

Complete Equipment List

Personal Items (Except for Items Listed as Optional, You MUST have these Items!)

Clothing [Notes: All clothing should be lightweight, thin, and light-colored. Except where indicated, use synthetics (best) or mixed cotton/synthetics (no more than 50% cotton). Where you have a choice, decisions should always be based on weight; **the lighter the better, almost always!** Remember, it only needs to last ~20 days and nights total!]

3 or 4 sets of hiking clothes, each with a pair of nylon gym shorts, a T-shirt, a pair of underwear, a pair of hiking socks (Smart-Wool or InJinJi are both good), and (optional) a pair of sock liners. If prefer, can substitute 4 pair lightweight nylon hiking shorts with swimwear (not fish-net or mesh) type liners plus 1 pair of underwear. Pockets are useful, but are not critical. **[See Notes A, B, and C, below.]**

1 cloth wide-brim bush hat (very important if you sunburn easily) or a baseball cap (if you don't)

1 pair very light long pants, preferably with an "internal" belt (pull-straps). Note that the bottom of your rainsuit is NOT an acceptable substitute for long pants – you must have both.

1 lightweight fleece pullover (or – not as good – a lightweight long-sleeved synthetic shirt)

1 fleece head-band or lightweight knit pullover hat (for warmth, especially useful for sleeping)

1 lightweight rainsuit (top and bottom), waterproof and preferably breathable (avoid ponchos!)

[Note: This is also your cold-weather gear - don't skip the bottom to save weight! Also, if the bottoms of the legs don't fit over your boot-tops, you will need gaiters to prevent water running down into your boots.] **Again, the suit MUST be waterPROOF!**

1 super-light pair of sneakers as "camp shoes" in a plastic bag ("Crocs" or similar footwear are NOT recommended, and open-toed sandals (including "Texas", etc.) are NOT ALLOWED on the trail). Do not tear up the campsites by wearing boots in camp! These are also your backup if your boots fail on the trail (which happens, though only rarely).

1 - 2 pair lightweight 50/50 cotton/synthetic gym socks (Note: For use with camp shoes only!)

2 bandannas (to wipe sweat off while hiking; also for use as ultra-lightweight washcloths)

[Notes: A) By current Philmont policy, 1 of your sets of hiking clothes must be exclusively used as "night clothes" (inside tent use only; you keep these inside your sleeping bag – but you can wear them to hike in on your last hiking day – they'll be your only semi-clean clothes by that point). B) A 4th set of hiking clothes is advisable if expected weather conditions are very wet (See Appendix on Weather Concerns) or very dry (if water restrictions are in effect, there's no clothes washing). C) Each set of hiking clothes should be combined and rolled to reduce bulk prior to being placed in plastic bags.]

Sleeping gear:

A sleeping bag, in a trash-bag lined stuff-sack. Rated to 25 - 40 degrees, weighing less than 4 lbs (less than 3 lbs preferred). **Do NOT use an Ultralight, a Liner, or a Sleep-Sack!**

A "Backpacker's Pillow" or a small woolen stuff sack (to fill for a pillow)

A 6 foot foam pad (OK for small, light Scouts) or an Ultralight Therm-a-Rest (recommended for larger Scouts and Adults); a foam pad is lighter, a Therm-a-Rest is significantly more comfortable – however, Therm-a-Rests also cost a lot more, and can develop leaks.

A "Boot Garage" (a plastic bag with your name on it, big enough for nighttime storage of boots)

Auxiliary Eating gear (Note – The Troop provides bowls, cups, and spoons; do not bring!):

4 1-Liter plastic bottles – wide mouth are best, but are hard to find – or can use 4 standard 1-Liter canteens); you cannot use plastic bottles that have ever contained a flavored drink!
A toothbrush (store with your eating gear or meds, since that's when you'll use it most often)

Personal Cleaning and Grooming gear (Note – The Troop provides soap, toothpaste, etc.):

A large “backpacker’s towel,” or a medium, very thin cloth towel (latter preferred for weight)
A disposable razor, new (optional)
A lightweight comb (optional but recommended for anyone with medium or long hair)

Backpacking gear:

