

Philmont Crew Gear Tips

- Sewing kit with heavy thread and needle. This is a must for repairing a seam on a pack or hip belt. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Check both personal and crew gear thoroughly and maintain as needed BEFORE you start your trek. It's better to take your hip belt with a seam beginning to let go to a professional with an industrial sewing machine BEFORE rather than after.
- Metal tent stakes. That's 120 tent stakes for a crew of twelve! Take what you need for your tents to stake them down in a solid blow as personal gear and what you need for your crew tarp plus a few extra and you'll be good.
- 2-3 collapsible water containers 2.5 gal. each. Remember that one gallon of water weighs 8.35 pounds, so that container full weighs close to 17 pounds. The narrow neck on the plastic container makes them very difficult to fill. Consider smaller volume Dromedary bags in lieu of collapsible containers. These containers fill and pour with ease and can easily be hung from a backpack or from a limb for a camp shower.
- 2 backpacking stoves. Recommend 2 liquid fuel stoves per crew of twelve. Liquid fuel is available in the backcountry, whereas butane canister availability is unpredictable and less reliable at higher altitude. Lastly, you have to pack spent butane canisters for the course of your trek as they are not considered trash.
- Crew First Aid Kit. Let your Wilderness First Aid Training be your guide in beefing up the listed components in the Guidebook. You cannot have too much moleskin. Our crew seemed to use it like was going out of style. Other items include an irrigation syringe, SAM splint, and yes, a knee brace. Remember the crew kit is not a substitute for your personal first aid kit.
- Duct Tape. Have each Scout and Scouter wrap duct tape just below the handle of each trekking pole. Duct Tape can indeed have a thousand-and-one uses on the trail.
- Ground cloth or footprint per tent. Consider this as personal gear. A tent footprint is a must for your personal tent or at minimum a 7 ft. x 8 ft. sheet of TYVEK and for the Philmont provided tents.
- Multi-tool. One per crew will do. It does not have to be massive. The Gerber Dime is an excellent choice.
- Sunscreen. Consider personal gear item. Make sure that each crew member carries an adequate amount. Better to focus on first aid for sunburn.
- Carabiners. A must for the bear bag portfolio.
- Camp shovel/trowel. Personal gear.
- Camp Kitchen. The Philmont-provided Trail chef kit or one 8 qt. pot with lid and a 10 L collapsable bucket (Sea to Summit) for cooking. Consider 2 folding spoons (MSR or GSI) in lieu of the cooking spoons provided.
- Water filters. One or two as backup to purification tablets is recommended. Make sure that the filter component can be cleaned or back-flushed in the field. The purification tablets will make you lazy.
- Nylon Fly. Consider a 10 ft. x 10 ft. or 12 ft. x12 ft. Sil-nylon fly (Granite Gear, Sea to Summit) and use trekking poles for the set up.