



Rayado Program at Philmont

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2006 – 07 Southern Region Venturing President

Each year thousands of Scouts and Venturers from around the nation travel to Philmont Scout Ranch to hike the mountains of the Rockies. Most come with their Crews or as part of Council Contingents, however a few come a different way. Philmont offers special treks to individual youth from around the nation. These treks allow participants to come to Philmont and have a once in a lifetime experience. There are many of these treks that range from treks on horseback to 21 days of some of the hardest hiking on the ranch. Whichever trek that you decide to do, you will not be disappointed with the experience.

One of these treks is the **Rayado** program. Rayado is a 21 day backpacking program that will challenge participants in many ways. Originally called the Kit Carson Program, Rayado has existed in one form or another at Philmont for many years. It is often called the ultimate experience a participant can have at Philmont.

When you arrive at Philmont, you will be assigned to a crew of people who you have never met before. Your crew will be assigned two of Philmont's most highly



My Rayado crew ready to go

qualified and trained Rangers who will guide your crew through the program. You will see parts of the ranch that many others only hear about and have the time of your life.

In my Rayado crew, we had 9 people from Florida, Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, California, New Jersey, Tennessee, Minnesota, and North Carolina.

Together we experienced some truly once in a lifetime events and experiences. I want to thank my crew for three weeks of insane times and great fun: Ryan B., Ryan L., Sunshine, Smalls, Paul, Miles, Wade, Steve, and Rob you guys made it a blast.

To qualify for Rayado, you must be 15 years of age (or have completed the 9th grade), be physically prepared for hiking in the backcountry as determined by Philmont, submit a letter of recommendation from an adult Scouter, and meet several other requirements as detailed in the



You gotta love the Hike

application form. The cost for the program in 2006 was \$595.00 plus transportation to the ranch; however scholarships are available for some applicants.

If you do Rayado, I guarantee that you will have fun. Whether it is climbing or history that you enjoy, you will find it is Scouting Paradise. For more information on Rayado, checkout Philmont's web page at: www.scouting.org/philmont.