Welcome to Philmont Leadership Challenge!

The Philmont Leadership Challenge is the ultimate training experience designed to motivate you to follow a life of servant leadership based on the values of Scouting! The PLC program is conducted for adults who have already completed Wood Badge.

PLC will equip you with the skills to become better unit leaders, Wood Badge staff, training team members, and any other leadership position in your Scouting and everyday life. It will lead you on a journey to become true “servant leaders.” You will be empowered to guide all members of any group through several development processes through the Philmont-based wilderness experience.

You will live in a team setting at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp where you will use your Wood Badge leadership skills to resolve exciting and challenging backcountry situations. The week will conclude with a closing challenge for each of you to build upon the legacy of Waite Phillips, the benefactor of Philmont Scout Ranch.

This guidebook is intended to answer any questions you may have about your PLC experience. Please review the information in this guidebook and make sure you complete all steps before leaving for Philmont!

We are excited that you are among the select few who will participate in one of the most outstanding leadership programs offered by Philmont and the Boy Scouts of America, the Philmont Leadership Challenge.

Sincerely,

Philmont Training Center Staff
2021 PLC CHECKLIST

- Read this entire Guidebook!
- Register for your course on the Philmont website.
- Pay all fees no later than 30 days before your PLC course begins!
- Submit your ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PLANS (located on page 9 of this guidebook) no later than 30 days before your PLC course begins!
  
  - Fall course: Shuttle service from the area airports are not available in September — you must provide your own transportation from the airport to Philmont. If you choose to take the train or greyhound bus, you may arrange for a ride from Raton via the Raton Shuttle.
  - For a small fee, Philmont has limited accommodations available for those who wish to arrive early on Saturday evening. Do not plan to arrive before 4pm on Saturday.
  - Submit all shuttle and arrival forms with applicable fees no later than 30 days before your PLC course begins!
  - Your course begins at 8:00am Sunday morning, Day 1 of your course.
- Complete a BSA Annual Health & Medical Record.
  
  - The BSA Annual Health & Medical Record Parts A, B, & C are required for PLC. Make sure to have your completed medical with you on your arrival date. BSA Medical Part C requires a doctor’s signature.
  - Bring your completed and signed medical form, prescription medications (in original container with label showing your name, directions for use, and prescribing practitioner), and a copy of your health insurance card with you for PLC check-in on Day 1!
  - All participants of the PLC program must be in good physical condition and able to backpack. Participants will participate in a medical re-check on Day 1. If they do not meet the physical requirements, including height and weight, participants will not be allowed to participate in PLC and will be sent home at their expense.

- Plan and prepare for any special dietary needs! (see page 7.)
The Philmont Leadership Challenge brings Wood Badge skills to life in a majestic Philmont setting. Just as the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) hones and expands upon skills taught to Scouts in NYLT, the Philmont Leadership Challenge (PLC) takes adult leadership to an exciting new level through experiential learning. The Philmont Leadership Challenge simultaneously immerses you and your crew in challenging scenarios that require the application of Wood Badge leadership skills for success.

The Philmont staff is committed to making the Philmont Leadership Challenge a very special experience. Participants will live in a crew setting at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp, where they will use their leadership skills to resolve exciting and challenging backcountry situations.

PLC will equip you with the skills to become better unit leaders, Wood Badge staff, training team members, and any other leadership position throughout your Scouting life. It will lead you on the journey to become true “servant leaders.” You will be empowered with the capability to guide all members of any team through several development processes. You will be enriched with the life skills that are essential for the present and the future.

Requirements
- Completed or staffed Wood Badge, may be actively working on your ticket.
- A current Annual BSA Health and Medical Record, Parts A, B & C is required, along with a copy of your insurance policy card (to be attached to your Annual Health and Medical Record).
- All participants must meet the height/weight restrictions as listed in the Medical Record. If you do not meet these requirements at check-in, you will not be allowed to participate.

Mission Statement
The mission of the Philmont Leadership Challenge (PLC) is to provide participants with a Philmont-based wilderness experience that motivates them to follow a life of helping others succeed based on the values expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

We accomplish this mission by:
- Creating an environment of learning and fun
- Providing a clear understanding of servant leadership in challenging wilderness environments
- Providing real life opportunities for ethical decision making, mentoring and living the Scout Oath and Law
- Applying all the leadership skills taught in Wood Badge.

