

**WILDERNESS PLEDGE *GUIA***

Philmont is a magnificent wilderness camping area with an immense network of trails and camps tied together by service roads. For more than 30 years Philmont has asked each participant to sign the Philmont Wilderness Pledge which declares that he or she will do everything possible to preserve the beauty and wonder of the Philmont Wilderness and our neighbor's properties through good Scout camping.

Philmont typically serves 22,000 youth participants and their Advisors each year. Consequently, some trails and camps, especially around commissaries, are subjected to heavy use. Nevertheless, it is not the wear of so many boots that mar Philmont. It is the carelessness and thoughtlessness of inconsiderate Scout campers. It is our sincere hope that through the commitment of every participant to the Philmont Wilderness Pledge, Philmont will always remain a beautiful and clean place to enjoy high adventure.

Over the years the encouragement of sound wilderness ethics has evolved. Most significantly has been the endorsement and incorporation into the Scouting program the principles of Leave No Trace. Leave No Trace is a cooperative educational program that helps foster stewardship of public and private lands through education and training.

To place added emphasis on the practice of wilderness ethics Philmont Scout Ranch is incorporating the traditional training of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and the Leave No Trace Principles for all crews that will utilize the backcountry.

**Each crew is asked to select a Wilderness Pledge *Guia*** (Spanish word for Guide). This individual will help the crew understand the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace. This person will help the crew focus on camping practices that will adhere to the wilderness ethics outlined in the two approaches. The Wilderness Pledge *Guia* will receive training from their Ranger at a special meeting of all Wilderness Pledge *Guias* and from various staff members along the crew's trek.

Duties of the Wilderness Pledge *Guia*:

- Work with the crews Ranger to learn the principles of the Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace.
- Assist their crew in implementing these principles throughout their experience at Philmont Scout Ranch.
- Guide their crew in discussions about wilderness ethics by focusing on one of the seven principles of Leave No Trace during seven days of the trek.
- Help their crew follow all camping practices as outlined by their Ranger and strictly follow Philmont's bear and wildlife procedures.
- Help members of their crew earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award.

**Wilderness Pledge**

1. An absence of litter and graffiti.
2. Respect for Philmont's wildlife.
3. Conservation and proper use of water.
4. Respect for trails and trail signs.
5. Proper use of campsites.

**Leave No Trace Principles**

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

**Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award**

Each participant in the backcountry can earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award. This award will include five requirements. The Wilderness Pledge *Guia* will help all members of the crew; both youth and adult meet the requirements and earn the award. A special form will be provided at the Wilderness Pledge *Guia* orientation. The award may be purchased by submitting the form at the Tooth of Time Traders.

**Requirements**

1. Take part in the Ranger led training for the Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace.
2. Practice all Philmont Wildlife and Bear Procedures throughout the trek.
3. Follow all Philmont Camping Practices as outlined by the Ranger throughout the trek.
4. Take part in seven trail discussions with your crew that will focus on one of the seven principles of Leave No Trace and find examples of the focus principle during that day of the trek.
5. Complete three hours of conservation work under the direction of a member of the Philmont Staff. (This requirement is also one of the requirements to earn the Philmont Arrowhead Patch. These hours count for both awards.)