

June 2, 2008

Troop 61 Supplemental Philmont Preparation Meeting

In attendance: Betsy Lenhart, Jeff Robinson, Ron and Janice, Melissa Mercer, Mark Schluetz, Shirlee Coppo, Kelly Barry, Jim Nye, others I do not know names of... many boys too.....

Jeff wanted to start focusing in on the preparation for Philmont in August 2009 (13 months from today).

Two topics discussed tonight: 1) Review the Risk Advisory and 2) Payment Plan

Risk Advisory

Jeff passed out a very detailed and important four-page document that outlines the very real risks associated with the Philmont trip. Everyone needs to read it thoroughly and make note of any questions you have. This advisory covers topics such as the activities the boys will be doing (ex. Hiking 5 – 12 miles per day). It also covers specific medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, excessive body weight, allergies, injuries and medications.

There is also a height/weight chart on the last page. This section also speaks to the backpack weight. Each Philmont trek involves hiking with a 35-50 lb pack between 6,500 and 12,500 ft. elevations. Philmont recommends that participants carry a pack weighing no more than 25 – 30% of their body weight.

Payment Plan and Travel Costs

The core Philmont expedition itself begins with lunch on Friday, August 7, 2009 and ends with breakfast on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. When looking at a calendar, make sure you are looking at a 2009 calendar.

Each person has already paid the \$50 deposit for the trip. The total cost per person is \$595. So the balance due for the expedition itself, per person, is \$545. This has to be made in, at least, two payments of \$272.50. The first payment is due on September 15, 2008 and the second payment is due on February 15, 2009. Philmont does not have a refund policy! There could be a possibility of a substitution if there was a cancellation, but there are no guarantees.

Travel to/from Philmont discussion: first, some background. Philmont is located by a small town called Cimmaron, New Mexico. The drive to Cimmaron is 4 ½ hours from the Albuquerque airport. The drive to Cimmaron is 3 hours from Colorado Springs airport. We have no way of knowing what the cost of an airline ticket will be in over a year from now, not to mention the problems airlines are having in general.

Amtrak Train: The idea of taking a train has some definite benefits. Most people seemed to want to take this approach. The closest/safest train station in Ohio is in Sandusky. Generally, speaking, this is how it would go... It would depart at 3:50am on Wednesday, August 5th, arriving in Chicago at 8:40am. Long layover in Chicago, approximately 7 ½ hours. (would need to find a way to store the large packs, possibly hook up with a local Boy Scout troop in Chicago to store our things, rent a van, or hotel room to store the packs while sightseeing Chicago). Departing Chicago at 3:20pm, same day. Arriving in Raton, New Mexico at 11am on Friday, August 7th. Would sleep on train. Supposedly very comfortable and meals, probably, included in an overnight ticket. Imagine the scenery and the opportunity to ride a train out west! Round trip train tickets for the entire group (eight people) totals \$1,926. So this is approximately \$240 per person! Then once arrive at the train station in Raton (closest train station to Philmont), take a bus to Philmont. Cost for round trip bus ticket is \$45 per person. Remember, these prices are for right now, so there may be an increase by next year.

Summary of Costs per Person for Prices Today:

\$ 545	Expedition itself
240	Train ticket, round trip
45	Bus ticket, round trip
<u>200</u>	Meals and incidentals (very approximate)
\$1,030	Total

The idea of a payment plan is as follows: since we have July 15, 2008 through February 15, 2009 (eight separate months) to pay the balance for the entire expedition and travel costs, you could make eight separate payments of \$130, once a month from July through February. These payments would be put into the troop savings account (to be opened separately). Checks still payable to Troop 61.

Jeff wants to have Philmont-specific meetings once a month on the first Monday of each month, from 6-7pm. Each meeting will be limited to one or two topics only, so we can focus on specifics better.

The next meeting will be on Monday, July 1st, 6-7pm. The topic of this upcoming meeting will be Gear! What kind, how much, who carries which, etc.