

2007 First Aid Training

First Aid training is important for the safety of the crew while participating in Philmont's backcountry. For several years crews were encouraged to obtain a higher level of training than the American Red Cross Standard First Aid or the equivalent. In 2007, the American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Basic course or equivalent was listed as the requirement for First Aid training. This is an excellent 16 hour course that will help prepare participants to assist injured or sick individuals when help is not readily available. Unfortunately, the access to the course is limited across the country due in part to the time required to support the hurricane relief efforts in 2005 and 2006. Many crews are finding difficulty in locating the course or an equivalent course.

With this in mind the 2007 First Aid and CPR Certification requirements have been changed to the following:

“Philmont requires that at least one person, preferably two, (either an advisor or youth participant) in each crew be currently certified in American Red Cross Standard First Aid or the equivalent* and CPR from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross or the equivalent. When ever possible the 16 hour course offered by the American Red Cross, ‘Wilderness First Aid Basics’ or the equivalent should be obtained. Several hours may be required for Philmont staff to reach a remote backcountry location after a message is delivered to the nearest staffed camp. First Aid and CPR training will result in proper and prompt attention being given to injuries and/or illnesses. You must present current certification cards upon check in to verify this requirement.”

**Equivalent training can include instruction by ambulance or fire department personnel, community colleges or other organizations. You must have a letter indicating length of training topics covered and participant roster.”*

Participants may wish to contact their local chapter of the American Red Cross to find out a time frame when the course may be available for the future. The cost for courses can be reduced through a partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and the American Red Cross. The partnership assists the council become an authorized provider of American Red Cross training for both adult volunteers and youth members. This is accomplished by the council identifying their own instructors and instructor trainers and working with the local American Red Cross chapter to provide the desired courses.

The following is a list of known organizations that provide training that meets or exceeds the training provided in the American Red Cross “Wilderness First Aid Basics”:

Wilderness Medical Associates (WMA) www.wildmed.com
Stonehealth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO) www.soloschools.com/wfa.html
National Outdoor Leadership School (WMI) www.nols.edu/wmi/
National Safety Council (NSC) www.nsc.org
Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) www.wms.org
Wilderness Medicine Training Center www.wildmedcenter.com