BSA Family Adventure Camp
2021 Guidebook

Updated 7/1/2020
Dear Scouter:

We are very much looking forward to seeing you and your family this summer!

In 2018, we had an exciting opportunity to create a brand-new program that will allow your family to experience new adventures together. Following the success of 2018 and 2019, we are excited to once again host Philmont Family Adventure Camp in 2021! This program will bring you and your family excitement, new experiences, and a chance to make family adventures that last a lifetime.

In this guidebook, we’ve tried to cover details and answer questions that may arise before your departure. Please “Be Prepared” by carefully reading this guidebook and sharing it with your family. Also, make sure to check out our website for any updates. If you still have any questions or concerns, please call us at 575-376-2281, or email us at Philmont.TrainingCenter@scouting.org.

Our staff are making every effort to plan a safe, exciting, and fulfilling week for you and your family. The beauty, history, adventure, and unique charm of New Mexico and Philmont await you.

See you soon!

Philmont Scout Ranch Staff
What is BSA Family Adventure Camp?

BSA Family Adventure Camp at Philmont Scout Ranch focuses on families experiencing new and exciting Philmont adventures as a family unit. Family Adventure Camp is designed to build bonds and create memories through exciting and interactive programs. This program will operate in an open enrollment format where you and your family will have the chance to choose activities that appeal to you. Families will meet for two program sessions daily: Morning and Afternoon. Additionally, there will be options for whole day activities, such as a day-long hike in Philmont’s backcountry.

Family Adventure Camp is available in either Full Week (Sunday afternoon – Saturday morning), 1st Half Week (Sunday afternoon – Wednesday morning), or 2nd Half Week (Wednesday afternoon – Saturday morning) program lengths, to best fit your family's schedule.

BSA Family Adventure Camp is designed to work alongside other Philmont programs, including Training Center Conferences, NAYLE, PLC, Philmont Sneak Peak, and some trek arrival and departure dates. While a Scout is busy in a training conference or trek, their family has an opportunity to participate in Family Adventure, to make family adventures that last a lifetime!

BSA Family Adventure Camp is open to all registered BSA members and their families. At least one person in the Family Adventure registration must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.

For all Philmont Family Adventure Camp activities, minors (under 18 years old) must be accompanied by at least one adult family member 18 years or older. We strongly recommend you make group decisions as a family with the goal of participating together.

What is included in my Registration Fee?

When you register your family for BSA Family Adventure Camp, your registration fee includes all meals (from the first evening of your stay through breakfast of your departure day), Terrace Tent housing in one of Philmont's comfortable canvas tents for the length of your stay (Terrace Tents not available January thru March or October thru December due to weather at Philmont, and a fun variety of activities that you can do with your family*! Housing upgrades to the Deluxe Family Tent, Lodge Rooms, and Villa Bungalow Rooms are also available at an additional cost.

*Some Adventure Activities are regarded as an upgraded activity based on program support costs.
A Week at Family Adventure Camp

Here is a brief overview of what your stay will look like at the Philmont Training Center as part of BSA Family Adventure Camp. We will do our best to ensure your family has an adventure filled stay!

This schedule includes details for Full Week BSA Family Adventure (Sunday – Saturday), First Half Week Family Adventure Session (Sunday – Wednesday), and Second Half Week Family Adventure Session (Wednesday – Saturday).

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**Arrival & Check-In**

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**Sunday:**

Check-in for Family Adventure Full Week Session and 1st Half Week Session take place between **2:00pm and 4:00pm** at the Philmont Training Center. A Family Adventure Program Orientation begins at 4:30pm where you will learn about procedures and sign up for activities.

When you arrive to the Philmont Training Center, you will find the Welcome Wagon, where a member of Philmont’s staff will greet you and guide you to parking and check in. Check in is under the PTC Main Pavilion, where you will receive your nametag, weekly schedule, and lodging assignment.

Immediately following your check in, you will turn in your medical forms at our Medical Re-check station at the PTC Main Pavilion. From there you can move into your lodging and get ready for an adventure packed week!

At **4:30pm** Philmont staff will begin a Program Orientation for Family Adventure in the Assembly Hall. Following this orientation, your family will be able to peruse the
different activity options and sign up for items you would like to do. Philmont staff will be present to answer questions and give more details on each program.

