FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS and ANSWERS FOR LEADER APPLICATIONS

When will EXACT expedition dates for each Philmont Expedition be known?

The dates AT Philmont are definite and the overall dates are based on Old North State Council High Adventure Committee Philmont Expedition procedures used in the past. Final dates will be decided by the selected advisers and approved by the ONSC HAC during the ONSC National High Adventure Leaders Seminar in the late spring or summer of the year prior to the expedition. Unless unforeseen problems occur with transportation, the overall expedition dates on the application should be correct and used for initial planning purposes.

What are the minimum requirements and what criteria are the ONSC HAC looking for?

The MINIMUM requirements are listed on the Adult Application, and must be met prior to participation. Previous completion of the minimum training requirements is considered in the selection process.

The ONSC HAC is also looking for and considers the following in the selection process:

- Several years experience as a leader in a Boy Scout troop or Venture crew, attending a majority of the unit’s meetings, activities, and especially outdoor events.
- Past participation in long term high adventure activities with your unit.
- Experience working with youth leaders and advising a youth planned and led activity.
- Past First Aid training and CPR/AED. Previous certification allows “refresher courses” to obtain certification in advance of the expedition. Current BSA authorized Wilderness First Aid certification must be completed PRIOR to the expedition, preferably in the fall of the year before the expedition.
- Completion of other Scout training opportunities and certifications. Examples are: Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Aquatics Supervisor, health and safety courses, Leave No Trace camping, etc. are encouraged.

Why do some ONSC HAC requirements exceed BSA National High Adventure Base standards?

ONSC HAC sponsored expeditions are council contingents consisting of members from multiple units. Completion of the training courses assures that all adults are aware of the BSA and ONSC HAC policies, procedures and guidelines and that all crews operate under these. This is especially important when members of a crew come from multiple units that may be doing some things differently during unit activities.

The requirement that ALL adult leaders meet the first aid training requirements is simply good risk management by having more trained participants in these areas. This requirement is to ensure that someone is available if one of the trained adults is the one needing care, or if the crew needed to divide into two groups during an emergency.

None of the ONSC HAC requirements are different from what a well prepared unit should already have completed for its own high adventure activities.

What is the minimum and maximum number of adults selected for each expedition and is there a limit on the number of adults from a particular unit?

There can be no definite answer to this since it varies by number of youth and adult applications for a particular expedition. Generally, the following numbers of leaders are selected.

- Two or three adults over 21 years old are initially selected per crew. If there are enough qualified adult applicants, the ONSC HAC will normally initially select 3 adults per crew.
- For larger expeditions with 36 or more members, a contingent leader may be selected in addition to the two to three adults per crew. This individual would be a part of one crew and replace any adults that drop out of any crew as necessary.
- If available spaces are not filled by youth applicants prior to the established deadline, additional adults on the waiting list may be added up to the maximum number allowed by Philmont (4 in full crew of 12, and majority of crew must be youth under 21). Minimum size of a crew is seven participants with at least 2 adults.
- There is no limit on the number of adults per unit, but final selection will be based on qualifications and how many total participants come from each unit.

When are adult selections completed?

Generally, the initial (2 to 3 per crew) and contingent adult leader selections with official notification are completed within thirty days of the April 15th deadline on the applications or mid-May of the year prior to the
expedition. Additional adults on the waiting list will generally know their chance of full participation in mid-October of the year prior to the expedition.

How are applicants, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one, considered in the adult selection process?

Since the BSA High Adventure bases are for Boy Scouts and Venturers, applicants in this age bracket at time of participation ARE PRIMARY CONSIDERED AS YOUTH MEMBERS regardless of BSA registration status, and should submit a YOUTH application, which will greatly increase their chance of selection. This does not mean that they could not serve as the second adult for a crew, if necessary, to meet minimum two-deep leadership requirements at Philmont or during the trip to and from the base.

If an expedition member between 18 and 21 years of age is going to serve as the second adult advisor, they will be expected to complete the first aid training requirements, including Wilderness First Aid, which can be taken in March of the year of the expedition since they should know they are going to be the second adult prior to that time.

