

RISK ADVISORY - PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH

Philmont has an excellent health and safety record with over 840,000 adults and young people having attended since 1938. Philmont strives to minimize risks to participants and advisors by emphasizing proper safety precautions. Most participants in Philmont programs do not experience injuries because they are prepared, are conscious of risks, and take safety precautions. If you decide to attend Philmont, you should be physically fit, have proper clothing and equipment, be willing to follow instructions and work as a team with your crew and take responsibility for your own health and safety. For further information please thoroughly read the *Guidebook to Adventure* which will be mailed in mid-March. Like other wilderness areas, Philmont is not risk free and you should be prepared to listen to safety instructions carefully, follow directions and take appropriate steps to safeguard yourself and others.

Parents, guardians and potential participants in Philmont programs are advised that journeying to and from Philmont, and one's stay at Philmont, can involve exposure to accident, illness, and/or injury associated with a high elevation, physically demanding, high adventure program in a remote mountainous area. Campers may be exposed to occasional severe weather conditions such as lightning, hail, flash floods and heat. Other potential problems include: injuries from tripping and falling, motor vehicle accidents, worsening of underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma, heart attacks, heat exhaustion and falls from horses.

Philmont's trails are steep and rocky. Wild animals such as bears, rattlesnakes and mountain lions are native and usually present little danger if proper precautions are taken. Please refer to the *Guidebook to Adventure*, speak with previous Philmont participants, or call Philmont for further information concerning risks and measures which can be taken to avoid accidents.

Philmont has staff trained in first aid, CPR and accident prevention, and is prepared to assist in recognizing, reacting, and responding to accidents, injuries and illnesses. Each crew is also required to have at least one member trained in first aid and CPR. Medical and search and rescue services are provided by Philmont in response to an accident or emergency. However, response times can be affected by location, weather or other emergencies and could be delayed six (6) or more hours.

PHILMONT WEIGHT LIMITS FOR BACKPACKING & HIKING

Each participant in a Philmont trek must not exceed the maximum acceptable limit in the weight for height chart shown below. The right hand column shows the maximum acceptable weight for a person's height in order to participate in a Philmont trek. Those who fall within the limits are more likely to have an enjoyable trek and avoid incurring health risks. Every Philmont trek involves hiking with a 35-50 lb. backpack 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.

Participants 21 years and older who exceed the maximum acceptable weight limit for their height at the Philmont medical recheck, will not be permitted to backpack or hike at Philmont. For example, a person 5'10" cannot weigh more than 226 lbs.

For participants under 21 years of age who exceed the maximum acceptable weight for height, the Philmont physicians will use their best professional judgment in determining participation in a Philmont trek. Participants under 21 years of age are strongly encouraged to meet the weight limit for their height. Exceptions are not made automatically and the maximum allowable exception will be 20 lbs. Discussion in advance with Philmont regarding any exception to the weight limit for persons under 21 years of age is required, whether it is over or under.

The maximum weight for any participant in a Cavalcade Trek and for horse rides is 200 lbs.

HEIGHT	RECOMMENDED WEIGHT (lbs.)	MAXIMUM ACCEPTANCE
5'0"	97 - 138	166
5'1"	101-143	172
5'2"	104-148	178
5'3'	107-152	183
5'4"	111-157	189
5'5"	114-162	195
5'6"	118-167	201

HEIGHT	RECOMMENDED WEIGHT (lbs.)	MAXIMUM ACCEPTANCE
5'7"	121-172	207
5'8"	125-178	214
5'9"	129-185	220
5'10"	132-188	226
5'11"	136-194	233
6'0"	140-199	239
6'1"	144-205	246

HEIGHT	RECOMMENDED WEIGHT (lbs.)	MAXIMUM ACCEPTANCE'
6'2"	148-210	252
6'3"	152-216	260
6'4"	156-222	267
6'5"	160-228	274
6'6"	164-234	281
6'7" & over	170-240	295

Under no circumstances will any individual over 295 lbs be allowed to participate in backcountry program.

This table is based on the revised Dietary Guidelines for Americans from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Health & Human Services.