

SCOUTS-L

ADVENTURE
(SEE ALSO CAMPS)

Date: Tue, 23 Aug 1994 21:53:12 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>
Subject: Re: Philmont lottery/reservations
To: Don Izard <IZARD%UBVM.BITNET@PUCC.Princeton.EDU>

Don,

Which location gives the Loon patch? It's rare enough that I've not seen one.

Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .
_____ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU _____

Date: Thu, 25 Aug 94 09:36:47 EDT
From: Don IZARD <IZARD@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU>
Subject: Re: Philmont lottery/reservations
To: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU>

Michael,

You earn the JACKET LOOK patch for any of the many and various "ADIRONDAK TREK'S" offered through the recently re-Named Adirondak Scout Reservation. ASR was organized from several camps and councils which had maintained more loosely connected camps in the Northern New York Adirondak area. The canoe routes and hiking trails normally begin and/or end at one of these BASE camps. The base camps also provide various programs to include a full range of SUMMER camp style programs.

Our troop is talking going to ASR programs next summer, and make 2 weeks out of it. One week at a BSAE camp, and one week on a TREK. TREKS include both hiking, canoe, rock climbs, and or small (usually 1 day) mountain climbs/hikes. The symbol of the LOOK has become very closely tied with the ASR camps in recent years. Live loons (of the bird type) have been less and less common in northern NY as the acid rains have killed off fish populations, and sterilized many lakes. In some areas the ONLY breeding LOON pairs, are protected and fed at the remote areas of the BASE camps. On my last trek, the ONLY loon family I saw or heard in 7 days, was at the lake at the BSAE camp.

NOTE: The ASR treks cover STATE lands, Nation forests and trails and land maintained by BSA, the state of NY conservation department, the Adirondak Clubs and at least 5 or 6 BSA councils. There are often Canadians on the treks or in the park areas, both French and "english" speaking, as well as other nations from exchange programs etc.

And as far as I am concerned, the BASE camp programs offer a selection, variety and QUALITY to rival Philmont. NOTE: Neither I or my council

have any official relation with ASR, ie. this is NOT a PAID advertisement ;)

**For more information, you could contact Otetiana Council in Rochester NY.
don**

Date: Fri, 26 Aug 1994 00:09:10 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>
Subject: Re: Philmont lottery/reservations
To: Don Izard <IZARD@UBVM.CC.BUFFALO.EDU>

Don,

Thanks much! This is within striking range for our Troop. I'll give it to the PLC to mull over.

Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .
_____ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU _____

went there in 1967 as Matagamon Canoe Base. It is run by the two Councils in Maine, Kathadin Area and Pine Tree. I had occasion to have some correspondence with them in January, and the following is copied from that.

Winter Address (September through May through August)

**Maine High Adventure Area
HC 76, Box 1158
Jackman, Maine 04945
Voice or Fax:(207) 668-4221**

Summer Address (June

**Maine High Adventure Base
R.F.D 1 Box 283
Patten, Maine 04765
Voice: (207) 528-2183**

Tentative reservations can be made at the winter address. They need to be followed up with a completed reservation form and a \$250 deposit within 10 days.

Half of the total remainder is due March 1st (if you register after March 1, first payment is due within 30 days). Final payment is due upon arrival at the base.

High Adventure Base fee per person-day = \$39.00. Crew sizes must be between 6 to 11, inclusive. A crew of 10 gets an eleventh person (a leader) free. Crew size includes the leaders.

Additional fees include ground transportation from the base in excess of 200 miles (\$1.00/mile), Allagash Waterway fee (\$4.00/person-night), Baxter State Park fee (\$6.00/person-night), Float Plane (~\$40 - \$50 /person-hour), Rafting fees (\$125/person, one day trip), Out of state fishing licence (16 and over, \$31/7 days, 15 and under, \$8/season). These only apply as necessary, depending on what you do on the trip.

There are a number of different trips you can take out of the base, for different durations. Minimum stay is 6 days. There is no maximum.

Crews that desire lots of whitewater canoeing and/or fishing should plan to

come early in the season (June or early July) before water levels drop.

Each crew member must be age 13 by January 1 of the year you take the trip.

Two adult leaders/crew are recommended. If a co-ed crew, one must be female.

Your SE must sign off on the reservation form.

The base is the take-off point for trips that can cover any part of approximately 6 million acres.

