regarding any exception to the weight limit for persons under 21 years of age is required, whether it is over or under.** Philmont's phone number is 575-376-2281.

Under no circumstance will any individual over 295 lbs. be allowed to participate in backcountry program. This limit is necessary due to limitations of rescue equipment and for the safety of Philmont personnel. The maximum weight for any participant in a Cavalcade Trek and for horse rides is 200 lbs.

This table is based on the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Health & Human Services.

| Height | Recommended Weight (lbs) | Maximum Acceptance |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 5'0"   | 97 - 138                 | 166                |
| 5'1"   | 101-143                  | 172                |
| 5'2"   | 104-148                  | 178                |
| 5'3'   | 107-152                  | 183                |
| 5'4"   | 111-157                  | 189                |
| 5'5"   | 114-162                  | 195                |
| 5'6"   | 118-167                  | 201                |
| 5'7"   | 121-172                  | 207                |
| 5'8"   | 125-178                  | 214                |
| 5'9"   | 129-185                  | 220                |

| Height      | Recommended Weight (lbs) | Maximum Acceptance |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 5'10"       | 132-188                  | 226                |
| 5'11"       | 136-194                  | 233                |
| 6'0"        | 140-199                  | 239                |
| 6'1"        | 144-205                  | 246                |
| 6'2"        | 148-210                  | 252                |
| 6'3"        | 152-216                  | 260                |
| 6'4"        | 156-222                  | 267                |
| 6'5"        | 160-228                  | 274                |
| 6'6"        | 164-234                  | 281                |
| 6'7" & over | 170-240                  | 295                |

**RAYADO TREK / ROCS (Roving Outdoor Conservation School)  
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION**

A limited amount of financial assistance is available for Rayado or ROCS (Roving Outdoor Conservation School) participants. To apply, please complete this application and return it to Philmont by February 1 of the year attending. All information will remain confidential.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                      Middle I.                      Last

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_

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\* How long have you been a member of the Boy Scouts of America? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Leadership position(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Local council camp experience(where & when): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Philmont experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Other high adventure experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Honors/awards (school, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Attach an essay that will help the scholarship committee understand your hopes and expectations if accepted as a Rayado/ROCS participant. Please address the following topics directly: 1) What previous experiences have you had that will help you meet the challenges of this program? 2) What do you hope to learn or accomplish through this experience? 3) How will this experience help you in future service to Scouting; in pursuing other educational, career, or life interests? 4) What will be your greatest contribution (skill, talent, character trait) as a member of a Rayado/ROCS crew?

Parent/Guardian Information:

Father \_\_\_\_\_ Employer/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_ Employer/Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

State circumstances that require you to apply for financial assistance: (attach additional page if needed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of fee to be paid by:  
Participant                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Family                            \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit or Chartered Partners   \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Available                \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Financial Assistance Requested   \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures required:  
Participant \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED