

2026 Bay Lakes Council Philmont Contingent

Have you been thinking about a Philmont Trek? Now is the time to sign up for the 2026 Bay Lakes Council Philmont Contingent!

What is it? Every year, the council reserves a number of spots at Philmont. This means that your unit does not need to find a complete crew with adult leadership and hope to get assigned a crew in the yearly lottery. All you need is to sign up yourself, or yourself and a buddy or two, (with or without an adult leader). You will be assigned a crew with like-minded adventurers from around the council. An orientation meeting will be held in December for the entire contingent, and after that crews will hold monthly meetings to get to know each other, pick their itinerary, and prepare for the trek.

What is an itinerary? Philmont Scout Ranch covers 250,000 acres and it is impossible to see it all in one trip. Each crew chooses a specific itinerary that includes your route, campsites, and activities along the way. You will have a chance to explore the wonderful back country of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Cimarron, New Mexico. You will also have a chance to experience living history at the original lodges and homesteads on the property with staff in period dress. You will participate in Scouting activities beyond the confines of summer camp such as rock climbing in the mountains, horseback riding through meadows, blacksmithing before exploring a gold mine, or climbing high mountain peaks (up to 12,441 feet), and the list goes on.

When is it? The contingent will depart Saturday, July 11, 2026, to travel by coach bus, Amtrak train, and shuttle bus to base camp. You will spend 11 days and 10 nights at Philmont, then arrive back home on Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Who can go? The Council contingent is open to registered male and female youth and adults. Youth must be at least 14 years of age or 13 and have completed 8th grade by the time their trek begins.

How much does it cost? The contingent budget is \$2,345 which includes all travel, the Philmont fee, and (2) contingent class B quick dry t-shirts. A \$500 deposit will secure your spot in the contingent, with remaining payments to be made in October, December, February and April.

Why sign up now? Spaces are currently available, but you will want to sign up soon in order to secure your spot in contingent. All spots will be filled on a first come basis, but unused spots may have to be turned in for other Councils to use. Philmont is truly "Scouting Paradise" -- an adventure you will not want to miss.

To sign up, complete the registration and mail your \$500 deposit to the Council Service Center (PO BOX 267, Appleton WI 54912) and the Council coordinator will be in touch with you with further details. Adult leaders, please pass this on to youth and parents in your unit. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Dold (920-915-6309) or Corey Davis at the BLC Scout office (920-734-5705).