

2008 First Aid Training Requirement for Philmont Crews

First Aid training is important for the safety of the crew while participating in Philmont's backcountry or at the Double H High Adventure Base. For several years crews were encouraged to obtain a higher level of training than the American Red Cross Standard First Aid or equivalent. The recommended course was the 16-hour American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Basic.

Beginning with the 2008 hiking season the requirement for participation is that each crew must have someone certified in a 16 hour wilderness first aid course from a nationally-recognized provider.

As stated in the "Council and Unit Planning Guide" the 2008 First Aid and CPR Certification Requirement reads as follows:

"Philmont requires that a least **one person**, preferably two, (either an advisor or a youth participant) **in each crew be currently certified in American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid or the equivalent* and CPR from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross or the equivalent.** The American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid is a sixteen-hour course designed to help in situations when help is not readily available. Several hours may be required for Philmont staff to reach a remote backcountry location after a message is delivered to the nearest staffed camp. First aid and CPR training will result in proper and prompt attention being given to injuries and/or illnesses. **You must present current certification cards upon check in to verify this requirement.**"

Equivalent training can be obtained from the following nationally-recognized organizations:

- American Red Cross www.redcross.org
- American Safety and Health Institute www.ashinstitute.org
- Emergency Care and Safety Institute www.ECSIstitute.org
- National Outdoor Leadership School (WMI) www.nols.edu/wmi/
- National Safety Council (NSC) www.nsc.org
- Stonehealth Open Learning Opportunities (SOLO) www.soloschools.com/wfa.html
- Wilderness Medical Associates (WMA) www.wildmed.com
- Wilderness Medical Society (WMS) www.wms.org
- Wilderness Medicine Training Center www.wildmedcenter.com
- Wilderness Safety Council www.wfa.net

The Boy Scouts of America and the American Red Cross have a national agreement, the primary goal of which is to help councils (with their districts and units) become self sufficient teaching Red Cross courses, including First Aid. *Wilderness First Aid Basic* is specified in the agreement. Through this agreement a local council can coordinate training of American Red Cross courses by providing BSA volunteers who are certified to instruct the course by the American Red Cross. The fees for the course taught by the BSA volunteers are dramatically reduced and include a \$5.00 administrative fee and the cost of materials.

Anyone who has (1) an American Red Cross instructor authorization that includes authorization to teach First Aid; (2) some experience in outdoor activities; and (3) approval from their Red Cross chapter (or other unit) of authorization, can proceed through a simple process to become an American Red Cross, *Wilderness First Aid Basics* Instructor. The process to become an instructor: (A) obtain self-study orientation and *Wilderness First Aid Basics* materials; (B) complete the self-study orientation to become acquainted with the *Wilderness First Aid Basics* course and materials; and (C) fill out a Verification Form, and provide it to his/her chapter of authorization.

After completing the self-study guide, an individual may grade the self-study themselves since this is a study aid, not a test. Then, complete the Orientation Verification Form and turn it in to their American Red Cross chapter (or other unit) of authorization. The authorizing chapter will issue an instructor certification (F5736) for *Wilderness First Aid Basics*. Once acknowledged by the chapter with authorization, he/she can then begin teaching the *Wilderness First Aid Basics* course. The instructor also need to inform the chapter of the locations where he/she will be teaching.

Upgrade and course materials may be obtained from your local Red Cross chapter, or directly from the Transylvania County Chapter of the American Red Cross at:

- ∞ <http://www.transylvaniaredcross.com/wfab.htm>,
- ∞ 828-884-4530, or
- ∞ PO Box 2337, Brevard, NC 28712.