



HIGH ADVENTURE



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Welcome Letter from Leadership

Dear Arrowman,

As the leadership of Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, we are stoked for you to experience the adventure of our program! To help you in preparation for your trip, we would like to emphasize information specific to our program:

Conditions at the Worksite

Currently, the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program is constructing a trail from Webster Parks to the summit of Cimarroncito Peak. This elevation of the worksite is approaching 10,000 ft. Temperatures hover around 60-90 degrees during the day and can become much cooler during summer rainstorms. Nights regularly dip into the 40s, occasionally in the 30s, with frequent wind at dusk.

We provide this context to help you properly plan your worksite clothing. We can safely say that our suggested long-sleeve work shirt is comfortable during the day, and you will need all the “UPPER BODY LAYERS” mentioned in your guidebook at night. It is imperative that you bring adequate layers while at the worksite. Extra layers can be sent back to basecamp with your work clothes before beginning your trek week.

Electronics

A key element of OA Trail Crew is being able to engage deeply in the beauty and nature of the Philmont experience. Participants should be prepared to leave their cellular devices in base camp for the duration of their trek. Due to the rugged nature of the backcountry, there is a high likelihood of permanently damaging your device should you take it on your trek. Please consider the importance of your cell phone for your travel before bringing it onto the trail. Storage is provided in basecamp for all valuables. Accommodation can be made for special circumstances.

As noted in the [Philmont Guidebook to Adventure](#), radios, mp3 players, drones, video game devices, and other items are **prohibited** in the Philmont backcountry. The use of a cell phone as a form of entertainment **will not be permitted** at any time in the backcountry. Please note there are no locations for charging any electronic device while in the back country. Along with protecting valuable electronics, leaving cell phones behind also helps to immerse participants in the natural beauty of Philmont. Many participants report being glad they left their phone back at base, leaving behind stressors and distractions from coming on trail with them.

We encourage crews to share photos of their group through various resources such as Facebook, Dropbox, or Google Photo album before leaving the ranch. A standalone camera is highly recommended. If you do not bring a personal camera, simply ask your fellow Arrowmen to snap a picture of you during the trek and make sure to get access to the digital copies later!



ORDER OF THE ARROW

TRAIL CREW

Communication While in the Backcountry

While participants are in the backcountry, we seek to maintain immersion in the program by limiting non-essential communication by electronic devices. If guardians need to contact their scout for an emergency, please call Philmont at (575) 376-2281. This number leads to Philmont's switchboard and is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Due to the remoteness of Philmont's backcountry, it may take up to a day to deliver a message. OA Trail Crew foreman go through extensive training to effectively provide for the participants' needs on their trek and at the worksite.

Arriving Physically Prepared

As an individual trek participant, it is solely your responsibility to be prepared physically for your adventure. If you do not exercise regularly, **you NEED to be cardio training three to five times per week in preparation.** Proper foot care while backpacking is an essential skill, and it begins with preparing for the long period of time spent on your feet, hiking over rugged terrain while wearing a heavy pack. Wear your boots regularly in the weeks leading up to your trek, and at least once on a practice hike with all the gear you plan on bringing to Philmont.

As to what you should prepare for, well, we can tell you what to expect: *Expect days of double-digit hiking miles. Expect to carry a backpack that weighs more than 25%-30% of your body weight. Expect to always go uphill or downhill. Expect every day to be filled with as many sights and activities as possible, never to waste a moment. And always expect to fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow!*

We hope this will allow you to be as prepared as possible on your arrival day, allowing you to focus on things of higher reward. The beauty of Northeast New Mexico, the brotherhood of our order, and an adventure of a lifetime await you. We look forward to your arrival this summer!

In Brotherhood,

Michael Colletti
2026 OA Trail Crew Director
Phone number (314) 712-3297
Email: michael.colletti@scouting.org

Caitlyn Oliva
2026 OA Trail Crew Coordinator
Phone number (847) 809-7596
Email: caitlyn.oliva@scouting.org



Overall Program Information

This information can also be found online: <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/treks/individualprograms/oatc/>, including [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Arrival and Departure Plans

Your *Individual Travel Plans* information form will be sent by email in May from the Philmont Camping Gateway. It must be filled out completely and uploaded to the Philmont Camping Gateway at least three weeks before your arrival to Philmont.