With recent changes in BSA policy ALL expedition participants between 18 and 21 years of age will have been required to submit an Adult Application and to complete a Youth Protection training course. In addition, for an ONSC Philmont Expedition they will have to complete, and be currently certified through the last day of the expedition, BOTH on-line Youth Protection training courses: Y01 and Y02.

How much are the leader fees and what is the adult payment schedule?

LEADER FEES and the PAYMENT SCHEDULE ARE THE SAME AS FOR YOUTH, since national bases do not offer free or reduced rates for adults, like most Scout camps. A $200.00 deposit is required with the application, which is refundable if you are not selected. There are no “scholarships” available to cover leader fees, but if a child of the leader is attending they may apply for a scholarship to help cover the family’s expenses.

How are Philmont crews formed and adults assigned?

ONSC Philmont expeditions will ideally operate at the MAXIMUM crew size of 12. This is done to maximize the number of youth participants, while having at least two-deep adult leadership over 21 years of age, with three adults preferred. AFTER UNIT MEMBERS ARE GROUPED TOGETHER, every attempt is made to group the crew as close together by district, or geographically, as possible. If someone is added off the waiting list after initial crew formation, they will be assigned to the crew that lost a member.

Can COED VENTURE CREWS participate on ONSC Philmont expeditions?

YES, if they participate as part of a coed crew within the council expedition that meets the requirements below.

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**"Coed Venturing Crews are required to provide coed leadership while en route to and from … the High Adventure Base and while… at the base…. A Coed Venturing crew must have at least one male advisor and at least one female advisor, each of whom must be at least 21 years of age. Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility. Male and female advisors are required to have separate sleeping facilities. Married couples serving as adult advisors may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available. Female advisors will be responsible for the female participants; male advisors will be responsible for the male participants."**

This means that if a coed venturing crew or provisional combined* crew can provide male and female leadership (over 21 years of age) that meets the ONSC HAC adviser guidelines then a coed crew could and is welcome to participate in an Old North State Council Philmont Expedition. The qualified and experienced coed leadership especially the female adviser should be secured, including submitting male and female adviser applications, prior to submitting applications for female youth participants.

*If an individual Venture Crew cannot provide a male and female advisor over 21 years old, female youth can still participate if the crew can provide the female advisor over 21. In these cases, it is strongly preferred that at least 2 youth females participate, unless it is a daughter/mother combination for logistical tenting and room arrangements. It is logical that multiple coed venture crews should work together in securing the appropriate coed leadership.

Does participation in past national high adventure trips affect future consideration for participation?

Past experience is NOT required, but is considered, when selecting contingent leaders, and crew advisors. First time participants may be assigned as contingent leaders, crew advisors or assistant crew advisors depending on applications received and past experience. In fact, experienced advisors often serve as mentors to first time
advisors who actually fill the crew advisor’s role. It is the desire of the National High Adventure Bases and the ONSC HAC to give as many adults as possible the opportunity to participate in a national high adventure expedition and not send the same people over and over again. But, one or more adults with past experience is beneficial, especially for large expeditions with multiple crews.

Philmont Policy prohibits units from participating in consecutive years, and ONSC will not select leaders who participated the previous year with their unit or on a council expedition.

How does my child’s, or other unit member’s, participation affect my chances of selection?

Since participation by MULTIPLE troop or crew members on an expedition can form a strong crew, or nucleus of a crew, they will be kept together as a unit with their own leadership, whenever possible, up to the initial maximum of three leaders per crew. Participation of MULTIPLE unit members, especially youth members, will be seriously considered in the leader selection process. If other factors are equal or close to equal, a leader or leaders with multiple youth members will receive consideration proportional to the number of youth participants, including their children who have submitted applications and paid deposits for the particular expedition.

Parent/child pairings on an expedition provides a great experience for both and will be considered as much as possible, but will not be one of the most important considerations in the leader selection process. It would primarily be a “tie breaker” if all other factors were equal or close to equal.