A set of hiking poles (optional but recommended, especially for adults and large Scouts)
1 moderate-duty pair of hiking boots (broken in on your feet!) **Note that boots are the #1 forgotten item when packing for Philmont!**
A backpack, including a quality padded hipbelt, padded shoulder straps, and (most importantly) adjusted to your current physical size. External frame packs are recommended for beginners; experienced trekkers - your choice. Use straps (not bungee cords) to attach items to packs. Recommended capacities for Sm, Md, and Lg/XLg trekkers: Externals - 4000/5000/6000 c.i.; Internals - 70/80/90 L. Internals must get correct Torso Length!
WaterPROOF pack cover, Large or X-Large (as needed); if old, re-coat waterproofing, or replace
1 lightweight daypack (very useful for side-hiking Baldy or the Tooth of Time, etc., also for storing “personal smellables” in the bear bags; optional if no scheduled side-hikes).
An LED headlamp with brand new alkaline or preferably lithium batteries installed at Basecamp just before heading out onto the trail.

Miscellaneous Personal gear:

6 - 8 clear, large newspaper bags, to store clothes; can also be used for washing clothes)
15 - 20 feet of lightweight parachute cord (for clothes line); tie on a piece of yellow or blaze orange surveyor’s tape to increase visibility; bring 8 mini binder clips as clothes pins.
1 waterproof bush-hat, required if your rainsuit does not include a hood; otherwise optional
A set of lightweight gaiters (needed if your rainsuit doesn’t cover your boot-tops, or if you routinely get pebbles in your boots while hiking; otherwise optional)

Other **Optional** (but Highly Recommended) Personal gear:

A foam pad square (18 x 12 inches) or a very lightweight camp-chair (but DO NOT bring chairs that use your sleeping pad as backing! – that is a bear safety hazard!)
1 set lightweight thermal underwear; needed only if you “sleep cold,” or if you’re going very early in the season, or otherwise if your trek has 3 or more campsites over about 9,000 feet elevation (especially needed if your sleeping bag is rated at or over 40 degrees).
Sunglasses (prescription if necessary), plastic, in a hard-shell case.
1 pair lightweight work gloves (possibly needed for the conservation project; also useful for cold weather, or for hiking if your hiking poles work up blisters on your hands).
A mosquito “head net” (recommended only if you naturally attract mosquitoes and gnats).
Personal supply of money for trading posts and cantinas (\$20.00 in small bills) - No Coins.

Possibly Necessary Personal Gear:

If your long pants do not have an internal belt, a lightweight belt, with a velcro or plastic buckle
If needed, extra pair of prescription eyeglasses, plastic if possible, in a hard-shell case
If wear contacts, second pair, including separate small containers of washing / cleaning solutions
If needed, Prescription Medications, including a 2nd set to be carried by an Adult Advisor Note
that **epi-pens and critical inhalers should “at hand” AT ALL TIMES** – never placed
in the bear-bags or left in a tent – by both the user and the designated Adult Advisor.

Personal Items NOT to bring on the trail:

Personal cell-phones (the Crew Advisors will bring two; that’s all that’s needed – see below for
additional information on cell phone use, under Crew Items)
Any “entertainment” electronics (iPods, mp3 players, electronic games, etc.)
Personal cameras (the Crew will have two, and that’s all that’s needed)
Any 100% cotton clothing, including blue-jeans, blue-jean jackets, sweatshirts, etc.
Any personal junk food or personal eating gear (the cups we provide can handle hot drinks)
Replacement “Regular” Batteries (install new batteries at Basecamp, use properly/frugally on
the trail). Note: Does not pertain to specialized batteries possibly needed for electronics.
Extra Shoelaces (install new when departing for Philmont, both boots and (if needed) sneakers)
Large (2 “D” or 3 “C” cell) or especially metal-case flashlights (e.g., Mag-Lites)
Glass eyeglasses or sunglasses (uncomfortably heavy to wear when you’re hot and sweaty.)
Rubberized ponchos (they weigh a ton, and are only poorly effective) --- or “Disposable”
ponchos or rain-gear (they’ll rip on every branch) --- or “rain resistant” nylon shells.
Personal soaps, shampoos, bug repellent, sunscreen, or toothpaste, etc.
Anything packed in glass or heavy metal containers
Personal “beauty” gear: Hairbrushes, mirrors, **deodorants/antiperspirants**, etc.
Any “aerosol” sprays in cans (**except Inhalers are REQUIRED if critically needed!**)
Heavyweight air mattress or inflatable pillow
Leather or other heavyweight belts, or belts with heavy metal buckles
Wallets, keys, or coins (Wallets and keys should be stored at Basecamp Security)
Heavyweight sneakers or heavyweight campshoes (like moccasins)
Open-toed Tevas or any other open-toed sandal-type footwear
Anything illegal - Drugs, alcohol, or fireworks warrant immediate dismissal from Philmont
Your Scout Uniform (however, you will be travelling wearing your full Scout uniform)