Hope I haven't gone on too long. I had a wonderful time when I went there as a Star Scout from Troop 33, Franklin, Mass., Old Colony Council.

Ron Fox
Cubmaster, Pack 69
Willow Springs, Ill.
Des Plaines Valley Council
Pachsegink Lodge

Date: Tue, 22 Aug 1995 13:04:27 EDT
From: Bruce Miller <millerb@TECNET1.JCTE.JCS.MIL>
Subject: Summer Camp/High Adventure Planning

David

Some further info for your effort:

Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation - Winchester putnam Council
Normal MBs and white water rafting, caving, horseback riding/MB
Personal rating - 8 - the kids had a blast

Cost per person - \$165 plus 13 for white water, 27 for caving, 25 for the horseback MB, 10 for horseback rides

We rented a bus (approx\$2500) and took an eight hour ride from Virginia to

upstate NY - raised the money thru cheesecake and flea market sales.

The camp also had low and high COPE courses and an indoor climbing wall in

addition to rock climbing/rapelling for all age group boys in the camp.

We had our program planning conference and the boys want to go back so I

guess I'll be eating a lot of cheesecake<g>. The camp staff was very friendly

and very accomodating to our needs since we were the biggest troop in camp that week(42 boys, 8 leaders). The only downside is that since it is in NYS, you must be 12 years old to shoot rifles and shotguns - the ranges for rifle andshotg and shotgun were smaller than what I have seen in the past(Goshen). The Archery range was also on the small side.

YIS
Bruce Miller
SM Troop 158
Herndon Va, NCAC

Date: Thu, 24 Aug 1995 16:52:04 -0500
From: golden cliff <c60clg1@CORN.CSO.NIU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Philmont Topo Maps

On Thu, 24 Aug 1995, Michael J. Brophy wrote:

> Does anyone know where I can get topographic maps for Philmont?
>
> Any information is greatly appreciated.
>
> Mike Brophy
> Troop 772
> Richmond, VA
> mbrophy@aol.com
>

Mike,

You can order topographical maps directly from Philmont. Here are the current maps that are available along with their stock number and price.

74097	Illustrated Souvinir Map	\$ 1.25
74098	Maxwell Land Grant Map	\$ 1.25

4	Valle Vidal Quads	\$ 2.50 each
	77001 - Van Bremmer	
	77002 - Ash Mountain	
	77003 - Abreu Canyon	
	77004 - Baldy Mountain	

71819 Philmont Plastic Map (entire area) \$ 3.75
71821 North Country Plastic Map \$ 3.75
71822 Central Country Plastic Map \$ 3.75
71823 South Country Plastic Map \$ 3.75

Map tubes are an additional \$2.50

Mail your order to: Philmont Scout Ranch
Mail Order
Rt. 1
Cimarron, NM 87714

To order by telephone, call: 505/376-2281

Make check or money order to Philmont Scout Ranch. Allow four weeks for delivery. Minimum order is \$5.00. They except Visa, Mastercard, and Discover.

I hope this helps.

YIS, Cliff Golden
Scoutmaster Troop 33
DeKalb, Illinois

Date: Wed, 8 Nov 1995 10:20:45 -0700
From: Jim Van Hecke <vanhecke_j_f_jr@LANL.GOV>
Subject: Elkhorn High Adventure BaSE -Reply

Camp Frank Rand, Great Southwest Council offers a Pecos Wilderness Trek that is a total wilderness experience. By that, I mean there are no program stops along the way (like a Philmont Trek). The entire trek is devoted to backpacking and camping in the beautiful Sangre De Christo mountains (the same mountain range that Philmont is in) northwest of Santa Fe, NM.

For information, contact:
Great Southwest Council
5841 Office Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

OR call 505-345-8603

**Jim Van Hecke I used to be an Owl...
vanhecke_j_f_jr@lanl.gov
Camping Chairman
Great Southwest Council, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Kshippehellen Kitchkinet - Swift Current Guide**

**Date: Fri, 8 Dec 1995 17:23:32 -0500
From: Michael Phelan <mphelan@WESTGA.EDU>
Subject: Re: Philmont Trek Reservations**

On Fri, 8 Dec 1995, Doug Gentry wrote:

**> Bill Pinkerton asked about Philmont reservations...
>
>>
> >what are the dates and times for this year's reservation process?
> >Was all of 1996 booked up early last year?
>>
>
> I don't know the exact date, but probably around April 1st the Philmont
> reservations lines will open for the 1997 season. If you are intent on**

The dates were April 3 & 4, 10 til 10 EST. Call (505) 376-2281 and ask to be put on the mailing list. The info they send you will have the exact dates.

