



Chester County Council, BSA



High Adventure Committee

Philmont Trek Selection

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CCC HA Committee

For 2020 Treks

Trek Planning

- ✦ Terminology
- ✦ Factors to consider in selection
- ✦ Finding the one ... choosing the top 6

Trek (Itineraries) 101

- ✦ In *PhilSpeak* Treks is the same as Itinerary.
- ✦ Itineraries are composed of Trailheads, Programs, Campsites and Conservation sites
- ✦ Itineraries start at a trailhead, visit campsites, participate in programs and terminate either at a trailhead or basecamp
- ✦ Campsites are either staffed or unstaffed (trail camps)
 - ◆ Staffed Camps generally offer program and camping
 - ◆ Trail camps may be dry (no proximate water)

Itineraries 101

- ✦ In 2020 there are 35 pre-planned 12-day itineraries
- ✦ 2020 itineraries range from 50 to 86 miles.
- ✦ Each itinerary offers a variety of program features
- ✦ Itineraries often include a unique campsite
- ✦ Itineraries vary in the physical challenge they present and are organized by difficulty.

Level of Difficulty

The rating or degree of difficulty of each itinerary is determined by many factors such as mileage, elevation changes, number of layover days, days to carry food, distances to water sources, and topography to name a few.

Youth participants are usually fully capable of mastering the challenge. **Many adults who lead sedentary lifestyles have great difficulty and could potentially be placing themselves in harm's way. Refer to the Council & Unit Planning Guide for physical preparation suggestions.**

Itinerary Difficulty Ratings – The Destination

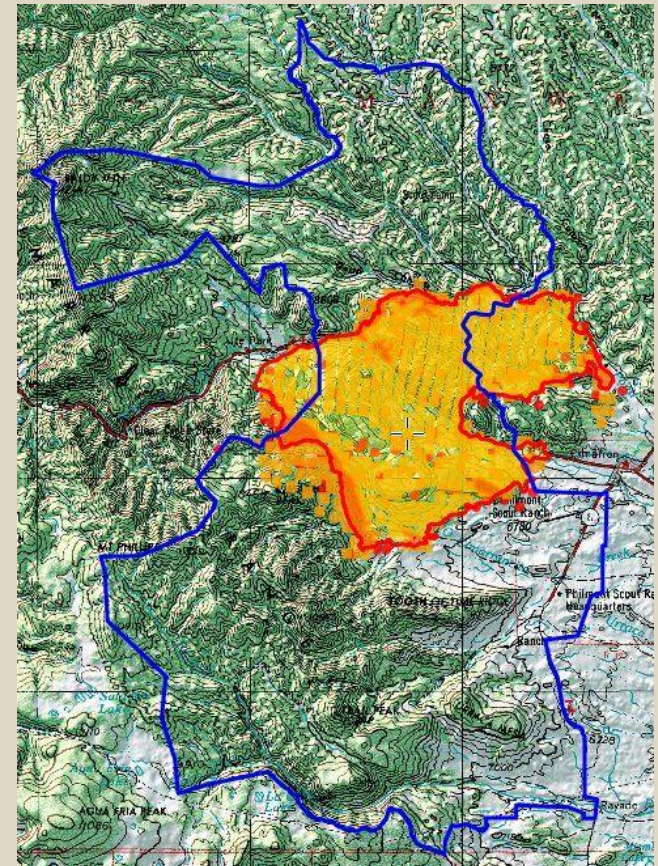
- ✦ A “**Challenging**” itinerary will allow the crew more time for program. It also allows the most flexibility in route planning or side hikes, allows time to visit backcountry trading posts, take showers, and enjoy the solitude of the backcountry trail camps. (11)
- ✦ A “**Rugged**” itinerary, although offering more physical challenge, is very enjoyable for a crew that has trained. It also offers a variety of program options and hiking, (10)

Itinerary Difficulty Ratings - The Journey

- ✦ A “**Strenuous**” itinerary is just as it sounds. A great experience for a crew of physically fit, Scouts and capable adults. More time is devoted to hiking; however, a well-prepared crew can still experience several programs. Many seasoned crews who have hiked together several years choose a strenuous itinerary. (9)
- ✦ A “**Super Strenuous**” is, by far, the most difficult. These itineraries are highlighted by climbing some of Philmont’s highest peaks and hiking long days of many miles. These itineraries should be attempted by older, more experienced crews where every person is in good physical condition. (5)

Things to consider – the 2018 fire

- ✦ The fire cut the ranch in two
- ✦ There are no itineraries that include both the north country and the south country.
- ✦ No treks include Mt. Baldy and the Tooth.



The objective of Trek Planning

The itinerary must be the youths' decision

- ✦ Expect to actually cover 25% to 30% more mileage than listed in the Itinerary Guidebook.
- ✦ The crew's choices must meet each crew member's physical ability and must be choices **the crew** is willing to hike, if assigned
- ✦ The itinerary should be a balance of program features and quality hiking based on crew capability and desires.

Camps, Programs & Pass-Throughs

- ✦ The program features listed are programs that an average, motivated crew **may** participate in.
- ✦ They do not in any way guarantee that a crew will be able to do all the programs shown.
- ✦ Crews may also be able to participate in programs that are in camps en route to their daily destination.

