

- Philmont, Memorabilia -

[2021 Edition]

A common question asked by both Scouts and parents involves memorabilia; i.e., what the Scout should or would like to buy in the way of T-Shirts, photos, post-cards, and other trinkets. This can vary from “nothing at all” all the way up to “\$500 worth.” I’ve seen both. OK, this is what the Crew provides as part of the expedition:

- (1) Philmont Arrowhead Patch
- (2) Protective Sleeve for the Arrowhead Patch (for those who don’t already have one from a previous trek)
- (3) The current “all of” map of Philmont (ditto)
- (4) A Philmont Bolo Tie (colors selected by the individual Scouts) (ditto)
- (5) 50-Miler Awards (for those who earned them)
- (6) 50-Miler Patches (for those who earned them)
- (7) The 8 x 10 Official Crew Photo (if it’s not a dog; if so, we’ll use one of our own)
- (8) A CD or DVD containing up to 2000 photos of the trek (more if there are 2 or more Crews)
- (9) A Crew T-Shirt
- (10) That year’s Philmont Adventure Patch

[It is also possible that one of the adults or Scouts on the Contingent will prepare a diary.]

Again, all the above items are included in the price of the trip - that is, you will have already paid for them. However, there are ample opportunities to spend additional money for memorabilia. We will be stopping at 2 different airports, and one or more of Pike’s Peak, Garden of the Gods, a Whitewater Rafting Outfitter, a Mountain Biking Outfitter, a stable, a bunch of restaurants, and Philmont itself. Most of these offer a large variety of memorabilia for purchase. T-Shirts are probably the most popular items (and there’s some great - and extremely expensive - stuff out there), followed by additional Philmont stuff (patches, mugs, plaques, etc.), followed by postcards (everywhere). By far, the most popular additional item to purchase is a Philmont belt and belt-buckle. We do not purchase these because there is too much variety in what is available, and also not everyone wants them anyway. Other popular Philmont Trading Post items include T-shirts, fleeces, and individual camp patches (every staff camp at Philmont has a commemorative patch for it on sale at Basecamp).

It is up to each family to decide what is reasonable in the way of additional expense for memorabilia. Note that - although we will provide a banker for holding money secure for all Scouts during the trek - we do NOT hold Archie’s little hand with respect to how he spends his money. This is not summer camp anymore, and these Scouts are not 10, 11, or 12 years old anymore, either. If he wants to spend \$200 on a neat cowboy hat, or \$35 each for half a dozen “really cool” T-Shirts, or \$250 for a Sterling Silver belt buckle, and he has the bucks to do so, that’s his business. We may provide some cautionary counsel in the event of truly eye-opening excess, but that’s it.

As noted above, I’ve seen Scouts spend from next to nothing to upwards of \$500 during a Colorado and Philmont trek. I personally recommend about \$100 cash in order to buy a few select items, plus have adequate “mad-munchies” money for junk food during the trip (and also on the Ranch itself, at the various trading posts.) You may provide more, or less, as you wish. We will have a designated Adult to hold all cash secure; however, this is optional; if you prefer, your son can retain all of his own money. Of course, he is then fully responsible for its security, and - fair warning - I will not waste one second of my life hopelessly attempting to track down “lost” or “stolen” personal funds. For the record, I have not had any such problems on any of my treks, but “war stories” abound on this topic. Basecamp in

particular is a very bad place to leave valuables - there is a small group of Scouts (one hesitates to use the term in this context) who “failed out” on the trail and are sitting around the snack bar for days awaiting the return of their crews. I believe that when possible, Philmont sends them home, but usually this isn’t possible. For obvious reasons, I refer to this group as “F-Troop.” They’re bored, broke, and nothing but a pack of trouble for all the incoming and outgoing crews - most of whom are distracted and going half nuts with everything that needs to get done, and are therefore easy marks. We’re pretty meticulous in watching and securing our stuff - but others are less cautious, and they sometimes pay the price for their lack of vigilance. Anyway, fair warning.

The crew banker will be collecting funds just before departure, at the crew packing session. I again emphasize - CASH - no checks; we’ll have no place to cash checks out in Colorado or New Mexico. Scouts using the banker will have a standard sign-out ledger system for keeping track of their funds. Note that any “banker” funds left over after the trip will be included into the trip accounting, and (if a significant surplus exists) returned to the respective parents as a refund - not given to the Scouts as farewell mad-money. Trivial amounts (less than \$25) will be given to the Scouts.

It is not recommended that Scouts carry credit cards for this trip. If you decide otherwise, it is recommended that an exclusive and pre-paid card be used. “Exclusive” meaning that it is not either of the parents’ cards. This is because most credit card companies (maybe all) will “freeze” an account if charges are being made simultaneously 2,000 miles apart - this is a standard security measure to prevent credit card fraud. “Pre-Paid” will ensure that the Scout has a limit to what he can buy - as determined by the parents in advance, not after it’s too late. [Note added in 2021 – similarly, be wary of Scouts using their smart-phones to make payments!]

It is worth noting that everything that can be purchased at the Philmont Trading Post is available for sale via mail-order, after the Scouts return. Hint, hint....

Questions, please discuss with the Contingent Leader.

- Dr. Bob