**> sitting by your phone, redialing, for the better part of the day. There's
> really no other way to get through. (Assuming the procedure will be the
> same this coming year.)
>**

This is probably true, but the heavens were smiling on my Troop this year. I got through on the 12th ring and was registered in a total of 5 minutes from the first time I dialed!

**> One new development this last time, is that callers who could not get a '96
> reservation were given the option to get on a '97 list. I'm guessing this
> will mean that the available slots for '97 will be somewhat fewer in**

> number.

>

I believe the exact procedure was you could be placed on a waiting list OR get a 1997 date. So, the 97 list may not be so long.

I send you my best wishes. Philmont is an experience of a lifetime, no matter what your age.

Your in Scouting,

Michael Phelan
Scoutmaster Troop 33
A Feisty Fox

Date: Mon, 8 Jan 1996 12:43:56 CDT
From: Todd Norman Tingblad <tingbltn@uwec.edu>
Subject: The Coolest Place Around

Just returned from my troop's annual trek to Snowbase--The Coolest Place Around. This was my 17th trek of Winter Camping at Snowbase. For those of you who do not know what Snowbase is; it is a Winter Camping Program run by Indianhead Council, St. Paul, MN. It is the largest BSA winter camping program serving 130 scouts a weekend for 9 weekends in January and February. Snowbase is located at the council's summer camp for Boy Scouts and Webelos at Tomahawk Scout Reservation located 25 miles north of Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

This weekend was a cold one. All those scouts and adults camping out this weekend earned their *Zero Hero* awards as the temp got down to -22.4oF Saturday Night. My personal thermometer read -25oF. (Zero Hero requires that you camp outside using tents or shelters, no buildings. In a 24 hour period you are out, the temp. must fall below 0oF.) Luck was with us, little to no wind and the Green Bay Packers won.

For my Spearhead crew of 15 (4 adults & 11 scouts age 13 and above) only one

had to return to Snowbase early (2+ miles away). All others made it through the 25.5 hours trek.

We also had a crew of 11 for the Snow Husks program (4 adults and 7 scouts ages 11 and 12). Snow Husks do not sleep outside overnight. They do many of the same activities of cold weather adventures.

For sleeping on Saturday night, the Spearhead crews sleep in the snow. No tents. We build "quinzes" (sp?) which is a large pile of snow that after 3 hours of standing, gets dug out. There is nothing like sleeping under a ton of snow and eating high carb and fat foods (required to stay warm).

It is nice to return from Snowbase every year. I'll be back up there as a Campmaster for one weekend and Trailmaster the next weekend. There is something about doing this type of camping that makes you feel GREAT. That must be why I have gone to Winter Camp School too. All my co-workers think I'm nuts to do it year after year. It is a fun time for most.

If you would like more information about Indianhead Council's Snowbase and the Spearhead and Snow Husks programs, send an e-mail message to:

Rob Schultz, Co-Snowbase Director
E-mail: robs@tcm.mn.org

Tell'em Todd sent you.

YiS,

Todd Tingblad -- tingbltn@uwec.edu

Date: Wed, 3 Apr 1996 12:41:00 EST
From: Scott Begin <0005555440@mcimail.com>
Subject: Expanding Philmont???

With as fast as the reservations for Philmont for 1997 / 1998 filled up, someone asked why we couldn't develop something else or expand Philmont.

Although this may seem like a simple solution, it really isn't, mainly due to the size / capacity of Philmont. Let's start by looking at developing a "Philmont II."

When I worked at Philmont (1988-1990), I remember David Bates telling us that the property had been appraised at somewhere in the \$60 million range, and I suspect that it has gone up since then. Now, I don't know how much an equivalent size ranch would cost, but I suspect that purchasing property would be a large part of any cost to develop Philmont II. I don't think the BSA has the money to spend on this type of project. Even if they did, I suspect it would take a lot of searching to find a property equivalent in backpacking potential (or found public lands we could use). Once you found the property, it probably would need lots of work before it would even come close to what is available at Philmont: trails, base camp facilities, back country staff facilities, etc.. need to be built if the property is to handle the number of campers required to take a load off Philmont. This would require more money, and more importantly, time, measured in years.

