

# Philmont Scout Ranch Wilderness Pledge Guia (Guide)



Philmont Scout Ranch is a magnificent wilderness camping area with an immense network of trails and staff and trail camps. For more than 30 years Philmont has asked each participant to sign the Philmont Wilderness Pledge which declares that he or she will do everything possible to preserve the beauty and wonder of the Philmont Wilderness and our neighbor's properties through good Scout Camping.

Philmont typically serves 22,000 youth and adult participants each year. Consequently, some trails and camps especially around commissaries, are subject to heavy use. Nevertheless, it is not the wear of so many boots that mar Philmont; it is the carelessness and thoughtlessness of inconsiderate scout campers. It is our sincere hope that through the commitment of every participant to the Philmont Wilderness Pledge, Philmont will always remain a beautiful and clean place to enjoy high adventure.

Over the years the encouragement of sound wilderness ethics has evolved. Most significantly has been the endorsement and incorporation into the Scouting program the principles of Leave No Trace. Leave No Trace is a cooperative educational program that helps foster stewardship of public and private lands through education and training.

To place added emphasis on the practice of wilderness ethics, Philmont Scout Ranch is incorporating the traditional training of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and the Leave No Trace Principles for all crews that will utilize the backcountry.

**Wilderness Pledge Guia (Guide):** Each crew is asked to select a Wilderness Pledge Guia (Spanish word for Guide.) The Guia will help the crew understand the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace. This person will help the crew focus on camping practices that will adhere to the wilderness ethics outlined in the two approaches.

## **Duties of the Wilderness Pledge Guia:**

1. Work with your crew's Ranger to learn the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace.
2. Assist your crew implement these principles throughout their trek.
3. Guide your crew in discussions about wilderness ethics by focusing on one of the seven principles of Leave No Trace during seven days of the trek.
4. Help your crew follow all camping practices as outlined by your Ranger and strictly follow Philmont's bear and wildlife procedures.
5. Help the members of your crew earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award.

### **Philmont Wilderness Pledge:**

Through good Scout camping, I pledge to preserve the beauty and splendor of the Philmont

Wilderness. I commit myself to:

1. An absence of litter and graffiti.
2. Respect for Philmont's Wildlife.
3. Conservation and proper use of water.
4. Respect for trails and trail signs.
5. Proper use of campsites.

### **Leave No Trace Principles:**

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

## **Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award**

Each participant in the backcountry can earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award. This award will include five requirements. The Wilderness Pledge Guia will help all member of the crew; both youth and adult achieve the requirements and earn the award. A special form will be provided at the Wilderness Pledge Guia meeting. The Wilderness Pledge Achievement award by be purchased by submitting the form at the Tooth of Time Traders. The profits from the purchase of this award will be used to expand the sustainable initiatives of Philmont Scout Ranch.

1. Take part in the Ranger lead training for the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace.
2. Follow all Philmont Camping Practices as outlined by the Ranger throughout the trek.
3. Practice all Philmont Bear and Wildlife procedures throughout the trek.
4. Take part in seven trail discussions with your crew that will focus on one of the seven principles of Leave No Trace and find examples of the focus principle during that day of the trek.
5. Complete three hours of conservation work under the direction of a member of the Philmont Staff. (This requirement is also one of the requirements to earn the Philmont arrowhead Patch. These hours count for both awards.)

# Philmont Wilderness Pledge

The major areas of emphasis in the Philmont Wilderness Pledge are:

**Litter/Graffiti** – Each camper should make sure that all trails and campsites are left neat and clean. Camping Headquarters should be left in a like manner.

**Wildlife** – Respect wild (and domestic) animals. Do not feed or harass any wild animals.

**Water** – Remember, you are in a land where water is scarce and very precious. Conservation and wise use of water has been practiced since the first person entered this land. You should never bathe or do laundry or dishes in or near a spring or stream. Do not throw rocks in springs or touch any solar systems. They are easily damaged and the flow of water can be disrupted.

**Trails** – Pledge yourself to respect all trails. Do not cut green boughs or trees, or mark them. Do not cut across switchbacks, and do not alter or change trail signs.

**Campsites** – Each crew is responsible for leaving a neat and orderly campsite. Whether it be in Camping Headquarters, staffed camps, or non-staffed camps, your campsite should be left litter-free with its latrine and sump clean. Fires (if permitted) must be left DEAD OUT.

## Leave No Trace

### 1. Plan ahead and prepare.

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area. Listen to local authorities such as Rangers and Backcountry Staff.
- Understand and respect the expectations and wishes of the land owner. This may vary while on a Philmont Trek. Know what those differences are.
- Prepare for extreme weather and environmental conditions and for medical emergencies.

