

2020 Critical Details on National Camping School Participation

Course site:	Philmont Scout Ranch 17 Deer Run Road, Cimarron, NM 87714 (575) 376-2281 (for emergencies only)	Course Director: Dennis Kampa denkampa@gmail.com
Dates:	March 20-21, 2021	Theme: Weird Science
Course times:	The action begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 20 and ends approx. 2:00pm on Sunday, March 21.	
Early arrivals:	For an additional fee of \$55.00*, you may arrive the night before, please make it after 5:00 p.m. and before 8:00 p.m. <u><i>This fee covers lodging Friday evening and breakfast on Saturday. This fee does NOT cover a meal Friday night. FYI...No activities are planned for early arrivals as the staff are busy with preparations.</i></u>	
Weather:	It will be cold, and it may snow. Bring suitable foot-wear, coat, gloves, & warm sleepwear. Be prepared for outdoor activities during the day. You will be sleeping in heated cabins at night.	

Covid-19 and National Camping School - Local council host sites will continue to practice any locally required COVID-19/communicable disease mitigation strategies. Prior to your arrival, you will receive additional information about what precautions will be in place at your NCS site. If local area restrictions do not allow a course to be held, you will be contacted no less than 14 days in advance and given an alternative training option.

These precautions are important, but these efforts cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at camp. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. *If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to attending National Camping School.*

Before You Arrive at NCS:

- ❖ Fill out the NCS Personal Resource Questionnaire [HERE](#) and bring to camp school.
- ❖ Take the online NCS course and the in-person Council led NCS course. Don't forget the other required prerequisites: [Youth Protection Training](#) and [Cub Scout Leader Position Specific training](#), including Hazardous Weather Training.

What to Take to Camp:

- ❖ Proof of BSA registration & prerequisite online training courses (Youth Protection Training, Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training, Camp School Online Training, and Council-led Camp School Training).
- ❖ Your completed BSA health form (parts A and B, including a Tetanus date).
- ❖ Samples of your council's day camp promotional materials, staff manuals, or other camp literature, registration forms, schedules, etc., for display or giveaway. Make copies for at least 40 participants (No copying services are available at camp).
- ❖ Interesting crafts or activity ideas to share.
- ❖ Your camp T-shirt—there will be an opportunity for everyone to wear theirs.
- ❖ Notepad and pencil or pen. A participant binder and learning materials will be provided.
- ❖ NCS Online Trading Post: You can preview and purchase specialty National Camp School items (shirts, sweatshirts, and more!) to be sent directly to your home via [BSA Supply](#). *Philmont's award winning trading post, the "Tooth of Time Traders" will also be open!*

Personal Gear:

- ❖ **Official complete BSA uniform.** *No uniform parts are available for sale at camp school.*
- ❖ Toiletries, soap, shampoo, etc. (*note that aspirin, antacid, etc., are not available at camp*)
- ❖ Towels and bedding are provided.
- ❖ Warm sleepwear, perhaps "long johns" or sweats.
- ❖ Coat, jacket, suitable footwear/socks, gloves, hat. Snow is a possibility!
- ❖ Camera (Shoot the displays and show others back home what can be done!)
- ❖ Cell phone coverage at this site is relatively strong for AT&T customers, weaker for other service providers.

What to Expect and What Is Expected:

- ❖ Arrive rested. Be prepared for concentration, participation, and fun! Days last early morning to late at night.
- ❖ Be prepared for dormitory style sleeping in bunk beds with mattress. Bedding and towels are provided.
- ❖ **You must arrive no later than 8:30 a.m. on the first day, and attend all sessions through the last day in order to be certified****

- ❖ In order to focus on the learning, please leave the distractions of life behind: family, children, pets, job, etc. Note also, there are no accommodations for anyone but you.
- ❖ Please understand that if you receive the names and contact information for other participants or for staff, you may not contact them for commercial purposes unless you receive their expressed permission to do so.

** The early arrival fee is handled through your local council. You may or may not be expected to cover it personally.*

**** Note Regarding Absences for Religious Reasons**

Occasionally participants ask to be excused from parts of NCS for religious reasons. It is expected that before requesting, you first seek permission from your pastor or bishop to attend the entire school, and then seek substitutes to fulfill teaching responsibilities, etc. NCS is a once-in-five years occurrence; more critical than most other Scouting activity. Requests must be written to the associate regional director, and outline what was done in an attempt to experience the entire course. Even then, excuses can only be granted if a camp school staff member is willing to review with you, all sessions missed.

Getting to Philmont Training Center

From Denver or Colorado Springs:

Go south on Interstate 25 to Raton, New Mexico (17 miles south of the Colorado border). Four miles south of Raton take Exit 446 onto Highway 64 and drive about 40 miles to Cimarron.

From Albuquerque:

Go north on Interstate 25 about 200 miles to Springer, New Mexico. Three miles north of Springer, take Exit 419 onto Highway 58 and drive about 20 miles to Cimarron. (Note: Highway-58 will be closed during the winter of 2011 to allow the reconstruction of the highway over the Ponil Creek Wetland. It should be open in late spring. The alternative route from Springer is State Highway-21. Watch for signs)

From Cimarron to Philmont

When you reach Cimarron, turn left (south) on State Highway 21 and drive approximately 4 miles to Philmont Scout Ranch. As you enter Philmont, you will see several buildings before you reach your destination; these buildings are other parts of Philmont Base Camp, such as the Administration Building. Look for the brown Philmont Training Center sign near mile-marker 4 and turn left (east) onto Orchard Circle. The Villa Philmonte, the Mediterranean-style home of the Phillips family, is located on the grounds of the Philmont Training Center and will serve as a guide to those arriving by car.

Additional Housing Details

Each housing unit has 2, 4, or 6 single beds (some also have couch beds), a small refrigerator, microwave, clock radio, and private bath. Blankets, sheets, pillows, and towels are provided. Cots, irons, ironing boards, and other items are available.

