

Crew 803-CX Equipment list & Notes

Sleeping

Sleeping Bag (to go in stuff sack)

Waterproof Ground Cloth (5'x7')

Sleeping Clothes (worn only in sleeping bag)

Stuff-able sleeping bag go down to 25 – 40 degrees, depending on how warm you sleep. It must be NO LARGER than 20" long and 10" in diameter and weigh 5 lbs. or less. If you sleep cold, then use lightweight long underwear (polypro) and a watch cap to keep warm. Otherwise shorts and a t-shirt for sleeping clothes will suffice. Sleeping cloths stay packed in your bag and will add some to the final stuff size.

Your sleeping bag should stuff into a waterproof stuff sack lined with a heavy duty (4 – 6 Mil.) plastic bag. This may sound like unnecessary redundancy, but your sleeping bag is the last line of defense for hyperthermia. Just imagine how you'd feel if the pack horse buck off your bag and it ends up floating down the Cimaroncito River for a ways. The troop has some lightweight Tyvec ground clothes and will provide for the crew. A second, personal tarp or pad may be added for inside the tent, but remember that all of your gear must fit into your stuff sack and saddle bags. In most cases, a self inflating pad will be too big to fit.

Wearing (extra in plastic bags)

Western Riding Boots

Lightweight Sneakers or tennis shoes

Socks – 3 pair

Jeans – 1 pair (western riding cut)

Belt

Long Sleeve shirts – 2

Underwear – 2 pair

Uniform Shirt – 1 (for wear in HQ)

Class B Polo Shirt (for wear on the train)

Uniform Trousers – 1 (for wear in HQ)

Warm Jacket or Sweater (wool preferable)

Rain pants

Light Leather Gloves

Plastic "space" bags or Large ziplock bags

Western riding boots with a smooth sole, pull on with no laces. Tennis shoes are for around camp, it's truly a welcome relief to slip into some light shoes after a long day. It's also good practice for Leave No Trace low impact camping. Philmont concentrates traffic at designated camp sites that see hundreds of campers each week. Heavy boots can trample and destroy the sites with such traffic.

Note the single pair of jeans for the entire week! I plan on bringing two light weight synthetic t-shirts. I may also look for light wool or synthetic shirts instead of cotton. Wool and synthetics can help wick away moisture and act as a warmth layer in the cool night air. It's also likely that we will get

rained upon during the trek and synthetics in particular dry quickly. Jeans are usually cotton denim, but I may look for a blended fabric with synthetic fibers. You'll want a straight leg cut (western) and not too baggy. Baggy jeans cause chaffing in the saddle – ouch! I also recommend synthetic underwear for it's wicking and quick drying ability. I like the tight boxers as they protect the thighs against chaffing, which may be an issue with wet cotton jeans.

We will use Class B polo shirts for train travel and switch into Class A just before we arrive. Class A uniforms are to be worn around base camp and for the crew photo. Our troop doesn't have a set policy on uniform pants, but I request that taste and common sense prevail so our crew photo looks presentable. I brought two pairs of zip off pants for travel and base camp last time. The train gets cold at night so the long pants were welcome for the ride, but I zipped off the legs once we arrived in the near ninety degree heat of New Mexico. Remember that travel and HQ clothes must fit inside the crew lockers at base camp, along with any other non-trail gear.

Rain pants are not required by highly recommended. Philmont will issue a raincoat (duster) but having the pants will help keep your legs dry, especially if we are wearing cotton jeans. If we happen to run into a wet spell, your jeans may be wet for several days before they can dry out, and we have only one pair! Rain pants will help protect them and provide an extra layer for warmth if it gets cold, or to wear as backup if you hang your jeans to dry. The rain coat is an optional item for wearing around base camp before and after the trail. It can be stored in the crew locker.