The evening flag ceremony is held at 5pm followed by dinner. Occasionally, we will have two Dining Hall shifts to accommodate participant attendance. Please refer to your nametag for your assigned shift.

At 7:30pm, head to the PTC Program Bowl for the Opening Program, conducted by Philmont staff!

**Monday & Tuesday**

After breakfast, your family will meet the Philmont Program Staff on the Greensward (the grassy area southeast of the Villa Philmonte) at **8:15am** to attend the activity your family signed up for. Please be prepared for the activity that you are planning to do, as most program will begin by 8:30am.

Philmont staff will double check that you have the proper gear, and then lead you on your activity! Unless you and your family are on a full day adventure, you will return to the PTC before lunch around 11:30am.

Family Adventure afternoon activities will meet again at 1:15pm with Philmont Staff. Following your return around 4:30pm, we will have our flag ceremony and dinner. Every evening Philmont staffer will have a fun activity planned for you and your family to participate in – including Western Night, Cobbler Night, a Movie Night, and More!

**Wednesday:**

**First Half Week Family Adventure Participants**

On Wednesday morning, we have to say goodbye to our first half-week attendees. Breakfast will be available at normal times; this will be your last provided meal at Philmont. We ask that you please move out of your housing by **10:00am** and please stop by the Main Office to receive your medical forms and patch! If you are staying in a tent, please make sure you have all your items. If you are staying in the Deluxe Tents or roofed housing, please strip the beds and leave sheets and towels inside next to the door. First Half Week Participants are not able to participate in Wednesday morning Family Adventure Program.

**Full Week Participants**

Family Adventure Participants will meet the Philmont Program Staff on the Greensward at **8:15am** to attend the activity your family signed up for. Please be prepared for the activity that you are planning to do, as most program will begin by 8:30am.

Philmont staff will double check that you have the proper gear, and then lead you on your activity! Unless you and your family are on a full day adventure, you will return to the PTC before lunch around 11:30am.

Family Adventure afternoon activities will meet again at 1:15pm with Philmont Staff. Following your return around 4:30pm, we will have our flag ceremony and dinner. Every evening Philmont staff will have a fun activity planned for you and your family to participate in – including Western Night, Cobbler Night, and even a Movie Night!
Second Half Week Family Adventure Participants

Check-in for Family Adventure Full Week Session, 1st Half Week Session, and Training Center Conferences take place between **2:00pm and 4:00pm** at the Philmont Training Center. A Family Adventure Program Orientation begins at **4:30pm**.

When you arrive to the Philmont Training Center, you will find the Welcome Wagon, where a member of Philmont’s staff will greet you and guide you to parking and check in. Check in is under the PTC Main Pavilion, where you will receive your nametag, Family Adventure schedule, and lodging assignment.

Immediately following your check in, you will turn in your medical forms at our Medical Re-check station at the PTC Main Pavilion. From there you can move into your lodging and get ready for an adventure packed week!

At **4:30pm** Philmont staff will begin a Program Orientation in the Assembly Hall. Following this orientation, your family will be able to peruse the different activity options and sign up for items you would like to do on the Greensward lawn. Philmont staff will be present to answer questions and give more details on each program.

The evening flag ceremony is held at 5pm followed by dinner. Occasionally, we will have two Dining Hall shifts to accommodate participant attendance. Please refer to your nametag for your assigned shift.

At **7:30pm**, join in a fun welcoming activity, hosted by Philmont staff!

**Thursday & Friday:**

After breakfast, your family will meet the Philmont Program Staff on the Greensward (the grassy area southeast of the Villa Philmonte) at **8:15am** to attend the activity your family signed up for. Please be prepared for the activity that you are planning to do, as most program will begin by 8:30am.

Philmont staff will double check that you have the proper gear, and then lead you on your activity! Unless you and your family are on a full day adventure, you will return to the PTC before lunch around 11:30am.

Family Adventure afternoon activities will meet again at 1:15pm with Philmont Staff. Following your return around 4:30pm, we will have our flag ceremony and dinner. Every evening Philmont staff will have a fun activity planned for you and your family to participate in – including Western Night, Cobbler Night, a Movie Night, and More!

