



## High Adventure Information

Are your youth interested in high adventure – something more than the usual campout and more than summer camp? A number of opportunities are available. This is a brief introduction to high adventure from the Heart of America Council.

### Important points:

- National and council high adventure bases set their own requirements for participation. The youngest usually eligible is 13 years old on January 1 of the year of the trek to the base. For some the minimum age is 14.
- There is often a limit of how many adults may be part of the crew – most require that a majority of the crew be youth.
- Many have physical fitness requirements for both youth and adults. Philmont is especially stringent on its fitness requirements.

The three **national high adventure bases** are: Philmont Scout Ranch, Seabase, and Northern Tier. For a unit desiring to experience the Northern Tier program, there are usually enough spaces for individual units to arrange their own trek. Visit the website for Northern Tier at: <http://ntier.org>.

For a unit desiring to experience Philmont, there are **two methods of securing spots**: individual units and council contingents.

**Individual units** may seek a spot through the Philmont or Seabase application process. This is usually at least one year before the actual trek, so planning and financial commitments are important. Visit Philmont at: <http://www.scouting.org/philmont>. Visit Seabase at: <http://www.bsaseabase.org>. There are also a number of unofficial websites for Philmont that provide additional information.

Due to the popularity of Philmont, arrangements have been made for councils to send members of units that might not otherwise be able to go. For **council contingents**, the Council reserves a certain number of slots to be filled from youth and adults within the Council. There is a draw process at least one year ahead of the trek. For 2009, the Heart of America Council has a council contingent of five crews of 12. The draw for 2011 takes place in May 19, 2010. For 201, the council draw will be in May 2011 (usually the third week of the month, but check Adventures in Scouting or the Council website in April 2011). In this process, each unit may draw for six (1/2 of a crew), with no more than 2 adults in that six. The Council will provide training and “shakedown” opportunities for the council contingent crews and for individual unit crews. The shakedowns are usually at Naish Scout Reservation the first weekend in March and the first weekend in April. Again, check Adventures in Scouting or the Council website for specific dates.

For more information on any of these, contact J. Britt Davis at 816-569-4924 or visit the Heart of America Council website at <http://www.hoac-bsa.org>.

Individual units can also **create your own high adventure activity**. The new Fieldbook is an outstanding resource for planning such an activity. Units have had great adventures in the Ozarks by combining canoeing, backpacking, horse packing, shooting, caving, etc. Be sure to obtain the local or national tour permit for such an activity.