

## Philmont's 2021 COVID-19 Supplemental Risk Advisory

Philmont Scout Ranch has developed a detailed COVID-19 operating and mitigation plan to ensure the highest level of COVID-19 safe practices and procedures. The BSA has safely served over 18,000 participants at Sea Base, Northern Tier and the Summit, and Philmont has hosted over 4,000 participants, staff and visitors since the beginning of the pandemic. We recognize the vital importance of outdoor experiences to support our mental and physical well-being. Crew preparation during shakedowns is now even more critical, to build confidence and support a level of physical fitness needed to thrive in our beautiful wilderness.

The high elevations participants experience at Philmont Scout Ranch, (6,500 ft base camp to 12,441 feet Baldy Mountain), provide a unique and challenging experience in a COVID-19 world. Several symptoms caused by exertion at high elevation are also very similar with symptoms of COVID-19, including headaches, shortness of breath, coughing, fatigue and muscle and body aches.

Philmont is constantly reviewing and updating risk advisories and COVID-19 mitigation and operating plans based on CDC guidelines and the State of New Mexico Public Health Orders.

*Philmont's Infirmary Task Force notes that new information about the after-effects from COVID-19 infection is emerging almost daily. With that in mind, Philmont Scout Ranch has the following advisories.*

- 1. Philmont requires that anyone who has been hospitalized for COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic, or who exhibits persistent symptoms following a COVID-19 infection, should consult with their primary care provider and MUST be cleared for high levels of exertion at high elevations or not attend Philmont in 2021.—Signed "Return to Activity" waiver from primary care provider required.*
- 2. Philmont recommends that participants who had a POSITIVE COVID-19 Test or COVID-19 illness, regardless of severity, within six (6 ) months of scheduled arrival at Philmont should be cleared for high levels of exertion at high elevations by their primary care provider to attend Philmont.*
- 3. Philmont recommends that individuals considered high risk by current CDC guidelines for serious complications from COVID-19 infection be vaccinated for COVID-19 at least 6 weeks before their arrival date. Any "high-risk" participants or staff should consult their primary care provider about living and participating in activities in a high elevation environment and be cleared for participation in Philmont programs.*