



DATE: November 2025  
TO: NCS Participant  
Course Location: **Philmont Scout Ranch**  
**17 Deer Run Road**  
**Cimarron, NM 87714**

Course Dates: **March 21-27, 2026**  
Sections: **Camp Director, Program Director, COPE Director, Climbing Director, COPE & Climbing Program Trainer, Range Activities Director, TREK Leader**

FROM: Russell Etzenhouser – National Camping School Course Director  
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Welcome to the 2026 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 Amy Hutcherson ([amy.hutcherson@scouting.org](mailto:amy.hutcherson@scouting.org)). Please do not hesitate to contact either Amy or myself if you have any questions prior to the course. 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, March 21, 2026**. Check-in at the PTC Guest Services Offices – marked on the PTC map with a yellow star. Departure will be after graduation on Friday, **March 27, 2026** (no later than 10:00 AM). **Recertification** classes will be done at **lunch on Tuesday, March 24, 2026**.

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 \$55. Philmont has arranged shuttle service from the Raton, NM Amtrak 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. The Google Doc link below will allow you to sign up to share a ride. It is the individual's responsibility to coordinate the ride share.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11gZ\\_ZZWuqB2DJ018KISN8eWzJEk6cnq5mhf6Kzls2EI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11gZ_ZZWuqB2DJ018KISN8eWzJEk6cnq5mhf6Kzls2EI/edit?usp=sharing)

**RATA, 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.

**RATA:** 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 Scouting America uniforms are required.** The Scouting America Field Uniform (Scout shorts or long trousers, Scout shirts, Venturing shirts, Scout socks) or the Scouting America Activity Uniform (Scout shorts or pants with Scouting golf or t-shirts) 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 heated cabins with showers. Bedding and linens are provided. Cabins are not attached to the conference rooms. Some guests may be assigned to housing at Camping HQ or PTC. 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 also available although some carriers are more limited than others. AT&T has the strongest signal.

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](http://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.

## 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 Scouting America, all buildings and tents at Philmont are smoke-free. Designated smoking areas are the Curtis Pavilion and your own vehicle.

### **Free Time Activities**

While your conference schedule is busy, you'll have a fair amount of free time to explore Philmont and there are many exciting activities and places to see. In addition to visiting the Villa and the other museums, a visit to Camping Headquarters allows a glimpse into Philmont's trekking operation.

### **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.philmontscout ranch.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

For navigation system, please use this address: **32 Orchard Circle, Cimarron, NM 87717**

### ***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.

### ***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.



