

Philmont Expedition 2009 Lessons Learned  
Jim "Cuda" Lynch

**Before You Go:**

- Each crew must have one person that has a current CPR card AND someone with Wilderness First Aid (a 16 hour course)—schedule early—they check cards on arrival at Philmont--so make sure you bring your cards with you
- Submit Tour Permit Early—60 days in advance--make sure you only drive the recommended time limit—I printed out a Mapquest attachment showing the time
- Schedule many hiking practices and have kids and Dads carry packs on last months
  - Buy a state park group permit—lets everyone in the troop in for free
  - Check for boots and the right socks—no gym socks
- Everyone must meet physical requirements—they will send kids home if over 300lbs
- Emphasize everyone getting their completed Physicals Turned in to Dr Taylor for review
- Shakedown—go over gear early—can borrow much of the gear you need
  - Raingear is crucial—and a Pack Cover is a must
- Trail Treats—you can bring ovens and bake—or carry treats and unveil them on the trail—for 2010 we will I-camp treats—we can talk about the details later
- Trail CREW gear—bring as much as you can—you will know how to use it and it will most likely be much lighter.

**On the Way:**

- Bring Troop radios for the car to car to chatter—no cell phone coverage on the way in many places
- Try and arrive at Philmont early in the morning on Check in day—if you make a crew shirt—get an extra for your Ranger—they like that

**On the Trail:**

- Remember that the Boy Crew Leader is in charge—you should have a crew duty roster
- Make sure you do Thorns and Roses every night
- Follow Phil Procedures—even if they seem a bit “stupid” they move 22000 people through there every year and they have to have a system that works