Participants must sign out upon departure. Email questions to philmont.camping@scouting.org

Arrivals

For all participants traveling via train or plane, you will need to arrive the day prior to your trek start date. For all participants arriving by personal vehicle, you will need to arrive on the trek start date by 10:30 AM.

Departures

Participants should plan to depart on the last date of their trek. Participants should expect program to continue until the night before the scheduled departure date; participants should not anticipate leaving early. Participants traveling by plane will depart Philmont in the morning and should schedule flights no earlier than 1:00 PM. Participants traveling via Amtrak will leave late morning or afternoon from Philmont. Participants traveling in personal vehicles should plan to be picked up by 10:00 AM. The current shuttle information provided by Philmont should be reviewed before booking travel from Denver airport, Raton train station, or Albuquerque airport. For specifics about traveling to Philmont, please review the Philmont provided travel webpage, [Traveling to Philmont](#).

Extra Days on Site

Participants arriving by plane or train by shuttle the day before the trek will not be charged extra for the single day before the trek. For those arriving by private vehicle, or anyone needing to stay after the trek, there will be an additional charge for accommodations if, due to travel schedules, an extra day is needed. Participants under 18 years of age will pay \$75 for supervision, tenting, and meals. Those over 18 will be charged \$8 per meal and \$15 for tenting. Due to limited tent space, participants are only allowed 1 additional day in base, so please plan accordingly.

Shuttles

Current shuttle information can be found on the Philmont website, [Getting to Philmont](#). Third-party shuttle companies provide this service to Philmont. For further questions about scheduling a shuttle to or from Philmont, reach out to the Director or Coordinator directly.

Medical Form

All participants of Philmont programs must pass a physical examination. Have your physician fill out and sign the Scouting America Annual Health and Medical Record and upload it to the Philmont Gateway link that will be emailed to you. A copy of your insurance card (front & back) should be attached. Bring a physical backup copy, there will be a secure area to store these. If your physical examination must be given at Philmont, you will be charged the prevailing fee. Participants must meet the height/weight limits noted on the medical form.



Dietary Restrictions and other needs

OATC can accommodate common dietary restrictions such as vegetarian diets. For more severe allergies or uncommon diets participants should call OATC leadership in advance but will most likely need to provide their own supplementary food and possibly full meals. Please note your dietary needs on NOAERS otherwise we will be unable to plan for you.

Overall information about food and allergies can be found here: <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/resources/food-and-cooking/>.

Other information regarding medical conditions is available here:

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/resources/preparing-for-philmont/health-medical-records/>.

Insurance

Scouting America provides accident and sickness insurance coverage for Philmont participants from the time they leave home until they return. This policy has an excess insurance provision that will pay eligible expenses not covered by other collectable insurances. The name and policy number of your family policy should be noted on your medical form. Please attach a photocopy of your insurance card to the Annual Health and Medical Record.

Extra Charges

One crew photo, taken on your arrival day, is included in your fee. Additional crew photos of your session may be purchased at www.PhilmontPhotoArchive.org/.

Work Week

Participants are expected to work a total of 40 hours. Working hours include trail construction, campsite improvements, and refilling campsite water. The current OATC worksite is located on the eastern side of Cimarroncito Peak at an elevation of 9,500 ft or more. Participants will start their trek week from Cito Peak but have an opportunity to send extra gear down to base in a summit or day bag.

Trek Week

Two OATC Foreman will be serving per crew. There will be two twenty-one-year-olds always present with the crews as they trek through Philmont Backcountry. During trek week each participant will have an opportunity to take on duties such as navigator and crew leader. Miles are completely dependent on the general condition of the crew, but participants should expect to hike anywhere between 65-85 miles during trek week.

Hygiene

Due to the nature of our program and water constraints, OATC Crews will not take showers until they return to basecamp. Your foremen will be able to teach you the backpacking skills required to stay clean during your trek using camp towels or even do laundry.