By the end of the PLC course, participants should be able to:
- Encourage others to live a life of Leadership Service
- Act as a Servant Leader who shares the skills of Wood Badge and helps develop other leaders through their enhanced understanding of the Wood Badge material
- Intuitively use the Wood Badge leadership skills in all aspects of their lives
- Be an advocate for Wood Badge, NYLT, NAYLE and PLC in their local environment
Welcome to the Philmont Leadership Challenge to be held at the Philmont Training Center – Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp (RRLC)! RRLC is approximately 8 miles from the Philmont Training Center at the southern end of Philmont Scout Ranch and sits in Philmont’s backcountry at the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Your PLC faculty are excited to introduce you to the PLC adventure! We have included some pertinent information below. Please read it carefully. Thank you!

ARRIVAL:

- Check-In: 8:00am SHARP! on the first day of your course, typically Sunday. Check-in will take place at the pavilion located behind the Philmont Training Center (PTC) Office. (Maps at the end of this guidebook.)

- Early Arrivals:
  - For individuals arriving by train shuttle Saturday afternoon, tenting assignments and meal preparations will already be made for you. Plan to eat at the station or bring snacks, as the shuttle may not make any stops en route to Philmont and may occasionally run late due to traffic or weather.
  - Participants looking to arrive Saturday evening by private vehicle must check in at the PTC Office between 4 – 6pm. You will receive tenting assignments and meal instructions upon check in. A small early arrival fee, $25 per person, includes a tenting unit with electricity, Saturday’s dinner (5 – 6:30pm), and Sunday’s breakfast (6:30 – 8am). The PLC Arrival & Departure form must be turned in with payment to arrive early to the PTC.

- Be Prepared for check-in!
  - A signed, current BSA Annual Health & Medical Record Parts A, B & C is required at check-in, along with a copy of your Insurance Policy Card (attached to your Medical form). Bring any prescription medications in original container with label showing your name, directions for use, and prescribing practitioner.
  - Bring all camping gear packed, transportable, and ready to go (see enclosed equipment list, page 8.)
  - Payment for any unpaid fees are due at time of check-in, including any unpaid shuttle fees. Late fees may apply.
  - You will need to be in complete and official Scouts BSA Field Uniform to check-in. (Scouts BSA Khaki shirt, Scouts BSA green pants; long or short, Scouts BSA socks, Scout belt; Venturing Green shirt, Venturing Gray pants; long or short, Venturing socks, Scout belt. Substitution uniform pieces are not allowed!)
  - Please call home to let your family know you have arrived safely.
  - If you are departing on a Philmont shuttle, confirm your departure plans with PTC Transportation Staff before you depart for RRLC!

DEPARTURE:

- Checkout time is 8:00am Saturday, if not earlier to catch a transportation shuttle.
  - The PLC Closing Ceremony takes place at 8:00pm Friday at Rayado Kit Carson Museum. Participants may depart following the Ceremony, if prearranged and
Family Adventure & Training Conferences
Because of the remote location of Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp, you will not be available to visit or care for your family members during the week. However, we highly recommend your spouse and family stay at the Philmont Training Center during your PLC week. They will have exciting opportunities for training and Family Adventures while you are honing your leadership skills! For more information on Triaging Center program, please visit www.philmonttrainingcenter.org.

Transportation
You are responsible for arranging your own transportation to the Philmont Training Center. The recommended mode of transportation from nearby airports is private or rental car in the fall.

Philmont has an arranged shuttle service that will pick up and drop off from the Raton Train Station in September, serving both the Amtrak trains and Greyhound Bus Station. Please refer to the Raton Shuttle Service from for more information.

Please refer to the "PLC Arrival & Departure Form" and the Train Shuttle Registration forms for details. If you are using a shuttle, please submit the completed form and payment to Philmont Scout Ranch.

