

**Willistown Troop 78 Secures Slot for 2019 Venture to Philmont;
Sign-ups Required by September 7, 2018**

You may have heard that Philmont Scout Ranch closed for the 2018 season due to wildfires that burned in and near this Scouting high adventure facility. As a result, Troop 78's two crews that were scheduled to go to PSR were cancelled. However, fortune has smiled up our Troop, and we are pleased to announce that we have secured slots for 24 members of the Troop to go to Philmont (<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/>) for a 7 day adventure during the 2019 season.

Our treks at Philmont will begin on August 12, 2019 and return home on August 19, 2019. We anticipate having a 3 day pre-Philmont adventure, so we are likely to leave Philadelphia on August 8th or 9th. Those who signed up for the cancelled 2018 trip will have a preference over others who want to go to Philmont, but we anticipate having space for a number of Scouts to join us. To be eligible to go to Philmont, a Scout must be 14 years of age OR 13 years of age and have completed the 8th grade by August 12, 2019. Adults who are at least 18 but not yet 21 at the time of the trip can register as "youth" participant, and each of our crews must have at least two adults, one of whom must be at least 21 years old. Each adult must be a registered member of Troop 78 and must have a current Youth Protection Training certification. At least one adult in each trek must also have completed Scoutmaster Training, and one adult in each trek must have Wilderness First Aid certification or a certification or professional license that the BSA deems to be appropriate. Crews are limited to 12 people. A majority of participants in each crew must be youth, and no more than 4 participants in any crew can be adults.

In order to keep our trek registrations, interested persons MUST commit to the trip by no later than Friday, September 7, 2018. To sign up, individuals must provide a check in the amount of \$100, made payable to "Willistown Troop 78," and must complete the sign-up form that will be available that evening. The form must have the signature of at least one parent or guardian for any participant who is not 18 years of age as of September 7, 2018. Those who had signed up for the 2018 trip must still submit the form, but we can take your Philmont 2019 deposit from your pending PSR 2018 refund.

We anticipate that we will have a pre-trek trip out West as part of our Philmont experience, and once we form our crews, we will decide on that trek. A likely option is a multi-day whitewater trip with camping in Colorado before we go the Ranch. While we are still finalizing our budget for the Philmont trip, our working budget is about \$2,000 per person at this point in time.

We will do a short presentation on the Philmont trip ahead of the September 7th meeting. Please plan on joining us at the Cabin at 6:30 PM that night. Again, bring your check and completed form with you. Please do NOT sign up for the trip if you are not fully committed to attending, and to training with us for this awesome Scouting high adventure.