Questions

If you have specific questions about the OATC Trek, please contact Philmont at 575-376-2281 or email philmont.camping@scouting.org.

EQUIPMENT LIST

To have the most enjoyable time at Philmont, OATC Leadership recommends and/or requires the following items. At the conclusion of the work week, all participants will have the opportunity to send extra/dirty items down to base for storage during the trek week. Participants will also be able to leave a limited amount of gear in storage lockers at base camp, reserved typically for travel gear and toiletries. This list is very similar to one found on Philmont's website, with specific changes to fit the needs of our program and further explanation. For any questions, reach out to the seasonal leadership. Please also review the [Philmont Equipment list](#) and [OATC Equipment List](#) before your trek.

Proper Gear Selection

Remember, you will be doing strenuous work in the Philmont backcountry for several days during your program, so come prepared. Storage space for excess baggage will be limited, so keep such items to a minimum. With the combination of the outdoor conditions and physical challenges described above, we find it important to comment on gear selection in addition to the information in the [Philmont Trek Toolbox](#). **The most important factor in gear selection is how well it fits your individual body!**

Most outdoor outfitters like REI can give advice on how to properly fit and select a pack, including their [Backpack Adjustment Guide](#). You should have experience hiking with the backpack you plan to bring on trek. Please bring a pack of the size recommended as you will be carrying your own gear and crew gear or food. However, Philmont can provide participants with a pack if the pack you bring is too small or becomes damaged. Packs cost \$30 to rent.

Your feet need to be well adjusted to your footwear before arriving at the ranch. **If you are purchasing new footwear for this adventure, you need to break them in before arriving at the ranch.** New boots that have not been broken-in always result in blisters while hiking multiple days consecutively. Trail runners are acceptable for the trek week portion of the adventure, but trail work is demanding, and sturdy boots are required for that portion of the trek.

Your rain gear should be completely waterproof, not just water resistant. "Disposable" rain gear (emergency ponchos or Frogg Toggs) is very fragile and more often than not becomes destroyed due to the rough nature of trail work and the backcountry. For a value-priced rain jacket, Philmont recommends the Red Ledge "Thunderlight Jacket" and "Rain Pant" as it is durable and will keep you dry. Quality rain gear is a wise investment.

During the summer, weather can vary greatly. Temperatures can be in the 90s and drop down to the low 30s. We recommend having a good layering system and, most importantly, high-quality rain gear. Sleeping bags rated for 20 degrees would be recommended, but higher-temperature bags may work if used with a sleeping liner.

If you have any more questions about preparing for Philmont, please contact the leadership for OA Trail Crew this summer. OATC and the Conservation Department have a collection of gear that can be used or given to participants as needed for their trek. If you don't own particular items, **please call OATC leadership and we can see if we can help you.** Additionally, attached is the [Philmont Scout Ranch preparedness](#) page. Here you can find recordings of Philmont staff answering questions about this upcoming summer and recommendations for gear and physical preparedness.



The equipment list is included below. The CODE helps to explain important information for each item:

- (T) = Available at Philmont’s Tooth of Time Traders
- (A) = Easily Accessible in pack or carried on person
- (BB) = Packed in bear bag at night
- (S) = Share with a buddy
- (O) = Optional
- (E) = Philmont Essentials

Personal Equipment

Lower Body Layers

You will need 1-2 synthetic insulating layers. All must fit comfortably over each other, so they can be worn in combination.

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Base Layer	1	Long underwear bottom, mid-weight, synthetic or wool. Used for cold mornings or evenings & extra warmth while sleeping.	T	
Rain Pants	1	Lightweight & sturdy	T, A	
Long Pants	2	Pants are needed for spar pole climbing, horseback riding, cold weather, and are required for conservation work week.		
Underwear	3	Synthetic	T	
Hiking Shorts	1	With good elastic or drawstring	T	

Upper Body Layers

It is imperative to layer your clothing, combining different garments to achieve protection from the elements and optimum insulation. Synthetic or wool layers are recommended as they insulate when wet. Avoid cotton, as it does not insulate when wet. The current OATC worksite is located around 10,000 ft. in elevation and can become quite exposed to rain, hail, and even snow.

