

Here is a list of frequently asked questions; if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

EQUIPMENT (For additional information about equipment - see [Philmont Equipment list](#))

Are boots required?

Short answer yes, a sturdy well broken-in pair of work or hiking boots are required for work week. Trail runners are acceptable for the trek week portion, but participants will need boots for work. Work boots can be sent back to base after work week.

What gear is provided by Philmont?

All Crew gear items such as stoves, fuel, tents, pots, water purification, bear bags and rope will be provided by Philmont and the Conservation department. The only crew gear item not provided are Philmont Sectional maps that can be bought upon arrival at the Tooth of Time Traders.

Can I rent a pack?

Philmont can provide participants with a pack if needed. Pack rentals are \$30. Please bring a pack of the size recommended as you will be carrying your own gear and crew gear or food.

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 gear items, please call OATC leadership and we can see if we can help you.

What is the weather like? Do we need cold weather gear?

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 are recommended, but higher-temperature bags may work if used with a sleeping liner.

What happens in the event of an emergency?

Philmont has an intensive infrastructure and full infirmary on base. If guardians need to contact their scout for an emergency, please contact Philmont at (575) 376-2281. This number 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 maintain a safe experience for the participants on their trek and at the worksite.

What is the Cell Phone Policy?

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 device in basecamp, and will not be permitted to use their phones on their trek where they may take away from another's experience. Electronics tend to break in the backcountry, and Philmont provides secure storage for devices at basecamp. If brought on trail, the participant is responsible for their device and only permitted to use it as a camera. (see [Philmont Guidebook to Adventure](#) page 44)

Work Week

How long is the work week?

Participants are expected to work a total of 40 hours. Working hours include trail construction, campsite improvements and refilling campsite water.

Where is the worksite?

The current OATC worksite is located on the eastern side of Cimarroncito Peak at an elevation of 9,500ft or more.



Do we return to base camp in between work and trek week?

No, 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

Who is leading the treks?

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 the trek week each participant will have an opportunity to take on duties such as navigator and crew leader.

How many miles will the crews hike?

Miles are completely dependent on the general shape of the crew but participants should expect to hike anywhere between 65-85 miles during trek week.

Are there opportunities to take showers in the backcountry?

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.

Travel

What day do I need to arrive?

For all participants traveling via train or plane travel, you will have to arrive the day prior to your trek start date. EX. Traveling from LAX to ABQ for Session 5: 706-720. Participants would fly into ABQ on 705 and shuttle to Philmont that day. For all participants arriving by personal vehicle, they will need to arrive on the trek start date by 10:30 AM.

What day do I need to depart?

Participants should plan to depart on the last date of their trek. EX. Session 5: 706-720. Departure date would be 720. Participants traveling via the plane will depart Philmont in the morning via shuttle to an airport. Participants traveling via Amtrak will leave that day from Philmont and participants being picked up should plan to be picked up by 10:00 AM.

Where can I find shuttle information?

Current shuttle information can be found on the Philmont website, [Getting to Philmont](#). Third-party shuttle companies provide this service to Philmont.

Dietary Restrictions

Do I need to bring my own food?

OATC can accommodate common dietary restrictions, such as vegetarian diets or allergens. 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. Please see the Guidebook to Adventure page 32 for more information on dietary restrictions.

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