**Saturday:**

Saturday is time to pack up, say adios to your Philmont friends, and head home. Breakfast will be available at normal times; this will be your last meal provided by Philmont. We ask that you please move out of your housing by **10:00am** and please stop by the Main Office to receive your medical forms and patch! If you are staying in a tent, please make sure you have all your items. If you are staying in the Deluxe Tents or roofed housing, please strip beds and pile sheets and towels next to the door. Safe travels and see you next time!
Adventure Activity Descriptions

You will choose your main activities when you register online for BSA Family Adventure Camp. Additional program activities and options may be introduced when you arrive. Basecamp activities selections (hikes, museum tours, etc.) will be made at the Orientation Meeting after your arrival. The programs that we offer change based on the seasons and weather. We recommend discussing with your family your preferred highlights, so deciding your schedule upon arrival is fun and easy!

Personal backpacks will be needed to carry your personal gear on all hikes. Water, food, rain gear, and closed-toed shoes are all required to participate in hikes.

All Adventure Activities are Philmont staff-led unless otherwise specified. Hiking in Philmont’s backcountry without a Philmont staff member is not allowed.

Some Adventure Activities are regarded as an upgraded activity based on program support costs. These are marked with * in the descriptions below.

Hikes

Nature Trail Hike
Check out this easy 0.75-mile (1.5-mile roundtrip) Nature Trail right across from the Philmont Training Center! This is the only Philmont hike that is self-guided. Discover different plants and animals that live in this area and explore some of the science that makes our environment unique. More information and maps are available at the PTC office.

Please remember to bring:
- 1 liter of water
- Snack food
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen

North Ponil Dinosaur Hike
Philmont is home to one of only two confirmed Tyrannosaurus Rex footprints in the world! Charles Pillmore, a USGS research geologist, was mapping the North Ponil Canyon in 1983 and mentioned the possible dinosaur tracks in his field notes. In 1989, he shared the photos with Dr. Martin Lockley, dinosaur track specialist, and the confirmation occurred. Enjoy this easy, half day, 2.25-mile roundtrip hike in the North Country of Philmont.

Please remember to bring:
- 2-3 liters of water
- Snack food
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen
Lovers Leap Hike
Lovers Leap is an iconic Philmont spot. The 1.5-mile hike from Lover’s Turnaround to Lovers Leap has some elevation change, with the base of the canyon at 6,500 feet climbing to the jutting cliff face at 7,372 feet. Join us in visiting this ancient rock and discover the legend that gave it its name! This easy half-day, staff-led, 3-mile roundtrip hike contains some trail inclines and declines.

Please remember to bring:
- 2 liters of water
- Snack food
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen

Urraca Loop Trail Hike
If you are looking for a moderate trail to hike with your family, then the Urraca Loop Trail is for you! This staff-led, 3.5-mile loop focuses on the changing geology and fauna from the plains to the low hill region of Urraca Mesa.

Please remember to bring:
- 2-3 liters of water
- Snack food
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen

Philmont Reservoir Fishing
An exciting and unique experience, this easy 2.25-mile roundtrip hike will take you to the Philmont Reservoir, a gorgeous reservoir full of Rainbow trout. This staff-led hike and fishing experience will teach you how cast fly and spin rods. This ¾-day activity is meant to refresh and relax. Participants must have a New Mexico Fishing License, which can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders. Please note that while on Philmont property, fishing is catch and release with barbless hooks. Philmont will provide fishing rods and materials, though you are able to bring personal fishing gear.

Please remember to bring:
- 2-3 liters of water
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen
- New Mexico Fishing License
- Personal fishing gear (optional)
- Snack food – Philmont will provide a Trail-Meal Lunch
**Abreu Hike**
Head to Philmont’s South Country to hike to the homestead of the 1912 Abreu Family! Enjoy a **full day, 4-mile, easy** round-trip hike along the Rayado River. Check out the Wood Badge Museum at Zastrow, which hosts a large collection of Wood Badge memorabilia. Once at Abreu, take a cabin tour to learn about New Mexico homesteads. This hike will be hot, please be prepared for sun and bring plenty of water! If you wish to purchase root beer at the Abreu Cantina, please bring cash.