Finally - Everything else that you’re not sure if you’ll use - ***“If in doubt, chuck it out!”***

At this point: A) minus one set of hiking clothes (which you will be wearing), your boots (ditto), and
your hiking poles (which you’ll be using while hiking), with all 4 canteens empty, your pack should
weigh from 15 to 20 pounds, depending on your size (larger Scouts’ and Adults’ clothes weigh more),
and how many optional items you are taking (like thermal underwear, camp chair, etc); and B) you
should still have plenty of room left in your pack - if not, your pack is far too small and you should get a
replacement backpack as soon as possible, because you still have to pack a lot of Crew gear and food.

***** INDIVIDUAL TREKKERS BRING NOTHING BELOW THIS LINE!!! *****

Crew Items: Here's all a properly equipped Troop 111 Crew carries out of Basecamp. **AGAIN, DO NOT BRING ANY OF THESE ITEMS AS PERSONAL "JUST IN CASE" EXTRAS!**

- 1 "Backpacker's tent" for each 2 people, including ground cloth, and minimal # of GOOD stakes [Notes - Troop 111 has specialized backpacking tents for use at Philmont. A) Use of personal tents MAY be OK if the tent is lightweight, can sleep 2 Scouts, and you are willing to carry any critical replacement parts. B) All tents must be meticulously clean in order to avoid attracting bears and other animals; if your tent has ever been used in routine Troop or family campouts, you must machine wash it before bringing it to Philmont. For the above reasons, use of personal tents must be cleared in advance with the primary Advisor; remember, bears aren't interested in excuses - they are, however, quite interested in stray M&M's, candy wrappers, and dried-up soda spills. C) Some Crews bring larger tents that can sleep 3 or more. This is acceptable; however, some campsites at Philmont have limited "footprints" for tenting, and placing oversize tents at these sites can be problematic. D) Solo tents are allowed, but bivy sacks are not. Unless Philmont requires them (e.g., for Covid), use of solo tents should be limited to adults.]
- 1 Sil-Nyl tarp, total coverage about 12' x 16', including two 4-section 6' poles, pre-installed parachute cords, 2 heavy-duty, STEEL and 6 - 8 aluminum stakes. After mid-July, a double tarp is recommended for large Crews due to rain being more likely.
- 3 Crew equipment tarps (minimum 4x6, one side marked "This Side Up/Fold Other Side In")
- 1 Bear-bag kit (containing 4 - 6 bear-bags (large nylon laundry bags), a carabiner (for the "oops" bear-bag line), and a throw-bag, all contained in a stuff sack). Philmont provides 2 bear-bag ropes - you must use Philmont's ropes.
- 2 Two-gallon pots, plus lids - one should be insulated!
- 1 Utensil-kit (1 pair of scissors (for opening food bags), 2 large spoons, 1 hot-pot tongs, 2 one-cup mess-kit cups, 1 small spreader (for lunch "spreadables"), 1 partial roll of electrical tape (for trash), 40 - 80 "Anti-Bacterial Wet-Ones" for cooks only), and (all optional) 16 slow-cooker bags, 6 small binder clips, 150 bowl baggies, and a "spices" kit.
- 1 - 2 Plastic food prep tarps (3 x 5) - one side marked "This Side Up/Fold Dirty Side In"
- 12 Plastic bowls, 12 wide-mouth deep-dish type cups, and 12 Lexan soup-spoons; cups are optional if the Crew decides to forego flavored drinks and the adults forego coffee.
- 1 KP kit (CampSuds (1 bottle), a colander-"frisbee," a rubber policeman (if pot bags and bowl baggies are not used), 1 scrub-brush, 2 Scrubbies, 2 SOS pads, a drying tarp (minimum 1.5 x 3 ft, one side marked "This Side Up/Dirty Side In"), and 3-4 sash-type trash bags.)
- 2 First-Aid kits, non-duplicative (1 emphasizing bandages/foot care, 1 emphasizing medications)
- 2 Navigator's Kits, each containing 1 full scale map (1 marked with information at Logistics), 1-2 expansion maps (as needed for your trek), a compass, and a UTM transparency.
- 2 Crew Chief's/Backpacker's Offices; each with a Bic lighter, roll of electrical tape, small knife, lip balm, nail clippers, tweezers, whistle, and magic marker. The Crew Chief also carries 1 flashlight (see next) and a digital scale; the Asst Crew Chief carries ~120 vitamins.
- 2 Lightweight "real" flashlights, with new lithium batteries installed at Basecamp. One is carried in the Crew Chief's Backpacker's Office; the other by an "early rising" Advisor.
- A Repairs Kit; includes a pack of dental floss or fishing line, 10 feet of thin wire, a variety of clevis pins, a variety of safety pins, a matched pair of universal shoulder straps, a variety of cable ties, a variety of backpack belt buckles, a sewing kit, a "Leatherman" tool, a stove repair kit (including any mini-wrench and gasket oil if your stoves have gaskets), and a water jug repair kit. [Note - Electrical tape is in every Crew Chief's Office.]