Even if you did build it, you still would have people wanting to go to Philmont because it is what they have heard about, etc... Just because a similar backpacking program is offered, people won't necessarily flock to it. In the last few years, the Maine High Adventure Base was closed as a national base (I believe it has been reopened as a regional base), even though it offered backpacking opportunities like Philmont. I believe declining attendance was a contributing factor

If demand drops before you get the thing built (possibility if the economy really hits the skids), you will have an even harder time filling the place (and Philmont too). Even if you don't fill both places, there are still going to be maintenance costs, etc.. of trying to run both places. This can be an even bigger drain on the BSA resources.

All of the land that is at Philmont was donated, most of it by Waite Phillips, with the 10,000 acres of the Baldy country donated by Norton Clapp in 1963. Much of the development was done over the years, and some of it funded by the land donors. In many cases, the initial development was done before many of today's regulations were in place, making it cheaper to develop. Also, the original developments were not designed for today's crowds. As the demand grew, larger facilities were

added. The current base dining hall was built in the 1970's, replacing the building that is now the trading post (imagine feeding 1000 people at one meal using the Trading Post building).

Since the cost of developing another high adventure would be prohibitive, let's look at expanding Philmont:

In a way, this is already taking place. Starting when I worked at the ranch, the BSA gained access to the Valle Vidal unit of the Kit Carson National Forest (which borders Philmont on the North, beyond Dan Beard Camp). In the first few years, there wasn't much use, other than by Rayado, Trail Crew, and Mountain Trek Crews (all of which get custom itineraries). In the last several years, new staffed camps were opened in the Valle Vidal and regular itineraries were planned in these areas. Additional staffed camps were opened on other places on the ranch. When I was at Philmont in 1994 for the Philmont Staff Association trek, Dave Bates mentioned that they were expecting a record 18,000 campers and the only reason they were able to handle it was due to the increased number of staffed camps.

In 1994, I also saw the plans for expanding capacity of the base camp. Among these was the new covered welcome center, with all incoming / outgoing crews entering from the Lover's Leap Road. This was started last winter, according to the announcements I received from the PSA-L list (Philmont Staff Association mailing list). I also saw plans to expand the Dining Hall (I seem to recall 1997 as a target date) and the trading post.

Dave Bates also mentioned the possibility of purchasing more land, specifically a parcel north of the north Ponil Canyon (Indian Writings). My understanding was that this deal fell through. I remember hearing about this potential purchase when I worked there. It may happen in the future. My understanding was that if this purchase ever happens, it will help capacity increase the most, due to additional land, but also as it would allow better access to the Valle Vidal. Current capacity is more limited by the places to put campers without damaging the land or putting everyone too close to each other (and losing the wilderness experience).

In addition to the infrastructure / additional space requirements, there is an additional concern. In order to add camper capacity, you need to add staff members. In addition to the salaries each staff member

requires, there is the problem of recruiting quality staff (and I'm sure anyone working with local council camps can relate to this). When I worked at Philmont in the late 1980s/early 1990s, there were many people on staff who had not been to Philmont as campers, and others who were not scouts /scouters (although they registered in order to work on staff). One staff member I met had been recruited at a summer job fair at his college. Dave Bates mentioned that when the economy is better, recruiting good staff is harder, as the college students that make up a large part of the staff can find better paying jobs at home.

{Opinionts Follow}

My personal opinion is that they are working to expand capacity slowly, which is good. However, I think that the demand is growing much faster that they are able to expand capacity. I also believe that Philmont is experiencing growing pains related to the increased demand.

>From what I can tell about how Philmont is running the reservation system, they have some other company doing most of the grunt work (answering the phones, etc...), and that is unlikely to change. I was really surprized when they went back to the telephone registration. I think the 1995 lottery was a good idea that was poorly implemented (specifically the method of handling the waiting list). I suspect that the lottery system for the Cavalcades was used, and due to differences in how the programs operated (Cavalcades vs regular crews), caused a lot of the problems. I think it will take a few years before Philmont will find a "fair" reservation system, and even if they do, there will still be people who don't get reservations who will not be happy.

Yours in Scouting,

Scott A. Begin ASM, T-348, Oak Forest, IL; Calumet Council
5555440@mcimail.com Philmont Staff 1988-1990