Program Cost
The fee for the course is $550, a nonrefundable $250 deposit is due at the time of registration. Please see Philmont’s Cancellation Policy for details of payment and cancellations. Lodging, meals, and course supplies are covered by this fee and begin at 8:00am on the first day of course going through 7:30am on the final course day.

Scholarships
Scholarships are available for Philmont PLC participants. Information and deadlines are available on Philmont’s website.

Camp and Camp Living
PLC is a co-ed training experience. Team members may be male and female, with each team being responsible for preparing their daily meals. Sleeping quarters are in two-person wall tents with wooden platform floors. Separate tents will be used for male and female participants. Each participant is provided a cot and a mattress, you will need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow.

Activities will be just that, ACTIVE! Teams spend most of the time outdoors. Showers and other conveniences are available in camp. An overnight backpacking trip is planned as part of the PLC program; Philmont will provide tents and backpacks if needed, with prior request. Electric charging capability is not available at Rayado Ridge.
Uniform

The uniform is any official BSA Field Uniform (Scouts BSA khaki shirt, green pants (short or long) Scouts BSA socks, Scout belt or Venturing green shirt; official gray Venturing pants (short or long), Venturing socks and Scout belt with the normal insignia; the complete Sea Scout uniform is also appropriate. Non-official, substitute uniform parts are not allowed. The activity uniform that is worn most of the time consists of a PLC cap and PLC T-shirt (provided by Philmont) and Scouts BSA or Venturing shorts/pants. There is no need for civilian clothes during the course. You should report to the Training Center in a complete field uniform on the first day of your course.

One pair of long pants are required for the PLC Conservation project during the course.

Spending Money

You will have an opportunity to purchase a Philmont belt and PLC belt buckle during the course. You will also have an opportunity to visit the Tooth of Time Traders (trading post) during your stay at Philmont. Participants spend an average of $75 at Philmont’s trading posts on gear, souvenirs, and snacks. At Rayado Ridge’s Trading Post, only cash is accepted due to its location in the backcountry. At the Tooth of Time Traders in Base Camp, cash, check, and credit card are all accepted.

Special Meals & Dietary Restrictions

Philmont is not able to accommodate special dietary needs in the backcountry, including Rayado Ridge. If such meals are necessary, you must provide your own food. Please discuss any special meal needs with your Course Director prior to arriving at Philmont. He/she will provide you with the menu and contents of the menu so that you can plan any substitutions. This includes special dietary foods such as those who are gluten intolerant or vegetarians.

Physical Requirements

PLC is an active, outdoor-based course with much time spent in the backcountry. While not extreme, you need to be in good physical health, with good hiking ability, as is required for any backcountry experience at Philmont.

A current BSA National Health & Medical Form, Parts A, B & C is required. Please pay special attention to the Height and Weight limits; all participants must meet these requirements - you will be checked when you arrive. If you do not meet the height and weight requirements, you will be sent home at your expense.

Per BSA policy, all medical forms must have a doctor's and parent/guardian's signature and be less than one year old. Please attach a copy of your insurance card to your completed form. Hand carry your medical form - do not mail it! Your medical form will be returned to you at the end of your course.
Your Mailing Address at Philmont
Mail must be properly addressed for delivery. Bring stamps and stamped postcards. Mail is delivered every day except Sunday. Outgoing mail is collected every day. Please address as follows:

Your Name - PLC (Week #)
Philmont Training Center
17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714

Emergency Telephone
There is no landline phone service and minimal cell phone service at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp. Only in emergency situations can you be contacted by telephone. Philmont's service number is 575-376-2281. The switchboard is staffed 8 AM - 5 PM MST, Monday through Friday during the fall. For emergency contact outside the switchboard business hours, a message will provide the appropriate contact information. The information will be relayed to you as soon as possible.

If you bring a cell phone to Rayado Ridge: cell phone service is minimal, there is no charging capability, and its usage cannot interfere with the course experience. Use of electronic devices is strongly discouraged during PLC.
Personal Equipment List

To help you plan and prepare your personal gear for PLC, please note the following:

1. You will spend five nights at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp and one night at a backcountry campsite.