- 2 Collapsible 2½ gallon water jugs or bladders (that don't have any leaks!)
- Micro-Pur Kit – Containing packs of Micro-Pur, a Pair of Scissors, and a zip-lock for wrappers.
- 2 Small Funnels, for pouring water into small-mouth water bottles. **IMPORTANT!** – Do NOT store funnels in the Micro-Pur Kit – residual dust will react with water droplets!
- A Stove Kit, containing 2 MSR Wind-Pro stoves or equivalent), with wind-screens, in protective carry sacks, 1 “pocket rocket” stove (as a backup or for coffee), and a Bic Lighter.
- Fuel canisters (recommend 2 isobutane canisters in 1 lb size for a 12-man Crew). NOTES: If travelling by air, stoves **MUST** be shipped to Philmont 2 weeks in advance! - and fuel canisters **MUST** be purchased in Colorado or at Basecamp (NOT SHIPPED). Note also that ½ pound fuel canisters may be purchased at back-country Trading Posts.
- 2 - 3 Personal cleanliness kits (if 3, 1 held in reserve), each including 1 bottle of CampSuds (double-bagged), 1 small tube of toothpaste (mint flavored is acceptable), and a plastic mirror. If no or only 1 trail shower, consider carrying multiple packs of wet-wipes.
- 1 Latrine kit, including 2 rolls of TP, 1 - 2 containers of “flushable wipes” (40 count each, 2 for full-sized crews), several zip-lock bags (for used wipes), a full tube of Desitin Cream, a bottle of hand sanitizer, and a metal “backpacker's” shovel. NOTE: TP is issued at Basecamp Services and at back-country commissaries; **ONLY Philmont TP may be used!**
- 2 “Lotions” kits (1 held in reserve), each including one squeeze bottle of high quality sunscreen and a small squeeze bottle of bug repellent, each bottle individually double-bagged.
- 1-2 Cell phones and supplemental power [Notes: As of 2017, cell coverage at Philmont was still very spotty, and dialing 911 from atop mountains or ridgelines would usually get you someone in southern Colorado (therefore, enter Philmont's main number into your phone - **575-376-2281** - don't rely on memory in an emergency). This is an ancillary piece of equipment that *may* be useful in a *few* settings). **You WILL NOT be allowed to charge your cell phone at any staff camp - don't expect to, and don't ask.** If you **MUST** have everyday connectivity, bring a supplemental power pack (fully charged up in Colorado), or a portable charger that works on lithium AA batteries, with the appropriate adapter AND batteries. Be very aware, **few backcountry campsites have ANY cell coverage.**]
- 2 Digital alarm wrist-watches, loud (cell phones, if brought, can substitute for wrist-watches)
- \$50. Cash for Crew Purchases, including mostly small denomination bills (1's and 5's), no coins!

