March 2013

Dear Philmont Advisor for the 2014 Cradle of Liberty Council Contingent:

Although we're focusing on the 2013 Contingent details as that expedition grows closer, that doesn't mean we forgot about 2014! We have some great new opportunities and ideas for the coming years and we look forward to an amazing trip for you and your crew(s). The date for the 2014 Contingent departure is SATURDAY, JUNE 21st, 2014 and return on SATURDAY, JULY 5th, 2014.

The cost for participating in the 2014 Philmont contingent is $2100. A payment schedule is enclosed (due dates to Cradle of Liberty), however many crews choose to arrange their own schedule that works best for them. Please be sure to keep up with payments to council as we'll be making Philmont, airline and hotel arrangements well before the date of departure.

As in past years, the council does have small amounts of scholarship funding available for needy scouts. These funds can vary from year to year depending on donations and number of scouts in need, but typically are $300, $400, $500 or $600 per scholarship applicant. **Although the council and Philmont do everything possible to offer scouts the opportunity for a trek, scouts should not expect scholarship funding.** Note the due date of December 1, 2013 for scholarship applications. All submissions will be considered and decisions and notifications will be made by end of year 2013. Please contact me or Tracy Launders at the council office for more information.

Since we are a Council Contingent, we often have individual scouts and adults that wish to participate, although their unit may not be going to Philmont that year. Be aware that we may ask crews with fewer than 12 registered members to accept one of these scouts/scouters as part of their crew. Also, if you have difficulty reaching the minimum crew size of 7 within your unit, please let us know so we can consider placing additional folks with you.

Please note the medical guidelines (excerpted from BSA's newest medical form: Part D) enclosed or on the council website under "High Adventure Camps – Philmont Weight Guidelines for Backpacking". Please read and understand the information preceding the chart and ensure that your weight meets (or will meet) the mandatory weight/height ratio. Philmont takes these VERY seriously and will send a participant home at their own expense if they are not met. Be advised that a Philmont trek is a "once in a lifetime" experience, but success depends on planning, training and physical conditioning. To this end, each crew should schedule several backpacking trips before the council training weekend on May 3-4, 2014.

Crew and Individual Requirements for Philmont:

- All youth must be 14 years old OR 13 years old and completed the 8th grade by date of arrival (June 23, 2014).
- A minimum crew size of 7 and maximum of 12, including all youth and adult participants.
- Coed groups (of youth) must be Venturing crews with both male and female leadership.
- A majority of crew members must be under age 21 with a maximum number of adults (over 21) of 4 per crew. Participants 18 through 20 years old may be counted as youth or adult crew members.
- All crews must have AT LEAST two adults (at least one must be over 21 years old).
- **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (ADULTS MUST HAVE VALID YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING).**

COL High Adventure Committee
John Schultz, Chairman
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215-570-0058

Philmont 2014 (per person) Payment Schedule

Date	Amount Due	Total
15 April 2013	$200 (non-refundable)	$200
31 May 2013	$250	$450
31 June 2013	$250	$700
1 August 2013	$250	$950
1 October 2013	$250	$1200
1 December 2013	$250	$1450
1 February 2014	$300	$1750
1 March 2014	$350	$2100

Refund Policy

If someone drops out, we require a written statement as to the cause. **The date of drop will be recorded when a written and signed letter is received (by mail or e-mail).** If there is a replacement available to fill the slot, Council will refund all moneys paid. The Council is not responsible to find a replacement for a participant dropping out.

If there is no replacement available, we will refund all unspent funds to the extent possible following the guidelines below:

If dropped before:	Amount of potential refund:
September 1, 2013	Complete amount paid in, less $200 deposit
December 31, 2013	Up to 50% total cost (based on the $2100 total).
Although drops due to medical injuries are the most common allowable refunds, all requests will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and no guarantee of refund is given.	

Financial questions should be addressed to Tracy Launders, Camping Registrar at 484-654-9213.

WE MUST RECEIVE A PHILMONT TREK APPLICATION FOR EACH PARTICIPANT WITH INITIAL DEPOSIT/PAYMENT.