



# Cavalcade

# Preparedness

# Troop 509

Monday Aug 19th

# What is Cavalcade?

**8 day horseback high adventure trek through the New Mexico backcountry**

- A Philmont tradition and unique way to explore miles of trails
- An opportunity to develop and improve horsemanship skills



# Trek Overview

- **Base camp check-in day @ 1pm**
  - Meet your wrangler and horseman
  - Gear shakedown, weigh-in, leadership meetings, trip planning
  - Opening campfire ceremony
- **Circle ride day**
  - In base camp for south cav
  - Meet your horse, learn how to saddle, ride, and go on a brief trail ride
  - Philmont camping procedure training
- **Trail Days**
  - Packing pack horses
  - Program activities at backcountry camps: Spar-pole climbing, rock climbing, fishing, homesteading, shooting, COPE, campfire shows etc..
- **Gymkhana**
  - Closing competition between the two crews held in base camp (for south cav)
  - Speed events: barrel racing, figure 8 race, flag race, flag relay, burro penning



You will have 2 staff members with you the entire trek: a wrangler and horseman. They are responsible for supervision during horseback activities but are not advisors and will not be with your crew 24/7

## ★ Individual Gear ★

### *Necessities*

- Sleeping bag (40 degrees or lower recommended)
- Cowboy boots
- 2 pairs **jeans** and **long-sleeve shirts**
- Socks and underwear for 8 days
- Sleeping clothes
- **Rain jacket and pants**
- 2 1-liter water bottles
- **Warm jacket**
- Toiletries
- Knife
- Mess kit
- Medications
- Sunhat/Sunglasses
- Bandanna
- Hiking/camp shoes

### *Optional if space allows*

- Sleeping pad
- Towel

Saddle bags

30l stuff sack

Crew gear bag  
on pack horse

Saddle roll



## ★ Crew Gear ★

- Stoves + Fuel (White gas or isobutane) MSR Whisperlites recommended
- First aid kit
- Tent stakes & groundcloths
- Sunscreen for crew
- Locking carabiner
- Matches/lighter
- 2-3 pairs work gloves for pack horses
- Collapsible water jugs



# Health and Safety

## ■ 200 lb limit

- Participants **MUST** be under 200 pounds this is a **hard limit** and you will be weighed on check-in day

## ■ Ground mounting a horse

- Similarly, participants **MUST** be able to mount their own horse from the ground without assistance from a person/mounting block, **you will be turned away if you can't**
- This is often a struggle for advisors and smaller participants but I've seen people of all sizes get on a horse
- PRACTICE and stretch, hip flexibility will get you a long way
- If you aren't sure if you'll be able to do it. Go practice with a real horse

## ■ General Fitness

- Cavalcade is **HARD**, you will feel it in your hips/legs/knees
- Expect to lift your own saddle and tack your own horse- just cause the wranglers are there to teach you doesn't mean they do it for you every day
- Philmont is at elevation, make sure to be prepared for that change and train as needed

## ■ Horses are living creatures and unpredictable

- Wranglers are very well trained in first-aid, health, and safety but remember that ultimately horses are living creatures with minds of their own and safety can never be 100% guaranteed

# Day in the Life

- **Early mornings**- wake up between 4:30 and 6:00 am depending on mileage
  - Before meeting wranglers crew will break down camp entirely, eat breakfast, and sort gear into pannier bags
  - Wranglers will arrive at camp and crew will pack horses
  - Feed + saddle riding horses
- **Riding**- 2-6 hours of riding on trails and roads depending on itinerary
  - Aim to be at camps by noon or early afternoon
  - 2-3 people lead pack horses
  - Expect afternoon monsoons
- **Camp**- arrival at staff or trail camp
  - Untack riding horses and unpack pack horses
  - Set up campsite and bear bags
  - Evening chores- feeding horses
  - Receive porch talk and participate in program activities
  - Campfire



# ★ What makes a successful crew?

- **Good teamwork and leadership**
  - **Scout led**, advisors step back
  - Strong crew leader
  - Prior outdoor experiences spent together
- **Positive attitude**
  - Cavalcade is **not** easier than a hiking trek
  - Confidence and comfortability around horses
  - Engagement with program
  - C.A to help with crew development and morale boosting
- Preparation and adaptability
  - Camping preparedness
- Respect for staff, wranglers and safety