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Base Layer	1	Long underwear top, midweight, synthetic or wool. Used for cold mornings or evenings & for extra warmth while sleeping.	T	
Middle Layer	1	Wool sweater or fleece pullover	T	
Top Layer	1	Lightest and warmest available. Wool or fleece is best since they both provide warmth if wet. A “puffy” jacket with synthetic or down insulation works well.	T, E	
Rain Jacket	1	Sturdy waterproof jacket with a hood. Layer over fleece for extra warmth. Frogg Togg and similar are not recommended. Check waterproofing before trek.	T, A, E	



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Shirt: Short Sleeve	2	Moisture wicking; avoid cotton.	T	
Shirt: Long Sleeve	1	Moisture wicking; avoid cotton. Warmth layer for cold mornings or evenings. Sun shirt to protect against sunburn.	T	
Sports Bra	2	Synthetic blend	T	

Head/Hands/Neck

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Wool or Fleece Hat	1	Preserves body heat during cool evenings and while sleeping.	T	
Work Gloves	1	Optional. Gloves will be provided by OATC but feel free to bring your own personal work gloves.	T	
Baseball Cap or Wide Brim Hat	1	Protect ears and face from the sun.	T	
Bandana or tube headgear	3-4	Serves as a washcloth, hot potholder, for dust management and a variety of other uses.	T, BB	

Packs and Bags

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Backpack	1	Internal frame 75L (4600 cubic in) External frame 65L (3966 cubic in) Rental available w/ pack cover = \$30	T	
Summit or Daypack	1	For work week and sending extra personal gear down after work week.	T	
Lashing Straps	1	To hold a sleeping bag or other gear on pack.	T, O	
Gallon Ziploc Bags	6-12	Keep your gear dry and clothing organized.	T	
Pack Cover	1	Waterproof; make sure it fits over the pack when full and any external items.	T, A	
Small Stuff Sacks	2-3	Pack personal items and keep organized.	T	
Ditty Bags	1-2	Put all personal smellables in one bag and raise it in the bear bag at night.	T	
Ground Tarp	1	Tarp for use under tent	T, O	



Sleeping Gear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Sleeping Bag	1	Rated to 20°F and less than 4 lbs.	T	
Waterproof Stuff Sack	1	Alternatively, you can also use a compression sack lined with a plastic trash bag.	T	
Sleeping Pad	1	Provides padding and insulation from the ground.	T	
Sleep Clothes	1 set	Worn only in your sleeping bag; T-shirt and gym shorts are acceptable.	T	

Footwear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Boots	1 pair	Well broken in boots that are durable and fit comfortably. Boots with ankle support are highly recommended. Tough boots required for work week.	T	
Socks	4 pairs	Synthetic or wool. More welcomed if you wish to carry them. MUST be of hiking quality.	T	
Liner Socks	One pair per sock	Synthetic or wool; wicks away sweat from the foot and can help prevent blisters. Enjoyed by some, found not as useful by others.	T, O	
Camp Shoes	1 pair	Sturdy, lightweight, closed-toe shoes; Used in camp, on side hikes, for rock climbing, biking, etc.	T, O	

Miscellaneous Items

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Bowl	1	Deep bowl; lightweight material	T	
Mug/Cup	1	12-20 oz.; measuring style recommended.	T, O	
Spoon/Spork	1	Lightweight	T	
Water Bottles	4+	Water bottles should have 1-quart capacity; any combination of bladders and bottles are accepted, but at least one water bottle is necessary. Minimum total water capacity per person = 4 quarts. Will be required to purchase water bottles at the ToTT if participants show up with less than 4 qt. minimum.	T, A, BB, E	
Pocket Knife	1	Small knife for opening food packages and water purification tablets.	T, A, S, E	



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Matches or Lighter	1	Pack in a waterproof container for lighting camp stove; it can be shared w/ buddy or among the crew.	T, BB, S, E	
Flashlight or Headlamp	1	Durable and lightweight; everyone in the crew should have a personal light source; bring extra batteries.	T, E	
Trekking Poles w/rubber tips		Only for participants with severe knee or balance issues	T, O	
Philmont Maps Sectional	2 sets	Overall maps are not suitable for navigation; sectional maps provide more detail for accurate navigation. One or two sets are required to be bought per crew upon arrival at Philmont.	T, A, S, E	
Compass	1	Liquid filled compass w/rotating dial is optimal.	T, A, S, E	