Light weight leather gloves pull double-duty. First, you will likely need them when we do our conservation project. Our last crew hauled bales of straw up a canyon wall. Other possible jobs may be trail repair or building requiring digging or laying rocks, or even cutting down invasive trees from meadows. All of these jobs are easier on your hands if you have protective gloves. Second, they can be a welcome source for warmth on very cold nights. I was glad to have them on two nights on our 2004 trek.

I recommend heavy duty ziplocks or "space" bags, where you can squeeze out the air, to store clothing in your stuff bag. This will help keep them dry as well as make it easier to manage your gear when setting up and breaking camp.

Eating

Deep bowl or plate (small)

Cup (measuring style)

Spoon

Water Bottles, Plastic – 2 (1 quart/Liter) [bear bag]

The 2004 crew used disposable Zip-Lock bowls and we treated them as crew gear. I still have them and will pick up a few more. A cup is not required but nice. If you have Nalgene bottles, some backpacking aluminum cups are design to fit around the bottom of the bottle to save space. I recommend at least one Nalgene type bottles. You can also pick up a wide mouth bottle insert that acts a sipper lid for easy drinking. Hydration bladders are not allowed on horseback as they may

hook branches as we ride, but a small one may be considered for day hikes if your stuff sack allows the luxury. I have a lexan spork but any plastic spoon will do.

Personal and Miscellaneous

Toilet Paper, individual partial roll
Lip Balm [bear bag]
Money (\$10-\$20 in small bills)
Bandana or Handkerchief [bear bag]
Flashlight (small with fresh batteries)
Toothbrush [bear bag]
Toothpaste [bear bag]
Comb
Small Towel (synthetic car washing chamois)
Shaving equipment (no aerosol cans) [bear bag]
Sunscreen, 15 or higher SPF [bear bag]
Boudreaux's Butt Paste (A&D Vitamin Ointment or Desitin) [bear bag]
Sunglasses
Ditty bag
Large safety pins

Several items, such as toothpaste and butt cream may be shared by several crew members. Since you only use a little bit of toothpaste (pea sized dollop) there's no sense in everyone bringing a separate tube. Boudreaux's Butt Paste may seem like a joke but is worth it's weight in gold hike you suffer from "hikers rash." We're not hiking but I image saddle sores would be unwelcome as well. The money is for root beer and peanuts at the cantina and maybe a post card and stamp or two. There are not too many opportunities to spend on the trail. This is separate from travel meal money and souvenir money, which we will discuss later. You can buy a hikers towel but the car wash chamois is about the same. It's light weight and small so it'll fit in your stuff sack (notice that there's already a lot of stuff in your stuff sack). They are also very absorbent and will dry quickly in the arid New Mexico air.

A waterproof ditty bag with your name on it is useful for putting all of your smell-ables in one bag. It makes it easy to unload when setting camp as well as to pack when breaking camp. If you have meds I recommend a separate ditty bag for them. They will go up in the "oops" bag, a separate bear bag that goes up just before lights out. This will make them easier to retrieve if needed before morning. Inhalers and epi-pens stay with the campers during the night in case of emergency.

Large safety pins can be used as clothes pins to hang wet socks and such to help them dry. A backpacking trick is to pin them to the outside of you pack in the morning if they are still wet. By lunch they would be dry in the arid New Mexico climate. I don't think the wranglers would let us practice this technique on the saddle, but they'll be useful in camp. Philmont policy prohibits using tree braches for drying clothes to protect them from thousands of campers each year.

Equipment Provided by Crew

Philmont Maps – 2
Sewing Kit with heavy thread and Needle
2 ½ Gallon collapsible water jugs – 2
Crew first aid kit [bear bag]
50 ft. Nylon rope
Matches
Compass – 2
Pocket knives – 2 (no sheath knives)
Tent pins/pegs (10 per person)
Soap (Camp Suds) [bear bag]
Alarm clock

I and the other Adult Advisors will provide or procure what the troop doesn't already have.

