

# Philmont is a Family Experience!

You began this wonderful journey by bringing your families together way back in November to share expectations, information, and the excitement only a Philmont trek can bring. Now is the time to bring mom and dad, sister and brother, aunt and uncle, grandma and grandpa, together again. We suggest:

- **A crew family picnic** - bring the entire crew family together on the weekend or two before departure. Break bread (or chips), share stories of tasks accomplished and adventures to come, and distribute tour and travel handouts. You will get all the details, including handouts, at the final Advisor Briefing in June. It's fun for all to compare what we have learned, where we have been, where we are now, and what is to come. Go over the details of the Colorado Tour and your trek. Get the maps out and bring all into the excitement of things ahead. Everyone would like to know what will be happening. Also, this is a good time to review emergency contact information and procedures - check your *Guidebook*.
- **The night before departure** - bringing the crew together the night before departure has many advantages. First, it is great fun and a wonderful start to the adventure. It is a time to be together for a final gear shakedown and to prepare your backpacks in the nylon bags for travel. It gives you one last chance to check Medical Forms, photo IDs, Wilderness First Aid certificates, CPR certificates, crew rosters, Blue Sky Releases, all equipment in the *Guidebook* under "Equipment Provided by Crew", and proper uniforms. If there is any problem like missing gear or signatures, there is time to make it right. Complete your baggage identification, and apply a color coding scheme for your tour bags. Remember, there will be a bus load of expedition tour bags - make certain your crew's are easy to distinguish.

We recommend bringing everyone together, in full uniform, about 9:00pm the night before departure. - in full uniform so you can check that everything is in order. Encourage the families to visit. Have lots of snacks and entertainment for the crew. Where can your crew get together for the "night before" overnigher? Some have used a local church basement, school all purpose room, or town recreation department meeting room. Some crews have stayed overnight at an advisor's home. We have even had a crew sleep over night at Newark Liberty Airport. Yes, you can start your adventure sleeping on the floor or in the backyard. Bring a separate set of bedding and clothes for sleeping so you don't need to disturb your packed tour bag and backpack. Put the overnight clothing in a labeled plastic bag in the morning for pick up by your family.

- **Wake up and travel to the airport** - arrange for two large vans or SUVs to take your crew to the airport early in the morning. One, with the appropriate number of seat belts, carries most of the crew. The other carries your equipment and a few

crew members. Don't forget to arrange for "wake up" - a couple of loud alarm clocks (including phones or windup clocks; don't forget the possibility of power failures), plus parents at home assigned to call the drivers and where the crew is staying overnight to confirm all are up. In this way they guarantee all are up and ready to go. You can't be too careful with the wake up arrangements. Allow time to serve a hearty cold breakfast.

- **Your crew reunion** - the crew family picnic also provides an opportunity to plan and schedule your crew reunion. Work with your families now and set a date. The home folks will be eager to help. At the reunion you will want to share stories, pictures, and recollections of your journey. It will be fantastic!

Philmont is a family affair. Share the responsibilities and the adventure with all to make it a more enriching journey for all.

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**Phil Fact:** Luz Beaubien married Lucien Maxwell in 1842, the year after her father acquired his share of the Beaubien Miranda Land Grant. Carlos Beaubien gave Maxwell 15,000 acres of the grant land as a wedding gift, the start of Maxwell's acquiring what came to be the largest tract of land ever in the history of the United States.

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For life!

Luz Beaubien Maxwell

Cimarron, New Mexico Territory