



# Expeditions

## Spring 2018

### BSAC High Adventure Committee

### Philmont Scout Ranch

Philmont, considered by many to be BSA's premier National High Adventure Base, is over 140,000 acres of challenging Scout adventures set among the mountains and mesas of northeastern New Mexico. It was the gift of Waite Phillips, who "donated and dedicated (this land) to the Boy Scouts of America for the purpose of perpetuating faith, self-reliance, integrity, freedom and principles used to build this great country by the American Pioneer."

Philmont's mountainous terrain ranges in elevation from 6,600 feet at Headquarters to 12,441 feet at the top of Baldy Mountain. Summer daytime temperatures often reach the 90's, but the nights cool to the 40's. Wildlife is abundant in Philmont's forested mountains and grassy plains. Deer, elk, mountain lion, bear, bobcat, buffalo and pronghorn antelope are frequently spotted by observant campers on the Ranch.

Philmont is a working cattle ranch with over 250 head of Hereford cows grazing its pastures. For summer packing and riding, 100 burros and 300 saddle horses are also maintained.

Philmont High Adventure Programs include Expeditions and Calvalcades. Participants in the Expeditions (7 to 12 members per crew, including adult leaders) will explore the Philmont high country on either seven-day or twelve-day backpacking treks, experiencing the thrill of climbing mountains over two miles high. In addition, there are opportunities to learn technical rock climbing, archeological excavation techniques, blacksmithing and more. Participants can also relive the by-gone days of the Old West by riding western saddle horses, learn the ways of the mountain man, pack burros and pan for gold in clear mountain streams. **BSAC will be sending two crews to Philmont for a twelve day Expedition in June 2019. Applications are on the BSAC website ([www.blackswampbsa.org](http://www.blackswampbsa.org)), but will also be available at the monthly Roundtables.**

Calvalcades (10 to 15 per crew, including adult leaders) allow participants to acquire riding skills long in use in the American West as they ride horseback over some of Philmont's most scenic trails over an eight-day period. The final day of the Calvalcade is spent in competition at an equestrian gymkana. For the safety of the rider and the horse, there is a 200 pound weight limit.

Philmont also offers individual opportunities: Ranch Hands, Rayado Treks, ROCS (Roving Outdoor Conservation School), OA Trails Crews, Trail Trek Crews and STEM.

More information about all of Philmont's programs can be found at [Camping@PhilmontScoutRanch.org](mailto:Camping@PhilmontScoutRanch.org).

## Ohiopyle



Some of the best whitewater rafting in the eastern USA is located on the Youghiogheny River, near Ohiopyle in western Pennsylvania. Although a great experience for those who have never rafted before, the river has challenges for all levels and includes both Class I and Class II rapids. In addition to the rafting trip, two other sites can be visited, “House on the Rock” and Fort Necessity National Battlefield. “House on the Rock” was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, considered by many to be America’s greatest architect. Fort Necessity National Battlefield contains the reconstructed Fort

Necessity, site of the opening battle (July 3, 1754) of the French and Indian War. This encounter marked the first major event in the military career of George Washington.

Camping is available at Ohiopyle State Park which encompasses approximately 20,500 acres of rugged natural beauty and serves as the gateway to the Laurel Highlands. Hiking, biking, mountain biking, fishing, rock climbing, cross-country skiing and sledding are all available in the park. For more information go to [www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/OhiopyleStatePark](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/OhiopyleStatePark).

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## Slippery Elm Trail



In 1875, the Bowling Green Railroad Company operated its first train from its namesake city in Ohio south to Tontogany on rails made from the wood of the local slippery elm tree. The trees were ubiquitous in the Great Black Swamp of northwest Ohio, which was a barrier for the development of farmland and roads in the area due to the expense of draining it. Selling the slippery elm wood to the railroad produced an opportunity to finance the draining. With this lucrative partnership in place, a corridor was cleared for the railroad

and farmland was gained. By 1890, the route had been extended to North Baltimore, providing access to a rich gas and oil belt in southern Wood County. For 103 years, the railroad operated along this corridor, until eventually discontinuing service in 1978.

Today, the 13-mile asphalt Slippery Elm Trail follows the route of the former rail corridor, running south from Bowling Green at Sand Ridge Road and Ontario St. through the small town of Rudolph and ending in North Baltimore at E. Broadway Street near Rhodes Avenue. Its half-marathon length is ideal for runners in training, and the smooth, flat surface is a joy for cyclists, in-line skaters, hikers and cross-country skiers. Between Rudolph and the southern endpoint, expansive agricultural landscapes impart the quiet charm visitors have come to expect from this area of the country. For more information visit [www.wcparks.org/parks/slippy-elm-trail](http://www.wcparks.org/parks/slippy-elm-trail).

Information regarding high adventure opportunities for units will be a part of each edition of Expeditions. Please contact Mike Saxton, BSAC High Adventure Chair, at [jmsaxton823@gmail.com](mailto:jmsaxton823@gmail.com) with any questions regarding high adventure experiences.