



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
NATIONAL COUNCIL

DATE: JANUARY 4, 2024
TO: NCS Participant
Course Location: **Philmont Scout Ranch**
17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714

Course Dates: **September 21-27, 2024**
Sections: **Camp Director, Program Director, COPE Director, Climbing, COPE & Climbing Program Trainer, Shooting Sports, Shooting Sports NRA Track**

FROM: Gary Decker – National Camping School Course Director
Gary.Decker@scouting.org

Welcome to the 2024 National Camp School (NCS) at **Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico!** Your camping school faculty eagerly awaits your arrival at the **Philmont Training Center**. The course liaison for this school is Danny Tucker (Daniel.Tucker@scouting.org). Please do not hesitate to contact either Danny or me if you have any questions prior to the school. The following information will help you prepare for NCS.

A BSA Annual Health and Medical Record ([Parts A, B & C](#)) completed within the past 12 months, is required and must be completed prior to your arrival. Please bring the completed form with you. If you do not have this required form, you will need to obtain a physical at your own expense prior to beginning class.

Check-in:

Please plan to arrive between **9:00 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** (Mountain Time) on **Saturday, September 21, 2024**. Check-in at the PTC Guest Services Offices – marked on the PTC map with a yellow star. Departure will be after graduation on Friday, **September 27, 2024**.

If your travel schedule requires you to arrive early, Philmont has accommodations beginning on Friday afternoon and includes lodging and two meals (dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday) for an additional \$45. Please contact Philmont to schedule an early arrival. Philmont has arranged shuttle service from the Raton, NM Amtrak/Greyhound station for \$60.00 roundtrip. Please use this link to reserve your spot:

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/planningyourvisit/getting-to-philmont/>.

Individuals flying to airports serving Philmont (Albuquerque, Colorado Springs, and Denver) will be required to rent a vehicle or arrange carpooling with other participants. The Course Director may share a roster of participants to help organize carpools. Driving directions to Philmont are attached.

Shooting Sports, COPE, Climbing, Resident Camp Director and Resident Program Director - Please note that there are pre-requisite trainings which you **MUST** have before you attend your sections of NCS. Please ensure you have these trainings and bring support materials with you as proof. Participants who attend without these trainings complete will be sent back to their home councils.

Shooting Sports: NRA Rife and Shotgun Instructor Certification

COPE: COPE Level I Instructor

Climbing: Climbing Level I Instructor

Resident Camp Director and Program Director: Online NCAP training is available at on the NCS page @

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>

Complete, correct BSA uniforms are required. The BSA Field Uniform (Scout shorts or long trousers, Scout shirts, Venturing shirts, Scout socks) or the BSA Activity Uniform (Scout shorts or pants with Scouting golf or t-shirts and belt) will be worn at national camping school. Complete field uniform is required for evening meals, worship services, campfires, and other formal activities. The weather in Cimarron ranges from mid-50s to low-20s during the time that the course will be happening. Please make sure to be ready for the swings in temperature – coats and/or jackets are recommended.



Lodging

Housing will be in canvas wall tents. Participants will be assigned shared tents. To cut down on travel gear, you can reserve a Bed in a Bag (bedding and linens) for \$48. Upgraded housing may be available for an additional fee, based on availability. Housing upgrade and Bed in a Bag fees will not be charged to the local council and will need to be paid for on site or via phone. Some walking will be required. Please dress for the weather and snow is a possibility.

The telephone number at Philmont Scout Ranch is 575-376-2281 in case of emergency. Internet Wi-Fi is available throughout the Philmont Training Center campus. Cellular coverage is available throughout the camp property as well.

Please review the [Planning Your Visit](#) webpage for more information about the ranch.

National Supply **will not** have a trading post at National Camping School this year. If you are interested in purchasing National Camping School items you can download the flier at <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/> and have them sent directly to your home. Philmont has the Tooth of Time Traders store for Philmont branded apparel, snacks, sundries, etc. www.toothoftimetraders.com.

In addition to the items listed above, please bring an open mind, a cooperative attitude, a willing smile, a lot of enthusiasm, and we'll have a great course.

Course start dates by section:

Camp Director (Full Course) – September 21
Program Director (Full Course) – September 21
COPE Director (Full Course) – September 21
COPE Director (Recertification Only) – September 21
Climbing Director (Full Course) – September 21
Climbing Director (Recertification Only) – September 21
Shooting Sports Director (Full Course) – September 21
Shooting Sports Director **(Recertification Only) – September 24**
NRA Track (Full Course) – September 21
Trek Director (Full Course) – September 21



Things to Know

Firearms, Alcoholic Beverages, and Smoking

Philmont does not permit the possession of personal firearms while on the property. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is also not permitted on Philmont property. As a facility of the Boy Scouts of America, all buildings and tents at Philmont are smoke-free. Designated smoking areas are the Curtis Pavilion and your own vehicle.

Laundry

A coin-operated laundry with washers and dryers is located at PTC and is open 24 hours. Laundry detergent and dryer sheets are available in the Laundromat in a dispensing machine, along with a change machine. Detergent and dryer sheets are also available at the Tooth of Time Traders. The PTC office can also make change.

Mail

While at Philmont, your mailing address is:

Your Name
Conference and Date of Week Attending
Philmont Training Center
17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714

Outgoing mail is picked up around 10:00am from the mailbox outside the PTC office, Monday through Saturday. Incoming mail is delivered to your family via Philmont Staff. Postcards can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders and stamps are for sale at the PTC Office. Parcels should be shipped via U.S. Mail, Federal Express, or UPS. Other services do not deliver to Philmont. **Do not rely on "next day" service, please make sure to allow at least one week for deliveries.**

Meal Service

Meals will be provided at the Training Center Dining Hall. We can accommodate gluten-free, nut-free, and vegetarian food needs with prior notification of your dietary needs. If you have questions about what we can accommodate, please feel free to call the PTC office. Please bring casual wear should you leave the property for meals off site.

Nametags

All guests are to always wear their nametags. Nametags provide access the dining hall and is proof you have gone through security and a medical recheck.

National Scouting Museum

Philmont is home to the National Scouting Museum. You will want to make a visit to this excellent facility that showcases Scouting throughout the years. More information can be found at:

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/museums/>

Pets

Pets, other than those required for assistance (such as seeing-eye dogs), are not allowed at Philmont. The Raton Animal Hospital (575-445-2691) can board pets at a standard daily rate. You must place your pet in a boarding kennel before your arrival at the Training Center.



Getting to Philmont

From Denver or Colorado Springs:

Go south on Interstate 25 to Raton, New Mexico (17 miles south of the Colorado border). Four miles south of Raton take Exit 446 onto Highway 64 and drive about 40 miles to Cimarron.

From Albuquerque:

Go north on Interstate 25 about 200 miles to Springer, New Mexico. Three miles north of Springer, take Exit 419 onto Highway 58 and drive about 20 miles to Cimarron. Please Note: The alternative route from Springer is State Highway-21 is closed at the Rayado Bridge.

From Cimarron to Philmont

When you reach Cimarron, turn south on State Highway 21 and drive approximately 4 miles to Philmont Scout Ranch. As you enter Philmont, you will see several buildings before you reach your destination; these buildings are other parts of Philmont Base Camp, such as the Administration Building. Look for the brown Philmont Training Center sign near mile-marker 4 and turn left (east) onto Orchard Circle. The Villa Philmonte, the Mediterranean-style home of the Phillips family, is located on the grounds of the Philmont Training Center and will serve as a guide to those arriving by car.