“Other Optional Crew Items” (in approximate order of usefulness/importance)

- A lightweight digital scale (0 - 100 pounds, for weighing packs during the trek); carried in the Crew Chief's/Backpacker's Office. **VERY USEFUL** for proper weight distributions.
- 2 high-quality digital cameras with fresh lithium batteries (installed at BaseCamp); should be used on a high resolution, and have adequate memory cards (recommend 8 - 16 GBs). It is not a great idea to use cell phones as cameras, due to the power drain.
- 1 light notepad with 1 - 2 new pens with non-water-soluble ink (check!) for a diary; some Crews use a digital recording device to record Basecamp meetings and keep a verbal trail diary.
- 2 large, resealable drink jugs (for making drink mixes in gallon batches; helps prevent drink-contaminated canteens – not needed if the Crew decides to go with water only).
- 4 - 6 water filters, purifiers, or Steripens (Note that Micro-Pur tablets are perfectly adequate!)
- GPS receiver and batteries (some prefer for treks in the Valle Vidal; not needed elsewhere); don't bring unless you are an expert in GPS use **BEFORE** you go to Philmont!
- A Weather Band radio (again, coverage at Philmont is very spotty, but signals can be received on most mountaintops and at some other locales; **Philmont is located in Colfax County**)
- 1 small monocular or a small pair of binoculars
- A GPS “Spot” (Note: If you have a GPS receiver, you likely have no need for a “Spot”)

Mandatory Crew Items Provided by Philmont:

Food, Bear-bag Ropes, TP, Micro-Pur Tablets, Purell (provided at Basecamp – but you have to purchase replacement bottles in the backcountry), a sump “frisbee”, and a rubber policeman; see additional information below.

All-in-all, the tent, crew gear and food will add between 20-25 additional pounds to your pack, for a realistic On-the-Ranch range from 40 pounds (smaller Scouts) to 50 pounds (larger Scouts and Adult Advisors). For maximum sized Crews (12), it is possible to leave Basecamp fully loaded at an average weight around 40 pounds per person. [Note that smaller Crews will have higher average weights because there are fewer trekkers to carry essentially the same amount of Crew gear (only the number of tents and meal packets decrease).] ***Note that “minimal” weights are possible only if every Crew member works constantly to minimize the weight of their personal kit, the Crew uses lighter weight Troop (not Philmont) equipment, and few optional (and NO “Just in Case”) items are carried.*** Transferring weight from weaker (or injured) hikers to stronger hikers - which may or may not be necessary - will increase the total weight spread (e.g., from 35 to 55 pounds). All trekkers can expect up to a 10 pound weight variance based on how much food the crew is carrying (maximum: 4+ days’ worth; minimum: none), and the weight of most “consumables” slowly decrease through the trek.

Philmont Optionally Provided Items: If needed, Philmont will provide the following items to any crew, without charge (i.e., it’s included in the fees):

Backpacker’s Shovel, bear-bags (5 - 7 nylon weave seed-bags), cleaning gear (CampSuds, a sump “frisbee”, 2 green scrubbies, and a rubber policeman), cook-kits (2, abbreviated), matches (1 box), a salt, pepper and sugar kit, a nylon tarp and 2 expandable tarp poles, plus parachute cord (but no stakes!, must bring 10 heavy-duty stakes for the tarp), tents (but again, no stakes!, must bring 8 stakes for each tent), toilet paper, 2-4 bottle of Purell, 4 - 6 trash bags, an abbreviated utensil kit (including 1 hot-pot tongs), water purification kits (Micro-Pur tablets), and a handful (6 - 10) of 1-gallon size zip-lock bags.

As noted above, the TP, Micro-Pur, Purell, a sump “frisbee”, and a rubber policeman, are given to each Crew *whether they need or want it or not*; however, if you already have a Frisbee and a rubber policeman, you can store these Philmont items in your Basecamp locker and return them when you come off the trail. You should take the TP, Micro-Pur, and Purell!

