



2019 St. George Trek

Philmont Scout Ranch
Cimarron, New Mexico
July 3 – July 18, 2019



WHAT –

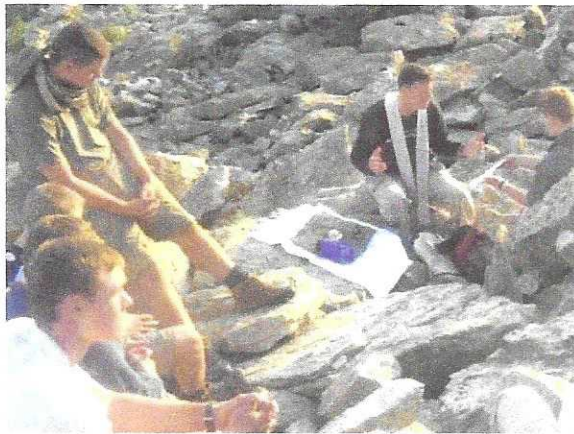
The St. George Trek is a biennial, high adventure, backpacking retreat program for Catholic Scouts and Venture Crew members, administered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America's Philmont Scout Ranch in



Cimarron, New Mexico. The program begins and ends in Albuquerque, New Mexico; however the hike itself takes place at the Philmont Scout Ranch.

PURPOSE –

Philmont's high adventure backpacking experience is placed within the context of a retreat program dedicated to assisting a scout's awareness of his or her Christian vocation with a



particular emphasis on the vocations of Priesthood and Religious Life. The adult advisors for each crew of 8-10 scouts are therefore priests, religious men and women, and seminarians. The advisors fulfill the role of adult supervision in a youth led crew, while at the same time literally walk with the scouts who will come to a deeper understand of the advisor's vocation. The presence of advisors on the trail gives the scouts an opportunity to experience the sacraments and the church's life of prayer on a daily basis as they hike through "God's Country"

GOAL –

Scouts create two Covenant Commitments. The first covenant is to Almighty God which the scout keeps to him or herself. This covenant is one that hopefully opens the scout to God's vocational call. The second covenant is to their sponsoring diocese stating how they plan to be of service to the Church through Catholic Scouting. These covenant commitments help the participant to recognize the serious commitment of participating in the St. George Trek.

CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS/SELECTION

Each Arch/Diocese/Eparchy is encouraged to conduct a search and nominate one or two Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts or Venture Crew members for participation in the Trek. Selection of participants is made by the individual Arch/Diocese and should be made on the basis of demonstrated maturity, physical ability, leadership potential, an interest in the life of the Church and openness to the discernment of vocation. Candidates should be emotionally mature adolescents who will be fifteen years of age on or before July 1, 2019 and committed to assist their Catholic Committee when they return home. They must also have the physical, mental and emotional health and stamina to backpack on the mountain trails of Philmont. ***NO exceptions can be made.***

APPLICATION INFORMATION AND FORMS:

Available on the website <http://nccs-bsa.org/ScoutUnits/StGeorgeTrek.php>

Fees

\$900.00 per participant.

The fee will cover:

- All Philmont Scout Ranch fees, Retreat House lodging in Albuquerque, Philmont and Retreat House Meals, Roundtrip Chartered bus travel between Albuquerque and Philmont

Not Included in Fee

- Transportation to and from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Personal gear, Normal personal expenses

Fee Schedule

- A deposit of **\$225** per participant will be requested upon acceptance.
- October 1, 2018- Second payment due **\$225**
- December 1, 2018 - Third payment due **\$225**
- Final payment is due February 1, 2019 **\$225**

The Arch/diocese is expected to underwrite Registration costs for participants. Financial assistance is available. Arch/diocese must submit the scholarship request form for financial aid consideration. Grants will be made on the basis of demonstrated financial need and first come basis.

A successful program for the discernment of vocations to priesthood and religious life – In the last 5 years at least 12 participants entered formation programs for the Archdioceses of St. Louis and Washington, the dioceses of Rockville Centre, Knoxville, Austin, Grand Rapids, LaCrosse, Pittsburgh, Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Austin, Charleston, and the religious communities of the Adorno Fathers and the Nashville Dominicans. Three former participants have also been ordained to the priesthood.

Questions may be addressed to:

stgeorgetrek@gmail.com



"Not many are able to experience the awesome power of climbing Mt Baldy, or the Tooth of Time. Far fewer get to receive the precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Word who created these landmarks once at the top."

Seminarian Brian DeFazio