

## 2015 SAINT GEORGE TREK

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH JULY 8 – JULY 23, 2015



#### What is the Saint George Trek?

The St. George Trek is a biennial, high adventure, backpacking retreat program for Catholic Scouts and Venturers administered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America's Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. The program begins and ends in Albuquerque, NM, but the hike, itself, takes place at Philmont.

In this program, Philmont's high adventure backpacking experience is placed within the context of a retreat program dedicated to assisting a scout's awareness of his or her Christian vocation. There are adult advisors for each crew of 8-10 scouts to provide supervision, and there will be opportunities to experience the Sacraments and the Church's life of prayer on a daily basis while hiking through "God's Country."

During the course of the trek, scouts create two Covenant Commitments. The first covenant is to Almighty God, which the scout keeps to him or herself. This covenant is one that hopefully opens the scout to God's vocational call. The second covenant is to their sponsoring diocese, stating how they plan to be of service to the Church through Catholic Scouting. These covenant commitments help the participant to recognize the serious commitment of participating in the St. George Trek.

#### How to Participate

In order to apply for the 2015 Trek, candidates must compose a brief essay (about one page) explaining why they would like to participate. This essay, together with the attached form, must be returned to the Archdiocesan Scout Chaplain by **October 1, 2014**.

Because the program can only accommodate 70 youth, every diocese in the country is permitted to select only two youth participants. This selection is made on the basis of demonstrated maturity, physical ability, leadership potential, interest in the life of the Church, and openness to the discernment of vocation. The earning of Catholic Scouting's Religious Emblems and involvement in church, school, and scouting activities is also given consideration.

#### Requirements

Candidates must be:

- Emotionally mature adolescents
- Fifteen years of age on or before July 1, 2015
- In high school in the fall of 2015
- Validly certified in Wilderness First Aid and CPR by July 1, 2015
- Committed to assisting the local Catholic Committee on Scouting upon returning home
- Within Philmont height & weight requirements by July 1, 2015
- Physically prepared with the health & stamina necessary for a mountain backpacking trip

#### NO exceptions can be made to these expectations and requirements.

A female crew is planned pending sufficient female registration. The Saint George Trek is a one-time only experience for youth. Previous youth participants are not eligible.

The fee for the 2015 trek is \$750 per participant, to be funded by the Archdiocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Each participant will be responsible solely for travel costs and incidental expenses.

More information available at: www.nccs-bsa.org



# **ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**

### SAINT GEORGE TREK APPLICATION

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Name:		
Street Address:		
Home Phone Number: (	) —	
Parish:		
High School:	Graduation Year:	
Council:	Unit Type & #:	Scout Rank:
Religious Emblems Earned:  Light of Christ  Parvuli Dei	🗖 Ad Altare Dei 📮 Lig	ght Is Life 🚨 Pope Pius XII
Scouting Leadership Experience:		
Church & School Activities:		
participation in the Saint George		ader who could recommend you for
Phone Number: (_		
By typing my initials below, I here and that, if selected to participate the 2015 St. George Trek.	•	·
Scout Signature	 Pare	ent/Guardian Signature

Please return this form (including the essay on the next page) via mail or e-mail by **October 1, 2014** to:

Rev. David M. Friel
Archdiocesan Scout Chaplain
12670 Dunks Ferry Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154
fatherfriel@gmail.com

Why would you be a good candidate for the St. George Trek? Please feel free to discuss your Scouting background, your vocational call, and anything else the committee should consider.