**Please remember to bring:**
- 2-3 liters of water
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen
- Snack food – Philmont will provide a Trail-Meal Lunch

**Hart Peak Hike**
This **moderate**, 5.5-mile roundtrip hike takes you up beyond the Ponil Backcountry camp and up to a beautiful view of Philmont’s North Country. Some gradual incline takes place as your reach at Hart Peak’s summit at 7,975 feet. When you are finished with your **full-day** hike, enjoy some Root Beer at Ponil’s Cantina before you head back to Base Camp. If you wish to purchase root beer at the Ponil Cantina, please bring cash.

**Please remember to bring:**
- 2-3 liters of water
- Rain gear
- Sunscreen
- Snack food – Philmont will provide a Trail-Meal Lunch

**Inspiration Point Hike**
Want to experience one of the most breathtaking 360-degree views at Philmont? Join us on a hike to Inspiration Point! You will start your journey to Inspiration Point at Lover’s Leap Turnaround, hike 2.5 miles up to one of our backcountry camps, Urraca, and then hike .75 miles up a steep trail to Inspiration Point. Upon your arrival at Inspiration Point, you will be greeted by a spectacular view of the Tooth of Time and the valleys where the Rockies meet the plains. This **all-day** hike is **strenuous** due to the significant elevation change within the distance of 6.5 miles roundtrip. This hike is led by Philmont Staff.

**Please remember to bring:**
- 3 liters of water
- Snack food – Philmont will provide a Trail-Meal Lunch
- Rain gear
- Extra layers (New Mexico weather likes to surprise us)
- Sunscreen

**Tooth of Time Hike***
The iconic Philmont Landmark will be available as an adventure activity option for 2020 Family Adventure Camp Full-Week participants! This **all-day, 5.25-mile roundtrip**, staff led hike is very **strenuous** due to the significant elevation change over short distance, a peak over 9,000 feet, strenuous rock scrambles needing both hand and foot support, and rough terrain. Participants should expect hot weather, minimal shade, and challenging terrain. **This hike will not be available during the Spring or Winter months due to hazards created by weather.**
BSA Medicals parts A, B, and C will be required for this hike, and children must be 6 years or older to participate.

There are a limited number of slots available for this hike, and due to the acclimation time of this elevation, Philmont will be offering this hike for full-week participants on the last three days of the week. When you arrive to your Philmont Family Adventure Camp, we will have a Medical Recheck team set up to go over your BSA Medical Parts A, B, and C.

**Please remember to bring:**
- 4 liters of water
- Snack food – Philmont will provide a Trail-Meal Lunch
- Rain gear
- Extra layers (New Mexico weather likes to surprise us)
- Sunscreen

The Tooth of Time Hike will have an additional program cost of **$25 per person**.

**Other Activities**

*Some Adventure Activities are regarded as an upgraded activity based on program support costs. These are marked as * in the descriptions below.*

**Shooting Sports***

Check out the shooting sports range here at Philmont! Families will have a chance to experience: Slingshots*, Archery*, BB guns¹, Tomahawks⁰, Rifle⁰*, and Sporting Clays⁰*. Shooting Sports are broken into an hour and a half session, with 3 specialties available each session.

*Denotes program where participants must be 5 years old with a parent to try this activity
¹Denotes program where participants must be 7 years old or in the 1st grade to try this activity
⁰Denotes program that is Scouts BSA aged, participants must be 10 years old and completed the 5th grade to try this activity

Shooting Sports will have an additional program cost of $10 per person, per session for those who wish to shoot Rifle or Shotguns. Slingshots, Archery, BB Guns, and Tomahawks are available during scheduled sessions at no cost.
**Climbing Wall and High Ropes**
Rock Climbing and High Ropes will include high ropes, crate stacking, and the rock-climbing wall. There is a 30-person cap per session, with high ropes and crate stacking sessions to have 16 participants. Rock climbing will be available during these times for the remaining 14 participants. Please check the age requirements for these elements. Long pants are recommended for the climbing wall activities and this program is a **half-day** activity.

*Denotes program where participants must be 5 years old with a parent to try this activity

⁰Denotes program that is Scouts BSA aged, participants must be 10 years old and finished the 5th grade to try this activity.