### Discussion Scenarios:

#1 Crew 607-H1 from Atlanta has decided to go ahead and take the advice from the Philmont preparation packet to use the bear ropes that were provided by Services. Their sister crew, 607-H2 alternatively went with a skinnier style rope of lighter weight. Discuss the pros and cons of each crew's decision.

*A thinner rope cuts into the bark of trees more, due to less surface area, causing more damage to the tree. A thinner rope*

*has a higher chance of fraying or tearing. The thinner rope also has a chance of stretching which would lower the bear bags.*

- #2 As of 2010 the Elliot Barker Wildlife Management Area changed their policy on access for hikers, as it relates to the time of day. At their request of the new Mexico Game and Fish, Philmont has changed the window of time hikers are able to utilize the land from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Your crew wants to hike Wilson Mesa as early as possible on their way to Pueblano. After a 4:30 am wake up, your crew is ready to go at 6:00 am. Should you proceed? Why? Discuss why you think the policy is in place?

Leave No Trace asks hikers to understand and follow the policy established by the land manager. The time of day for hiking policy is in place to prevent a disruption in the wildlife patterns on the management area and to allow access to the water of the Ponil Creek early and late each day.

## **2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.**

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.
- Understand concentrated vs. low impact camping and hiking.
- When low-impact camping, set up camp at least 200 feet from lakes or streams.
- Do not alter existing campsites or trails.
- Walk single-file through the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy. When hiking on property with no trails, spread out and "meadow walk"
- Only one crew per campsite, and "fluff your duff" before you leave.

### **Discussion Scenarios:**

- #1 A crew decides to take a day hike up to Trail Peak during their layover at Beaubien. After an enjoyable time near the summit, the crew is worried they will not get back to their camp before dark. Fearing this, they want to "bushwhack" their way down the mountain skipping the many switchbacks. Discuss the drawbacks of this idea.

*Drawbacks: soil erosion, possible injury, affecting the sustainability of the trail, damaging the outside edge of the trail, increased chance of getting lost, damaging plant life, creating*

*new trails. Trails are designed to enhance the user hiking experience in a safe way.*

- #2 Your crew is camping at Ring Place and has been assigned an area that has many distinct surfaces in which you may set up your tents. Since you are in the Valle Vidal, this choice becomes even more important due to the low-impact requirements of campsite setup. The areas where you can setup tents include short grass, bedrock, and a barren spot that is closer to a water source with recognizable game trails through it. What area is most durable? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each area.

*The bedrock area is the most durable, followed by the barren area, then the short grass. One disadvantage to the barren area is that it contains visible game trails to a water source. Leave No Trace considers short grass to be a durable surface, though not as durable as the bedrock or the barren area. In this instance it might be the overall best choice for comfort, durability, and respect for wildlife patterns.*

### **3. Dispose of waste properly.**

- Pack out all garbage, leftover food and litter. Inspect your campsite or resting area for trash or spilled food.
- Deposit solid human waste in a latrine or cat hole dug 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Cover the cat hole well. Find a rock to urinate on, also 200 feet from water, camp and trails.
- Pack out bloody items and feminine hygiene waste as smellable garbage.
- When washing your body, carry water to the sump in a pot or plastic storage bag and use tiny amounts of biodegradable soap.
- Wastewater goes down sumps. Dishwater should be run through a sump strainer. When low-impact camping, follow water disposal methods as taught by the Ranger.

### **Discussion Scenarios:**

- #1 On day four of their trek, crew 607 B-52 went to go use the sump at Aguila after dinner. Their crew leader noticed that their sister crew had already used the sump and had failed to strain out the large chunks of food from their cooking pot before pouring the water down the sump. Chunks of macaroni and green beans were still sitting on top of the screen and the whole sump smelled like the evening's dinner. Discuss the situation.

*The rest of the story; Knowing that the area has heavy bear activity, and that Philmont policy is to filter out food particles through the sump strainer, crew 607-B-52 decides to scrape all the food particles off the sump screen and into their garbage bag. They then sump their own waste water according to Philmont policy and pour some extra water down the sump to help clean the screen and wash away the smell.*

- #2 Jason is on his first trek at Philmont. He is an avid baseball player and loves to chew dill pickle-flavored sunflower seeds. On day six he decides to relax in Copper Park Camp by sitting by the fire and enjoying some seeds. He spits the shells into and around the fire and also sees how far he can spit them. Some of the shells fly more than 25 feet. Discuss what Jason is doing.