Optional

Camera & Film [bear bag]
Watch
Insect Repellent [bear bag]
Philmont Field Guide (Mr. Vannerson will bring)
Notepad and pencil (recommend write in the rain)
Rain coat/Poncho (for use at base camp only)

Most years, Insect repellent is not needed. Mr. Vannerson will follow email reports from the Philmont mailing list to see if inbound crews report mosquito problems before we leave. If needed, the crew should bring two bottles to share. I highly recommend the notepad and would encourage crew members to make some notes everyday about their experience. It may not seem like much now but even a year later it's fun to go back and read your notes as they'll trigger memories of your adventure that may have already faded. Write In The Rain brand is a waterproof paper that will hold up in your pocket or saddlebag. Philmont's Tooth of Time Trading Post sells a souvenir pad that's water proof.

As mentioned earlier, Philmont provides rain dusters for Cavalcade members, but I suggest you bring a coat for use in base camp before and after we get our Philmont gear.

Suggested/Optional Travel Needs

Day pack
Fleece Jacket or Sweater
Light shoes or moccasins
Toiletry kit & travel meds
Ear Plugs
Inflatable pillow
Cards
CD Players or Games (must stay in locker at Philmont)
Snacks

Meal Money (\$75 - \$100 – covers both ways)

These items are optional depending upon your personal preferences. I brought onboard a day pack with items I needed for the 20 hour train ride. I brought my medium weight fleece jacket that I wore at night to sleep in. The air conditioning in the train car makes it rather cold and the jacket kept me warm. You could also bring a small fleece blanket, but I think that would be a harder to manage and would take up more packing space. My jacket was also the same one I packed for the trek (double-duty). The train offers small pillows, which are okay, but I may bring a inflatable neck pillow that I bought at Ace hardware in the dollar section to see if it's more comfortable.

You will wear your boots on the train and will want to put on something lighter for the train ride. Amtrak policy prohibits you from walking through the train in stocking feet. I have a pair of hard soled moccasins that worked perfectly and packed small. Optionally, you can use your lightweight sneakers you bring on the trail, just remember to repack them in your stuff sack at base camp. I prefer using separate shoes as I'll have less to do at base camp and I don't have to worry about transferring a lot of gear, just my jacket. The same with toiletries and medications for travel. I recommend a separate small kit for the train rides.

Ear plugs should almost be mandatory! The train makes many stops to pick up passengers, the biggest is a stop at Kansas City around Midnight. Even quiet folks boarding make quite a racket. Many crew members complained the next morning that they were awakened and had a difficult time returning back to sleep. I don't even remember the stop and slept the night through. (when our return train was late and we were guests at the Raton Fire Department for the layover, one of our crew members mentioned the problem to one of the fireman, who then opened up their supply cabinet and pulled out a supply of ear plugs, which he gave to our crew!)

Electronic games and personal music players are allowed, but only on the train. And be forewarned that they must be stored in the crew locker when we are on the trail. The lockers are in a covered building that's open to the outdoors. They will not get rained upon, but are exposed to the heat and will only be as secured by our padlocks. It's not likely to be damaged or stolen, but bring them at your own risk.

We will discuss meal money at a later date in detail, but \$75-\$100 should cover your needs. The train has a dining car and a snack bar. The snack bar is expensive so I recommend a few meals as a crew in the dining car. The meals are much better and it's a nice experience (I'm still amazed how the wait staff can pour coffee or orange juice while the train rocks back-and-forth without spilling!). I recommend packing some snacks from home as they'll be much less expensive than what the snack bar charges. On the return trip, our late train disrupted the meal schedule, both for us and Amtrak. We had planned on being home before dinner but ended up getting in around midnight. So we had an extra meal to pay for that we hadn't planned on. Amtrak also had an extra meal they hadn't planned on and ended up running out of food. (I still can't believe that they don't have a contingency plan for this considering how notorious they are for running late.) Since there are no grocery stores near the Raton depot, we should consider setting up a "care package" shipment from home to arrive at Philmont while we are on the trail with snacks for the return train ride.

Check List

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