Available for Purchase or Rental: Philmont also has the following items for purchase or rental:

Backpacks (rental), Coleman fuel (white gas), isobutane cannisters (as of 2017, Gaz and PowerMax were also available), and liquid fuel stoves (Coleman Peak Ones, rental). Rental prices are reasonable, but - beware! - repair/replacement costs are exorbitant!

Finally, also note that many other routine items (e.g., clothing items, boots, batteries, canteens, compasses, fuel bottles, knives, maps, mess-kits, ponchos, spice kits, ridge-rests or Therm-a-Rests, water jugs, many, many others) are available for purchase from the Basecamp trading post, and - but to a much lesser extent - at some backcountry trading posts. Prices are high but not ridiculous.

Appendix A - Weather Comments/Adjustments: The monsoonal flow over New Mexico changes over from northwesterly to southerly around July 15th. In general, therefore, treks during the time frame June 10th - July 15th tend to be drier, whereas July 15th - August 20th tend to be wetter. This is not, of course, a hard and fast rule, just a general trend which holds fairly well most years. Following the Weather Channel (or any related service) up to the date of your departure can help you determine whether yours is a typical year or not. If the National Radar picture shows thunderstorms moving from south to north over New Mexico every day during the week leading up to your departure, then the monsoon has started and you can expect strong thunderstorms (with heavy rains) many/most afternoons during your trek. The most salient potential problems are mid-summer hurricanes off the Texas gulf coast or nearby the *west* coast of Mexico (Baja area), especially the latter. These tend to entrain tropical moisture into the southern Rockies - not exactly a compatible mix!

Therefore, if you are taking a late Philmont trek (i.e., Start Date of 715 or Later), or if the Weather Channel National Radar picture indicates that the monsoon has already started across the Southwestern United States, then you should consider adding a fourth set of clothes (T-Shirt, Hiking Shorts, Hiking Socks, and (if you're using them) Polypropylene Liners) to your kit, and take much more care to store everything in plastic bags. You may also wish to bring a more heavy-duty rain-suit (especially if you normally use an ultralight set), and you should definitely bring a rainproof hat even if your rainsuit has a hood. You should also take greater care to waterproof the rest of your gear, particularly your pack cover, sleeping bag stuff-sack (even if you use a trash-bag liner inside the stuff-sack), and especially your boots. Trekkers with down sleeping bags should seriously consider shifting to a synthetic bag for treks after mid-July. These changes will increase your total average carry weight by 2 - 5 pounds, depending on what additions and substitutions are made from your "normal" kit, but is well worth it in terms of both comfort and health and safety.

Appendix B – Minimal First Aid Kits – Medications are carried by an Advisor ONLY. Most Consumables can be replenished at back-country Trading Posts.

Medications:

Acetaminophen, Tablets, 100
Advil, Tablets, 100
Analgesic Cream, small tube
Aspirin or Bufferin, Tablets, 25
Benadryl, Tablets, 25
Benadryl, Topical Cream, small tube
Bonine or Dramamine (Motion Sickness), Tablets, 10
Chloraseptic, Lozenges, standard package
Cortaid (Hydrocortisone), Topical Cream, small tube
Ex-Lax, Tablets, standard package
Immodium AD, Tablets, 25
Luden's Cough Drops, Lozenges, standard package
Maalox or Tums, Tablets, standard package
Pepto Bismol, Tablets, standard package
Sudafed-PE, Tablets, standard package

Blisters and Bandages:

Ace Bandages, 2
Adhesive Pads, 3 x 4 inches, 6-8
Alcohol Towelettes, sealed
Anti-fungal Powder (Athlete's Foot, Chafing, Jock-Itch, etc.)
Blister Patches (Wet Gel Type)
Duct Tape (small roll) First Aid Tape (white, medium roll)
Mole Skin, standard package
Nail Clippers
Neosporin, Topical Cream, medium tube
Scissors (sewing type, small, sharp)
NOTES: Electrical Tape is in the Crew Chief's Offices, and Purell and Antibacterial Wet-Ones are in the Personal Cleanliness Kits