



Dear Arrowman,

As the leadership of Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, we are stoked for you to experience the adventure of our program! To help you in preparation for your trip, we would like to convey some information specific to our program and supplemental to your Guidebook to Adventure:

Conditions at the Worksite

Currently, the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program is constructing a trail from Webster Parks to the summit of Cimarroncito Peak. This elevation of the worksite is approaching 10,000ft. Temperatures hover around 60-70 degrees during the day and can become much cooler during summer rainstorms. Nights regularly dip into the 40s, occasionally the 30s, with frequent wind at dusk.

We provide this context to help you properly plan your worksite clothing. We can safely say that our suggested long-sleeve work shirt is comfortable during the day and you will need all of the "UPPER BODY LAYERS" mentioned in your guidebook at night. It is imperative that you bring adequate layers while at the worksite. Extra layers can be sent back to basecamp with your work clothes before beginning your trek week.

Program Fees

Participant cost for OATC is \$450. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due with your application. The additional \$425 is due with the return of your acceptance notice. No participants will be allowed to begin their trek until their program fee is paid in full. Cancellations made at least four (4) weeks prior to your scheduled arrival date will be eligible for a refund minus the non-refundable deposit of \$25. Shuttle transportation fees, if applicable, must be paid in advance following the instruction provided in this information packet. Please refer to applicable shuttle transportation information for refund and other policies.

Electronics

As program leadership, we highly recommend leaving personal cell phones in base camp due to the rugged environment of the backcountry. There is a high likelihood of permanently damaging your device. Please consider the importance of your cell phone for your travel before bringing it onto the trail. Storage is provided in basecamp for all valuables.

As noted in the Philmont Guidebook to Adventure, radios, mp3 players, and video game devices are prohibited in the Philmont backcountry. The use of a cell phone as a form of entertainment will not be permitted at any time in the backcountry. However, the use of a cell phone as a camera will be allowed, although a **standalone camera is highly recommended**. Please note there are no locations for charging any electronic device while in the backcountry.

We encourage crews to share photos of their group through various resources such as Facebook, Dropbox, or Google Drive before leaving the ranch. If you do not bring a personal camera, simply ask your fellow arrowmen to snap a picture of you during the trek and make sure to get access to the digital copies later!

(over)

Travel

For all participants traveling via train or plane travel; you will have to arrive the day prior to your trek start date. For all participants arriving by personal vehicle; they will need to arrive on the trek start date by 10:30AM.

Participants should plan to depart on the last date of their trek. Participants traveling via the plane will depart Philmont in the morning and should schedule flights no earlier than 1:00PM. Participants traveling via Amtrak will leave that late morning or afternoon from Philmont and participants being picked up should plan to be picked up by 10:00AM. Participants should review current shuttle information provided by Philmont before booking travel from Denver airport, raton train station, or the Albuquerque airport.

Where can I find shuttle information?

Current shuttle information can be found on the Philmont website, [Getting to Philmont](#). Third-party shuttle companies provide this service to Philmont. For any further questions scheduling a shuttle to or from please contact Philmont Seasonal Personnel at (575) 376- 2281.

Arriving Physically Prepared

As an individual trek participant, it is solely your responsibility to be prepared physically for your adventure. If you do not exercise regularly, **You NEED to be training cardio three to five times per week in preparation.** Proper foot care while hiking is an essential skill and it begins with preparing for the long period of time spent on your feet, hiking over rugged terrain while wearing a heavy pack. Wear your boots regularly in the weeks leading up to your trek and at least once wear them on a practice hike with all your gear you plan on bringing to Philmont.

As to what you should prepare for, well, we can tell you what to expect: *Expect days of double-digit hiking miles. Expect to be carrying a backpack that weighs approximately 60 pounds. Expect to always be going up or down. Expect every day to be filled with as many sights and activities as possible, never to waste a moment. And always expect to fall asleep as soon as your head hits the pillow!*

Proper Gear Selection

With the combination of the outdoor conditions and physical challenges described above, we find it important to comment on gear selection in addition to the information in the Philmont Guidebook to Adventure. **The most important factor in gear selection is how well it fits your individual body!**

Plan sufficient space for crew gear and food in your backpack. Small-waisted participants need to ensure that their hip belt can be tightened sufficiently to support the weight of their pack on their hips. Tall participants need to double check that they have the correct frame size, allowing the weight to be transferred into the frame and off of the shoulders. The linked resource below covers both of these topics in detail.

Your feet need to be well adjusted to your footwear before arriving at the ranch. **If you are purchasing new footwear for this adventure, you need to break them in before arriving at the ranch.** New boots that have not been broken in always result in blisters while hiking multiple days consecutively.

Your rain gear should be completely waterproof, not just water resistant. “Disposable” rain gear (emergency poncho or frogg toggs) is very fragile and more often than not becomes destroyed due to the rough nature of trail work and the backcountry. For a value-priced rain jacket, Philmont recommends the Red Ledge “Thunderlight Jacket” and “Rain Pant” as it is durable and will keep you dry. Quality rain gear is a wise investment.

We hope this will allow you to be as prepared as possible on your arrival day, allowing you to focus on things of higher reward. The beauty of Northeast New Mexico, the brotherhood of our order, and an adventure of a lifetime await you. We look forward to your arrival this summer!

In Brotherhood,

Ben Deveau
2024 OA Trail Crew Director

KT Pyzowski
2024 OA Trail Crew Coordinator

