

Cavalcade Preparedness Troop 509



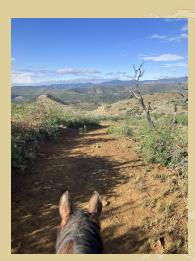
What is Cavalcade?

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



- 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
- Collapsable 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
- o 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
- o 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