The Climbing Wall and High Ropes will have an additional program cost of **$25 per person**.

**Horseback Riding**
For families interested in learning about life in the saddle of a Northern New Mexico cowboy, you can make the **half-day** trip to Cattle Headquarters. There, wranglers will introduce saddles and tack before taking the group on a trail ride. For the safety of the rider and the horse, there is a 200-pound weight limit and minimum of 24” inseam for all riders, with youth required to be 8 years or older. Buddy riding is not allowed at Philmont. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are **required** for horseback riding. This activity will have a cap for 15 people per ride.

Horseback Riding will have an additional program cost of **$35 per person**.

For families with younger or smaller children, the Philmont Training Center Pony Barn and Animal Farm will be open during specific times of the day. Children with less than 24” inseam or up to 10 years old are able to ride the ponies, guided by the PTC Pony Wrangler. Parents please accompany your children and experience this special time. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are **required**. Small Fry participants will have their own reserved pony ride times. The Animal Farm is open when Pony Rides are open, come meet some farm friends!

**Fly Tying and Casting**
Hosted by Philmont staff, learn how to tie a fly and how to cast a fly rod at the Philmont Training Center, then take your skills out to the Philmont Reservoir.

Fly Tying will have an additional program cost of **$10 per person**.

**Genevieve’s Villa Tea**
Sit back and relax on the Villa Front Porch as you take in the beauty of Philmont while sipping tea and learning more about the Phillip’s family history and meeting new friends.

Villa Tea will have an additional program cost of **$10 per person**.
Gardening at the Villa Philmonte
Take a tour of southwestern gardens with our Villa Gardener. Enjoy learning new things about the flora of the southwest and, if time allows, maybe you’ll get your hands dirty.

Kit Carson Rayado Tour
The Kit Carson Museum at Rayado in Philmont’s southeast corner (seven miles south of the Training Center) is a living history museum that houses exhibits and artifacts pertaining to life on the Santa Fe Trail and the lives of mountain men Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell. The interpretive museum staff will show families through the display areas and blacksmith shop.

Chase Ranch Tour
The Chase Ranch, founded in 1869, was owned and operated by the Chase family for over 143 years. The historic adobe ranch house offers a glimpse of ranch life starting around the time of the Colfax County land grant war, through the territorial and statehood periods into modern times. This ranch and the Chase family were instrumental in transforming western ranching into what it is today. During the summer months, staff offer guided tours of the main house, grounds, orchards, and tack room.

Villa Philmonte Tour
Philmont benefactor Waite Phillips’ summer home, the Villa Philmonte, is open each day for tours. Family Adventure Camp will have specific tours assigned to this program.

National Scouting Museum
Newly opened in 2018, experience the National Scouting Museum! This self-guided activity is a great opportunity to learn about the rich, 100-plus year history of the Scouting movement with collections of some of Scouting’s greatest treasures. This collection not only documents Scouting’s unique influence on American culture but also tells the story of a movement that has positively affected the lives of more than 110 million young people.

Craft Center*
The open program format at the Craft Center allows you to show up for instruction for any of the craft activities offered including the chance to work with ceramics, wearable art (clothing and accessories), leathercraft, stamp art, Southwestern crafts, and home decor.

Please note for half-week families, we will be unable to glaze ceramics and throw pottery for you to take home due to the short time frame.

Craft Center activities are an additional purchase, based on what craft you’d like to make ranging for $0-$50.
**Small Fry Services**
The only age-specific care provided during Philmont Family Adventure Camp, Small-Fry, will be open to watch children from 2 months to 4 years old. Parents may leave their children during adventure activities. During normal working hours, they may be left for your time preference as determined by your schedule. A daily rate of **$40 per day** will be assessed for Small Fry Services. Care is provided by trained Philmont staff according to your instructions. At the Small Fry Center, the staff provide activities, games, crafts, pony rides, and supervised play during adventure activity times. If riding ponies, all children are required to wear long pants and closed-toed shoes.

Parents of Small Fry need to bring all essential items (bottles, sweaters, diapers, etc.) with their child. Labels should be placed on these items with their name and your housing assignment.

