Announcing the 2020 National Jewish Philmont Treks

Who: Jewish Scouts, Venturers, & Sea Scouts (male or female) who are:
   - Age — 14–20 years old, OR 13 and have completed 8th grade by the trek beginning, and
   - Rank — at least First Class, OR equivalent for Venturers and Sea Scouts.
Jewish Scouters: (male or female) — Age 21+

What: Philmont is the ultimate Scouting High Adventure!
Backpack 60–80 miles through New Mexico’s glorious Rocky Mountains — from an elevation of 6,500 ft. at Basecamp to over 12,400 ft. During each trek, participate in many terrific activities — like, panning for gold, American Indian archaeology, blacksmithing, burro racing (first catch it & pack it!), muzzle-loading rifle shooting, and more. Crews select the activities they want.

We have been allotted two crews, with a maximum of 12 people each (8 youth, 4 adults). We hope to have one all-male crew and one all-female crew.

Why: Philmont is truly a magical place! By day, see unbelievable sights around every bend in the trail, and spectacular vistas spanning miles across plains and mountains. By night, the sky comes alive and you reach out to touch the stars in the heavens above. That is why, for decades, so very many people have left Philmont saying they were “out in God’s country.”

Why a Jewish Trek? What better place can there be to ask BIG questions? If this is “God’s country,” how does my Judaism fit in? When seeing a million stars before my eyes, how does that link me to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they shepherded their flocks? When my friends and I observe Shabbat on the trail, how do I feel about my relationship with my Judaism? Philmont begets BIG questions!
The Tooth of Time is the iconic symbol of Philmont. Its image is on the classic Philmont belt buckle and the coveted Philmont patch. Visible far across ‘The Great Plains,’ it was a guidepost for the early pioneers — marking the point where the Santa Fe Trail met the Rocky Mountains. It is 9,003 feet in elevation at the summit and about 6,500 feet in the valley below.

How:  Each trek will have a rabbi along, as a guide in this exploration.* As part of this unique experience, participants will grow physically, mentally and emotionally, and most importantly, participants will experience a deeper insight into what it means to be a Jewish Scout.

   *Note:  Rabbis on these treks will hold ordination from Reform, Conservative, or other non-Orthodox seminaries. If interested in a Philmont Trek under Orthodox rabbinic guidance (as a youth or adult), contact: Adventure@ShomerShabbatScouting.org

When:  Arrive: Sunday, June 28, 2020 (Travel Day)
Trek: Monday, June 29, 2020 through Friday, July 10, 2020
Shabbat Observance: July 3–4 (rest day on the trail), July 10–11 (in Philmont Basecamp)
Leave: Sunday, July 12, 2020 (Travel Day)

Where:  Philmont Scout Ranch Headquarters is four miles south of Cimarron, New Mexico. But, as Philmont is 220 square miles in size, it extends way north, south, and west of Cimarron.
Still, in less than three minutes, this video is the BEST introduction.
Check it out!  
http://www.youtube.com/user/PhilmontScoutRanch

Cost:  Philmont Fee is $1,025.00 for each participant, paid in three installments.
Reservation Fee:  $100.00  due February 27, 2020
Initial Payment:  $462.50  due March 31, 2020
Final Payment:  $462.50  due April 30, 2020
The view from the top of the Tooth of Time is awesome! Once you’ve been out there, the Tooth of Time just keeps chewing on you, drawing you back! Many youth go back again — and again, as adults!

To Register:
Send an email to Dr. Norman Kahn nkahnmd@gmail.com with the following:
- Participant’s Full Name
- Participant’s Date of Birth
- Parents’ Names (if a youth)
- Mailing Address
- Participant’s Email Address
- Parents’ Email Addresses (if a youth)
- Name of Participant’s Local Council
- Unit Type (Troop, Crew, Ship) and Unit Number
- Name and Email Address of Unit Leader (youth and adult if applicable)
- Name and Email Address of Reference for adults who are not registered with the Participant’s Scouting Unit

Follow-up: After registering, we will send additional information to include:
- Transportation Plans
- Physical Conditioning
- Equipment
- Medical Forms
- … and more!

Questions? Contact:
National Jewish Committee on Scouting,
Philmont Trek Coordinator, Dr. Norman Kahn
nkahnmd@gmail.com 913 991-2938

We’ll see you on the trail!