

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

COVID-19 Update: 5/17/2021



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We are pleased to share that the state of New Mexico is in support of our operations and programming this summer, within the New Mexico Public Health Order, NM Summer Camp Youth Guidelines and the CDC's Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camp Programs during COVID-19. This is exciting news, but also brings with it the highest degree of responsibility by each individual setting foot on the property, and potential devastating consequences if our mitigation efforts fail to prevent significant spread, both in the health of those affected, and in the summer operations of Philmont. To be clear, an event leading to significant spread, or multiple smaller events could result in the state of New Mexico shutting down part or most of our operations for two weeks, or the entire summer.

The state of New Mexico has required us to inform each of you that Philmont is considered a "high-risk youth camp setting". This is because Philmont brings campers, leaders, guests, and staff from all areas of the country, who must then travel to our remote location. Philmont's activities take place at a higher elevation than where most of our guests live, and thus, many of our participants will show similar symptoms of COVID-19. These include cough, headache, muscle and body aches, shortness of breath, dizziness, and aching joints. Philmont Scout Ranch has printed additional information for those in the CDC categories of "high risk" for COVID-19 infection, in a Supplemental Risk Advisory.

Additionally, we are requiring that all participants arrive after having reviewed and agreed to the forms linked below. These include a Pre-Screening, Consent and Code of Conduct. Each piece of required supplemental documentation can be found by visiting:

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/covid-19-mitigation/>

Please see a breakdown of our primary safety precautions below.

It is critically important that we take every action outlined and available to lower the risk of COVID-19 spread. These actions include:

- Getting vaccinated when eligible (Philmont requires a proof of vaccination or a negative test upon arrival) The Pfizer vaccine is now available for 12-15 year olds.
- Staying home when sick or having symptoms of COVID-19 (Full list available in pre-travel screening instructions).
- Universal and correct use of well-fitting masks that cover the nose and mouth. (CDC approved, no gaiters or bandanas—BSA T-Shirt rules apply—no masks with political statements, agendas, profanity, innuendoes, etc.)
- Physical distancing including cohorting—New Mexico standards are groups of 15 or less.
- Handwashing and covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Engage in outdoor activities whenever possible and increased ventilation of indoor spaces.
- Cleaning and disinfecting to maintain safe, healthy facilities.

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- Contact tracing of confirmed cases, combined with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the NM Health Department.
- All guests must agree to participate in surveillance testing, if selected, as required by the New Mexico Health Department. While surveillance testing will primarily be focused towards the Philmont staff, it can include testing of participants as well.

COVID-19 Mitigation Detailed Highlights for those traveling to Philmont Scout Ranch

- All guests arriving at Philmont are expected to bring one of two verifications:
 1. Proof of vaccination completed two weeks prior to arrival OR
 2. Documented negative test results within three days but no more than seven days prior to arrival. Most state health departments offer free testing, medical providers will charge to insurance, in all other cases an over-the-counter rapid test will be accepted.
- Once testing is complete in your home state, please isolate and quarantine until travel. Remember, any positive case brought to Philmont can cause you/and or your cohort to be refused entrance, isolated, or even quarantined for the duration of your stay at the ranch.
- Use all available travel mitigation protocols to arrive at Philmont. They include answering travel pre-screening questions and adherence to COVID-19 travel recommendations. These can be found on the CDC website.
- Upon arrival, stay in your vehicles until our friendly welcome center staff greet you. You will be screened again and may be subject to surveillance testing at the Welcome Center. Remember, any positive test could result in a request to leave the property, or quarantine.
- Once on site, stay in your cohort, concentrate on distancing from others and follow all Philmont, state of New Mexico and CDC guidelines for operating a youth summer camp.

Additional Information for Trail Bound Crews

- You will stay in your cohort group throughout your Philmont experience
- Masks will be worn in base camp, except when eating, or alone.
- Trail bound cohorts will eat in their campsites and all bear protocols will be followed for disposal of trash and food.
- Trail bound cohorts will be assigned a time to shop for essentials in the Tooth of Time Traders.
- Philmont will provide a shuttle to Cimarron for all home bound crews. Trail bound crews/cohorts may not ride the bus into Cimarron until after their trek.
- Trail bound cohorts will have a specified time to tour the National Scouting Museum
- Trail bound cohorts must choose one religious service to attend, or participate in an "all scouts service" in their campsite.



Additional Information for Individual Program Participants

All individual programs, including NAYLE, OATC, ROCS, Ranch Hands, Trail Crew Trek, STEM and Rayado Men and Rayado Women bring an added level of mitigation for two reasons. First, many participants are unaccompanied minors, who may not have had the time prior to arriving at Philmont to secure a vaccine. Second, the cohorts formed upon arrival, have not traveled together from the same geographic location. As a result of these added risks, the additional mitigation procedures have been put into place:

- All individual participants who have not received a vaccination must test negative before leaving home (if positive stay home!) under the same requirements mentioned earlier.
- All vaccinated individual participants will be allowed to arrive on site, prior to their arrival date. Those arriving with negative tests may not arrive earlier unless they are NAYLE participants, under the supervision of NAYLE staff.
- If an individual trek or program participant tests positive at any time during their stay, they will be placed in isolation and a parent or guardian must be available and agree to travel to Philmont by car within 72 hours of contact, to pick up the participant in quarantine. A review and agreement of this policy can be agreed to by clicking [here](#).

Additional Information for Philmont Training Center Participants

- The Philmont Training Center will fall under applicable sections of the REOPEN New Mexico protocols.
- All Training Center participants 12 years and older arriving at Philmont are expected to bring one of two verifications:
 - Documented negative test results within three days but no more than seven days prior to arrival OR proof of vaccination completed two weeks prior to arrival.
- Dining hall, conference rooms and all programming activities will follow the maximum allowance for room and group size based on the "red to turquoise" framework outlined in the New Mexico public health order.
- The Philmont Training Center is deemed a public area, and thus masks will be always worn by those 5 and older when around other participants and staff.
- If standards are relaxed within New Mexico we will make changes accordingly and in collaboration with the NM Department of Health.

Anyone not complying with any element of the mitigation plan will be asked to leave the property immediately, and no refund will be issued. With your cooperation, preparedness and adherence to the Scout Oath and Law, Philmont will deliver wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime.

LEARN MORE AT

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PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH COVID-19 Update: 5/1/2021



Philmont is continuing to uphold strong safety measures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. We thank you for your due diligence as we strive to keep all of our participants and staff safe this summer. The following measures are currently in place.

COVID-19 testing prior to arrival: **Required**

All participants arriving on 6/6/2021 and later will be required to provide proof upon screening. Vaccination for COVID-19 will be accepted in lieu of negative test.

(See Philmont COVID-19 Testing Requirements for more specifics)

Operating Status of Colfax County: **Turquoise**

Link to state of New Mexico Department of Health:

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/red-to-green/>

Breakdown of primary precautions:

Requirement	Status	Details
Masks	Required	Multi-layered, tight fitting, reusable, covers nose & mouth
Distancing and Cohorts	Required	6' physical distancing from those outside cohort groups
Arrival Screening	Required	Screening questionnaire & temperature check upon arrival
Pre-Arrival Testing	Required	Negative PCR or antigen test results not more than 7 days old upon arrival
Pre-Travel Screening and Quarantine	Required	Crew itineraries tracked & follow up communication sent
Contact Tracing	Active	Pre-travel symptoms checklist, self-quarantine prior to travel

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