If your family wishes to do a full-day hike, please let the Small Fry Center staff know, so they are prepared to watch your child during lunch time. This service is only available for the full-day hike. Please plan to check your children in before 8:15am and pick up by 11:20am for morning sessions and check in before 1:15pm and pick up by 4:20pm for afternoon activities.

**Other Trips**
Although the Philmont Family Adventure Camp program offers a packed schedule for families to enjoy the outdoors together, it should be noted that you are not required to attend all scheduled events. You may choose to shop at the Tooth of Time Traders, visit the National Scouting Museum, catch a glimpse of Philmont's trekking operation, enjoy an ice cream cone from the Cantina, or explore the surrounding areas such as Cimarron, Eagle Nest, Angle Fire, and Taos.

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**Health and Medical Record**

Philmont Scout Ranch is located at 6,600 feet elevation. Humidity is low, so visitors should drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration. Persons who are overweight, out of shape, or who have health concerns should consult a physician before coming to Philmont. Some Philmont program activities are strenuous, and families should discuss abilities before arriving for program.

The Training Center dining halls and classrooms are wheelchair accessible, as are several tent platforms and roofed housing units. Please notify the Philmont Training Center in advance during the registration process, or email us at Philmont.TrainingCenter@scouting.org, if you require a wheelchair-accessible housing or tenting unit. Due to limited resources, you must provide your own wheelchair. Unfortunately, wheelchair transportation is not available.

**Medical Forms**

Parts A, B, and C are needed for participants in:
- National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience
- Philmont Leadership Challenge
- Philmont Sneak Peak
- Family Adventure Camp Full Week Participants wishing to do the Tooth of Time Hike (summer only).
- KODIAK Challenge at Philmont

Parts A and B are needed for participants in:
- Philmont Family Adventure Camp
- Training Center Conferences
- Fall & Winter Retreats (unless otherwise specified)

As part of the check-in process, all forms will be reviewed by the on-duty Health Officer and will be kept on file at the Philmont Infirmary until the end of the week, when they will be returned. Please do not send or mail your health forms in advance of your arrival.

Please bring any necessary medication (such as asthma inhalers, bee sting kits, or other needs) as these items may not be locally available.

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**Philmont Weight Limits for Backcountry Participation**

Under no circumstance will any individual over 295 lbs. be allowed to participate in backcountry programs, regardless of height or age. This limit is necessary due to limitations of rescue equipment and the safety of Philmont personnel.

An individual should always contact their physician first and call Philmont at (575) 376 - 2281 if there is a question about the advisability of participation. Philmont’s chief medical officer and other medical staff of the Philmont Infirmary reserve the right to make medical decisions regarding the participation of individuals at Philmont.
**What Should We Bring?**

Living at Philmont for a week will be an outdoor adventure for the whole family! In choosing clothing and equipment, please keep in mind Philmont’s elevation (6,600 ft.). Traditional summer weather consists of warm days (70°s to high 80°s), cool nights (30°s to low 50°s), and rainy afternoons.

The following is a basic equipment list for **each** member of your family:

- Pillow
- Sleeping bag*, and/or sheets, blankets
- Towel and washcloth
- Breathable clothing for warm days and cool evenings
- Warm sleeping garments
- Walking/hiking shoes* or boots* (required for all backcountry activities)
- Hiking Daypack*/School backpack (required for all backcountry activities)
- Rain jacket and rain pants (required for all backcountry activities)*
- Jacket*
- Long pants (required for horseback riding)*
- Three 1-Liter water bottles or a 3-L water bladder (required for all backcountry activities)*
- Hat or cap*
- Medical Forms (required for all activities)
- Camera*
- Flashlight*
- Sunscreen* (required for all backcountry activities)
- Insect repellent*
- Extra batteries* for cameras and flashlights*
- Scout uniforms (for Training Conference Attendees)*

- If you have confirmed specialty housing, Philmont will provide bedding and towels during your stay.
- A Terrace Tent Bed in a Box is available to rent per week. Philmont provided bedding for one includes: Pillow, pillowcase, mattress cover, premium cotton sheets, and blanket. Also, a bath mat, face towel, and large towel are included.

*These items can be purchased at the Tooth of Time Traders.