2. At Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp, you will sleep in a two-person wall tent. The tents are on wooden platforms and have cots with mattresses. There is no electricity in the tents. At the backcountry site, you will sleep on the ground in two-person backpacking tents, a sleeping pad is highly recommended on the overnighter. Philmont will supply tents. If you would like to bring a two-person backpacking tent for use in the backcountry, you may do so; however, you will be required to share your tent with another person.

3. PLC is a co-ed training experience. You may be in a co-ed campsite. Separate tents for male and female participants will be provided.

4. You will not have access to your personal vehicle for much of the course until the day of departure.

5. You will be transported from the Philmont Training Center to Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp by bus on Day 1 of your course. When you arrive at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp, you will walk from the road to your campsite, one-half (.5) mile away. You will need to carry all your gear in one trip. Due to the rocky terrain, rolling bags are challenging; backpacks are the best method for carrying your clothes and gear; a backpack may be borrowed (with prior arrangement before the course) during check-in.

6. Your PLC experience involves an overnight backpacking trip. The hike will involve approximately 4 miles one-way, starting at about 6,500 feet, with an elevation gain of 375 feet. On this trip, you will carry your personal gear plus your share of group gear. You must be able to hike and carry a 30-40-pound backpack!

7. Rain is always a possibility and the evenings can be very cool. Be prepared!

8. Philmont is bear country and precautions must be taken to avoid attracting bears to the campsites. All items that have an odor (smellables) are stored in an appropriate manner and containers. You should bring a stuff sack, small container, or large Ziploc bag in which to store these items. A thorough briefing on bear safety and smellables will be provided on the first day of the course.

9. You will always wear either an official Scouts BSA field uniform (Scouts BSA or Venturing) for your program area or a BSA activity uniform during the course. A field uniform includes the official Scouts BSA or official Venturing uniform shirt and insignia; official Scouts BSA or official Venturing shorts or long pants, official Scouts BSA or official Venturing socks and a Scout belt. The official Sea Scout blue uniform is also appropriate. An activity uniform is the same as your field uniform except you will wear the PLC T-shirt instead of your uniform shirt. Only official uniform parts are allowed - no substitutions are permitted! The PLC cap is part of the uniform.

10. Your course fee includes 2 PLC T-shirts and a PLC cap. Additional T-shirts will be available for
purchase. You will also have an opportunity to purchase a PLC belt buckle, Philmont belt, and PLC fleece jacket.

11. Long pants are required for the Conservation project during the PLC program.

12. There will not be an opportunity to do laundry during the course.

13. You may bring your cell phone to Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp for use in emergencies. However, there may not be any cellular service and charging facilities are not available.
Personal Gear List:

Required Items:
- Large internal or external frame backpack**
- Rain cover for backpack (trash bags are *not* acceptable)
- Daypack
- Rain jacket and rain pants (no ponchos)
- Sleeping bag rated to at least 30 degrees
- Water-Resistant Sleeping Bag Stuff Sack
- Sleeping pad
- Hiking boots (broken-in)
- Camp shoes (Crocs or tennis shoes – no open-toed shoes)
- 3 water bottles (1 quart/liter each)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- 1 Scouts BSA or Venturing field uniform shirt
- 2 Scouts BSA or Venturing shorts or long pants***
- At least 3 pair Scouts BSA or Venturing uniform socks
- BSA belt
- Hiking socks (1 pair)
- Sweatshirt, sweater, or fleece jacket
- Stocking cap and gloves
- Sleep clothes (worn only for sleeping)
- Underwear
- Watch
- Comb or brush
- Toothbrush/toothpaste*
- Soap (in a container) *
- Shampoo*
- Deodorant*
- Towel and/or washcloth*
- Sunscreen*
- Chapstick*
- Prescription/OTC medications*
- Personal first aid kit*
- Insect repellent (non-aerosol) *
- Nylon stuff sack or large Ziploc bag (for storing smellables*)
- Cup, bowl, and spoon (plastic or metal)
- Mesh dunk bag for washing personal dishes
- Pens and small notebook
- Extra 1-gallon Ziploc bags and trash bags

*Indicates smellable items that must be stored in an appropriate manner at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp and the overnight site. Pack these items together in a separate bag (stuff sack or large Ziploc bag).