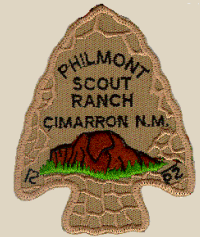
Itinerary Programs

- ✦ Some programs require scheduling prior to departure. i.e. Horses, Chuck Wagon Dinner.
- ✦ Some programs are presented as “OR”, i.e. do this *or* that. Time or season may not permit both.
- ✦ Prior to final trek selection check Philmont’s Website for any updates

Mandatory Programs

✦ Chuck Wagon Dinner / Mexican Dinner

- ◆ If you want dinner, you take this program



✦ Conservation

- ◆ If you want your arrowhead patch you take this program

✦ Burro Packing

- ◆ If one or more members of your crew have allergies that prevent them from being around burros, your crew will have to choose another itinerary, you must take the Burro.

Where will you be hiking?

“Philmont” is more than The Philmont Scout Ranch

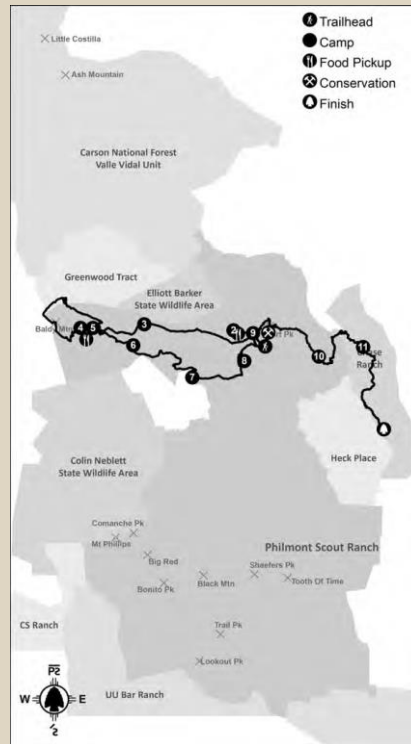
- ✦ Valle Vidal unit of the Carson National Forest
- ✦ COLIN NEBLETT WILDLIFE AREA
- ✦ BARKER WILDLIFE AREA
- ✦ EXPRESS UU BAR RANCH
- ✦ CHASE RANCH
- ✦ CS RANCH



Where will you be hiking?



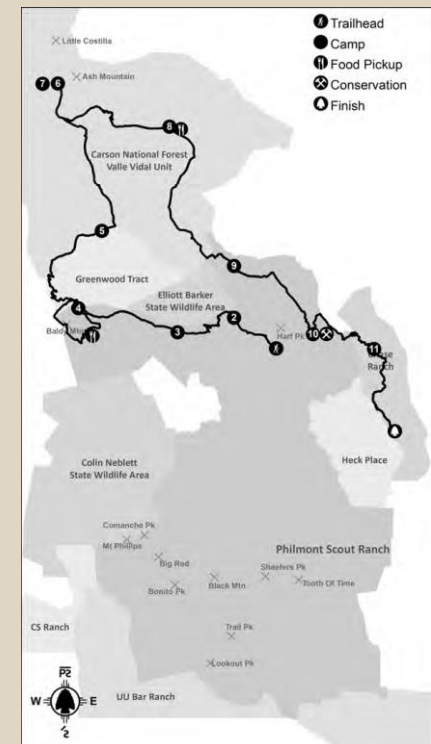
12-1 (C)



12-16 (R)



12-25 (S)



12-35 (SS)

Philmont's neighbors & land use agreements

- ✦ Philmont is privileged to utilize over 100,000 acres of its neighbor's (State, Federal and Private) property for hiking and camping purposes.
- ✦ To maintain and build upon these partnerships, it is imperative that each Philmont participant and staff member responsibly enjoys, respects, and adheres to the land use agreements that are in place at all times.

Philmont's neighbors & land use agreements

- ✦ Leave No Trace and Low Impact camping/hiking methods are used in agreement with each of our neighboring landowners.
- ✦ Crews trekking into our neighboring properties will be instructed in Leave No Trace and Low Impact methods.
- ✦ Crews hiking in these areas must have good map and compass skills.

On the trail

- ✦ Crews are expected to travel responsibly — stay together, practice Scouting values, and use proper wilderness ethics.
- ✦ Due to potential emergencies, such as catastrophic floods or fires, Crews must not deviate from their assigned itinerary.
- ✦ Changes are only permitted for bona fide medical emergencies and must be approved in advance by the Logistics Department.

How to choose

- ✦ 1. Based on your conditioning program, determine the level of difficulty that best suits the crew.
- ✦ 2. Have each crew member select their six favorite program features from the list in the Guidebook to Adventure.
 - ✦ Consider Difficulty, Programs, LNT, North or South ...
- ✦ 3. Tally votes for each program and use the charts Programs/Itineraries/Camps and Programs or web-based tooling to narrow down the crew choices.

Reserving your Itinerary

- ✦ Use the Philmont Camping Gateway to enter your itinerary choices.
- ✦ Crews have from **January 14, 2020 at 9am MST until February 13, 2020 at 9am MST** to enter their your top 6 itinerary choices.
- ✦ You will be notified by email after your itinerary has been assigned. (after **February 13, 2020**)
- ✦ **Don't rush it, put the time in to choose well**

Resources

✦ PhilSearch (Chester County Council, BSA)

◆ Web Based Trek Modeling

- www.philsearch.org

✦ Watchu (Patriot's Path Council, BSA)

◆ Philmont Training Resources

- <http://philmontdocs.watchu.org>

✦ Philmont Scout Ranch (National Council, BSA)

◆ 2020 Itineraries / 2020 Treks Book

- <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2020ItineraryGuidebookWeb.pdf>

Questions?