Our unit has enough participants to fill all or most of a 12-person crew. How will we operate during the expedition?

You will be considered as one of the crews in the expedition, and will be kept together. Since you are part of a council contingent you must travel to and from Philmont as part of the overall expedition. Of course while at Philmont each crew selects their activities and itinerary. If your unit does not have enough participants to completely fill a 12-person crew, you will have additional participants added to reach the 12-person maximum.

How are tenure and experience considered in the application process?

While these criteria are important in establishing an experience rating of LOW, MEDIUM or HIGH, they do not increase the rating score significantly. For example, ten years of tenure and ten past trips does not carry twice the rating of five years and five trips. Both candidates in this case would probably receive a HIGH rating if the past trips were comparable.

Previous experience on long term (5 days and 4 nights or greater) trips with Scouts or similar youth groups is one of the most important criteria considered in the selection process.

How many meetings and training trips will be required?

This will vary by expedition, previous training level, and the individual crew. In general, you can expect the following:
- Attendance at the MANDATORY National High Adventure Leader’s Training in the late spring to early fall of the year prior to your expedition. Dates for this training are on the Adult Application.
- One or more expedition meetings with parents and participants.
- Expedition leader meetings, as required.
- Crew meetings and training sessions, including MULTIPLE SHAKEDOWN TRIPS, especially for Philmont. These will be needed for physical training, and most importantly, team building for the crew.

How and when do I register for any additional training required?

The individual adviser is responsible for registering and covering the cost of the required training, except for the National High Adventure Leader’s Seminar conducted by the ONSC HAC.

DETAILS ON FIRST AID, ADULT CPR, AND WFA TRAINING:
These should be completed as soon as possible, preferably the year prior to your expedition so you will be certified before crew training activities start. Many ONSC conducted courses fill up quickly so do not wait to get your certification course completed.

The ONSC currently offers at least two WFA course a year one in the spring and one in the fall. It is strongly recommended that Philmont participants participate in the fall course the year prior to the expedition. This will allow the training to be completed prior to most training activities.
Current certification in standard first aid and adult CPR/AED are prerequisites for ONSC sponsored ECSI Wilderness First Aid course, so they need to be completed prior to the course. These courses may be taken through the council ECSI, American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or another nationally recognized agency. If you have questions about your certification contact the ONSC HAC. Many of our local community colleges offer the Standard First Aid, CPR, and AED courses at a reasonable cost.

What type of physical examinations and medical forms will be required for the Philmont Expedition?

For the Philmont Expedition, you will need a physical examination by a physician or other authorized medical professional within 12 months of the last day of the expedition (6 to 9 months is preferred). THIS MUST BE DOCUMENTED AND SUBMITTED ON THE ORIGINAL COPIES OF PART A, B & C OF The BSA Annual Health and Medical Record. You will also need to download Part D Philmont Risk Advisory and share it with the medical professional before they conduct the examination.

For training activities with your Philmont Crew that will begin in the summer or fall of 2018, you will be required to have a current physical exam within the past 12 months of Parts A, B, & C of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record. This must include Part C, which requires a physical examination within 12 months of the date of the activity that is signed by an authorized health care provider. You may provide your Philmont advisors a copy of the form on file with your unit. After your Philmont physical examination, a copy of the Philmont Physical Form will meet the Health and Medical Record requirement.

The ONSC HAC expects that most Philmont applicants will already be familiar with the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record forms, since their unit should already be using them. If you have not seen the new forms you can pick up a copy from the ONSC office or download the form from the council website at www.bsaonsc.org. Be sure to download Part D as well since it has additional information and the Philmont Risk Advisories.

What if an ADULT applicant is ABOVE the MAXIMUM recommend weight noted in the Philmont height/weight guidelines?

Philmont and the BSA (see BSA Annual Health and Medical Record) are very serious about the height/weight guidelines.

Philmont makes it very clear in their information that adult participants who do not meet the maximum weight standards will not be allowed to participate and sent home.

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