

2009 ST. GEORGE TREK – PHILMONT SCOUT RESERVATION

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting® is pleased to announce its high adventure leadership program for older Catholic Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members at Philmont Scout Ranch. Although the St. George Trek is typically held in even-numbered years, the NCCS has decided to hold the next St. George Trek in 2009 because World Youth Day will be held in 2008, and the US Jamboree will be held in 2010. These changes are in order to enable priests, Catholic Scouts and Scouters to attend these other events.

The next St. George Trek will take place from July 21 to August 5, 2009. Treks will continue in the odd-numbered years after 2009. The trek targets Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members (boys and girls) that will be high school freshman to juniors starting in fall 2009, and will be 15 years old on or before 21-July-2009. More information is available on the NCCS website at: <http://www.nccs-bsa.org/activities/trek.php>

Designed to develop organizational and relational skills for leadership, as well as nourishing the scout's spirituality, the program will bring together Catholic high school youth from all over the country, and selected priests, religious and seminarians for eleven days of backpacking on the trail. This includes three days of intensive leadership training at a back-country base camp. Three days will be spent at the Madonna Retreat House in Albuquerque, New Mexico preparing for the Trek and one day will be spent there at its conclusion.

The Saint George Trek encourages the integration of morality and values, spirituality and faith, and scripture with the responsibilities of Christian Leadership and Vocation Awareness. Participants will be asked to carry this meaningful experience home with them and become effective peer leaders in their diocese.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection of a scout from the Diocese of Raleigh will be made on the basis of demonstrated leadership potential, reception of Scouting's religious emblems, and involvement in church, school, scouting and community activities. Girls in Venturing have been a part of past treks and are encouraged to apply. The Diocese of Raleigh will sponsor one scout/crew member for the 2009 trek. **Diocesan paid expenses will include all Philmont Scout Ranch fees, all lodging, food, and chartered bus travel. The candidate will be fully responsible for payment of transportation fees to/from Albuquerque, NM, as well as all normal personal expenses.**

Requirements:

- ❖ Must be 15 years old on or before 21-July-2009
- ❖ Must be active in their parish, holding some position of service or ministry.
- ❖ Meet Philmont St. George Trek Requirements for age, rank, etc.
- ❖ Must have significant long-haul backpacking experience and training, which must be explained in the candidate's application composition.
- ❖ Must be active in their Unit with recent leadership position experience in the past 6 mos.
- ❖ Must have earned at least one Catholic religious emblem: Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII.
- ❖ Must have the ability to fund travel to & from Albuquerque, NM.
- ❖ Write & submit a composition (min 250 / max 500 words)
 - Why do you want to go?
 - What have you done to prepare – physically and spiritually?
 - How will you take this experience and put it to use in your parish, your diocese, your Unit?
 - How will this experience compliment or enhance your current leadership abilities?

Please submit to: Frank Jackson - Chairman
Catholic Committee on Scouting – St. George Trek
5808 Dutch Creek Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606

****Deadline for submitting application to Raleigh Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is 30 NOV. 2008. No exceptions will be made past this deadline.**