** Can be provided by Philmont for the backcountry experience if requested in advance.

***Indicates one pair of long pants is required for the conservation project.

Optional Items
- Trekking or hiking poles
- Small pillow
- Small camp chair, stool, or Crazy Creek type chair (you must be able to carry)
- Small Pocketknife or multi-tool
- Duffle bag (if needed – but you must be able to carry it 0.5 miles!)
- Sunglasses
- Compass
- Camera
- Musical instrument
- Money (cash or checks) to purchase extra T-shirts, belt buckle, etc. at Rayado Ridge
- Bandanas (1 or 2)

Philmont Provides
- Wall tents, cots, and mattresses at Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp; backpacking tents for backcountry experience
- Dining flys
- Stoves and fuel for cooking
- Cooking gear
- Meal ingredients (do not bring any food unless required for medical or religious dietary needs; advise your course director.)
- Water purification tablets (for use in the backcountry)
- Bear Boxes and Bags
- Sanitation supplies & Toilet Paper
- Large water container

2021 PLC Guidebook
Philmont Leadership Challenge
Philmont Training Center • 17 Deer Run Road • Cimarron, NM 87714 • 575-376-2281

PLC Arrival & Departure Form

This form should be filled out and returned to Philmont at least one month prior to your course start date. This form has two sides, please fill out both.

Participant Name: _______________________________ PLC Session Dates: ________________
Address: ______________________________________ City: ______________ State: _____ Zip: ______
Home Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: ______________________________
Emergency Contact Name: ____________________________
Emergency Contact Cell Phone: ____________________________

Arrival Information

Date of Arrival: ________________________________
Family will be attending PTC program during above PLC session (circle one): Yes or No
Arriving Via (Please check one):
Raton Shuttle*: ☐ Arrival Time: _______ am/pm Please circle one: TRAIN or BUS
Private Vehicle: ☐ Saturday Evening Arrival (see below) ☐ Sunday Morning Arrival

Saturday Evening Early Arrival: Philmont has limited accommodations available for participants who wish to arrive Saturday evening and stay onsite at Philmont. Please plan to arrive between 4pm and 6pm. A $25 early arrival charge will include a shared tenting unit with electricity, Saturday’s dinner (5 – 6:30pm), and Sunday’s breakfast (6:30 – 8am). This rate is per person. Please notate below the number of early arrivals, both participants and family. Payments may be made via check or credit card.

_____ # Early Arrival PLC Participants + ___ # Early Arrival PLC Family x $25 = _____ Amount Due

Please make check payable to Philmont Scout Ranch to: Philmont Scout Ranch Attn: PLC Early Arrival
17 Deer Run Rd.
Cimarron, NM 87714

Credit Card payment may be made over the phone.

See backside for Departure Information
Departure Information

Date of Departure: __________________________

Departing Via (Please check one):

Raton Shuttle*: ☐ Arrival Time: _______am/pm Please circle one: TRAIN or BUS

Private Vehicle: ☐ Friday Night Parent Pick Up (see below) ☐ Saturday Morning 8:00am

Friday Evening Pick Up: Participants may depart following the Ceremony, if prearranged and approved through the PLC Course Director. Philmont has limited accommodations available for family to arrive Friday evening and stay onsite at Philmont. We ask that you please plan arrive between 4pm and 6pm. A $25 early arrival charge will include a shared tenting unit with electricity, Friday’s dinner (5 – 6:30pm), and Saturday’s breakfast (6:30 – 8am). This rate is per person. Participants may not leave from the Closing Ceremony and return to the PTC to stay the night. Please notate the number of early arrivals below. Payments may be made via check or credit card.

___ # Early Arrival Friday Night PLC Family x $25 = _____ Amount Due

Please make check payable to Philmont Scout Ranch to:
Philmont Scout Ranch Attn: PLC Early Arrival
17 Deer Run Rd.
Cimarron, NM 87714

Credit Card payment may be made over the phone.

*Note: If you will be arriving by shuttle please complete the correct shuttle form and return it to Philmont at least one month prior to arrival. Shuttle forms are available at https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ in February 2021.