Money	\$5 - \$20	Small bills; backcountry trading posts have a variety of items.	BB	
Lip Balm	1	Moisturizing balm with SPF 25+	T, A, BB	
Soap	1	Biodegradable for body and clothes; small amount needed. For showering in base camp	T, BB, S	
Toothbrush	1	Travel size	T, BB	
Toothpaste	1	Small amount needed.	T, BB, S	
Camp Towel	1	Quick drying and small. For showering in base camp	T	
Tampons and/or Pads		Strongly recommended for participants with menstrual cycles to bring enough supplies for duration.	T, BB	
Personal Medication		Enough for the entire session. Prescriptions following doctor's recommendations are mandatory	BB	
Sunglasses	1		T, O	
Watch		Encouraged to be left at base so the crew can enjoy "Dirt Time".	T, O, E	
Camera	1	Bring sufficient supply of batteries and memory cards. Highly preferable to cell phone	T, BB, S	

Equipment Provided by Philmont

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Dining Fly	1	12' x 10'; weight 2lbs, 3oz; Crews may bring their own; A wide/short dining fly is preferred over a tall narrow one.		



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TRAIL CREW

Collapsible Poles Philmont Thunder Ridge Tent	2 1 per 2 ppl	For dining fly; weight 1lb, 5oz; Trekking poles are a convenient substitute. Weight with poles 5lbs, 13oz; Footprint 88" x 54"; Personal tents must be fully enclosed; Single person tents are NOT allowed due to larger overall camp impact, except in the event of odd numbered crews or male/female tenting needs. Includes tents by Conservation Department		
10L Water Container	1	Capacity of 10 liters of water for dry camps. Provided by Conservation Department		
Cooking Pot	1	8-quart aluminum pot with lid; weight 1lb, 12.8oz; Must be large enough to cook for everyone in the crew; Must be large enough to fully submerge dishes and utensils for sanitizing before eating.		

Dish washing Pot	1	8 quart aluminum pot without lid; weight 1lb, 4oz; Must be large enough to heat water for washing and rinsing.		
Large Spoon	1			
Hot Pot Tongs	1	Multi-tool with pliers or hook can be used instead.		
Backpacking stove	2	MSR white gas Dragonfly stoves provided by Conservation		
Fuel Bottles	2	Department 1 quart		
Dishwashing Soap	10	Personal preference; multi-purpose	C	
Hand Sanitizer	1	Personal hygiene	BB, C	
Scrub Pads	1	1 large piece that can be cut into smaller pieces for cleaning pot and dishes after dinner.	BB, C	
Water Purifier Tablets	10 per person	Crew will receive 1 sheet that holds 10 tablets for each person in their crew; 1 Micropur tablet treats 1 liter of water; save empty sheets for resupply at backcountry commissaries.	C	
Bear Rope	2-3	Nylon; weight 1lb, 3.2oz each; 100 feet in length, 1/4 in in diameter; We require that crews use Philmont bear rope or personal rope of equivalent dimensions; Smaller ropes are more difficult to hoist, can fray, and can either snap on bear cable or damage bear cable; 2 ropes on Philmont property, 3 ropes off Philmont property.	BB	
Bear Bags	5-8	For hanging food and other smellables; weight 1lb, 8oz; can hold up to 20 liters.	BB	



Food Strainer & Scraper	1	8oz	BB	
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Toilet Paper		Please refrain from bringing personal toilet paper—it could be considered smellable and may not be biodegradable.	C	
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Base Camp Gear

EQUIPMENT	QTY	COMMENTS	CODE	CHECK
Class A	1	Clean Class A. To be worn in base camp		
Os Sash	1	To be carried on person		
Shower gear		Shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc. Whatever you need to clean up with after your trek		
Travel Clothes	1	A set of clean clothes to travel to/from Philmont. These will remain in base camp.		