*The rest of the story; You approach Jason and remind him about Philmont Bear and Wildlife Procedures as well as the principles of Leave No Trace. The two of you decide to pick up as many of the shells as possible and pack them out as garbage. The next morning you hear from another crew that a bear had been through Copper Park overnight. You are relieved that it never camp to your campsite and that you were able to avoid an incident.*

#### **4. Leave what you find.**

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Philmont considers any item 50 years-old or older to be an artifact.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- Avoid altering the natural or man-made landscape in any way. Leaving your mark is overrated. No GRAFFITI!

#### **Discussion Scenarios:**

- #1 You are shoving the last stakes in the ground to secure your tent when your tent mate suggests that you did a trench around the tent to prevent water run off from a nearby hill. It appears that a rain shower might occur soon and you agree that it would aid in preventing your tent from turning into a swamp—but something just doesn't seem right.

*After discussing the suggestion with your tent mate, you decide the only reason for digging a trench is because you are camped in a wash. You notice a spot on the other side of your crew's tents that is not as flat, but is on higher ground and doesn't appear to*

*be susceptible to erosion. By tenting there you don't have to alter the site in any way. You both agree that this decision preserves the campsite's beauty for future users.*

- #2 Between the dinosaur track, the petroglyphs and the pit house remains your crew has enjoyed the rich history of the North Ponil canyon. As you near Old Camp for the evening a fellow Scout sees a rusty railroad spike near the trail and he picks it up to pack out as trash. You praise him for this just as your Ranger, Alex, walks up with a suggestion.

*Alex thanks the Scout for wanting to pick up trash, but reminds everyone what the staff member at Indian Writings said. At Philmont anything 50 years-old or older is considered an artifact. The railroad spike is most likely a remnant of the old railroad that ran through the canon between 1905 and 1912. You all agree that it would be best to leave the spike in its place for future campers to enjoy. You also decide to notify the staff at the next camp as to its whereabouts so they can document it.*

- #3 Your crew is rejoicing on the summit of Mount Baldy after an arduous jaunt up from Baldy Town. One Scout gets caught up in the excitement and suggests that the crew leave its mark by having each member sign their names on the rocks that make up the wind break on the top of the mountain. At first several members of the crew decide this is a great idea and begin looking for something to care their names with. You hesitate...

*After stopping to think, you decide that leaving your mark is overrated because your graffiti will forever change the appearance of that beautiful mountain top. You notice a time capsule nearby and suggest to the crew that they all sign the Joker from your deck of playing cards to leave in the capsule. The guys have calmed down a bit and they realize that this is a much better idea. As you leave the card you notice all the different mementos in the time capsule from previous crews who hiked the mountain before you. You are thankful that they chose not to deface the mountain with graffiti and you are glad you didn't either.*

## **5. Minimize Campfire Impacts**

- Cook with a backpacking stove in the fire-ring area of the "Bearnuda Triangle."
- Where fires are permitted, use only established fire rings. Fires are not permitted by Philmont campers outside Philmont Scout Ranch boundaries.
- Keep fires small and use only forearm-size wood pieces found on

- the ground.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, extinguish fires completely (cold out) , pack out ashes and scatter the ash about one mile outside of camp and 100 feet off the trail.

### **Discussion Scenarios:**

#1 You are on itinerary 20 and camping in Iris Park for the evening when an Advisor recommends that the crew builds a fire. Your crew mates recall the training they received from their Ranger on how to properly build a campfire and no one has heard anything about a fire ban. There's plenty of downed wood in the area and as responsible Scouts you know that you will properly dispose of the ashes tomorrow morning. Should you proceed with a campfire? Why?

*You ranger told you to only have a campfire in a fire ring. Also, because of the land-use agreement Philmont has with the Forest Service, Philmont campers are asked not to build campfires in the Valle Vidal.*

#2 Later in the trek you are camping at Elkhorn. The same advisor is sitting by the fire ring and he again recommends that the crew build a fire. Again, there is plenty of downed wood, everyone recalls their Ranger training regarding campfires, and the staff at Pueblano just told you there was no fire ban in place. Should you proceed with a campfire? Why?

*You have a fire ring, there's no fire ban in place, and you plan to follow Philmont procedures regarding the wood you use, the size of the fire, and the disposal of ashes. Enjoy the campfire!*

## **6. Respect Wildlife.**

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals, especially bears. Feeding damages their health, alters their natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and yourself by following Philmont Bear and Wildlife procedures as well as procedures for storing food and garbage. A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR!

### **Discussion Scenarios:**

#1 Zac, a member of crew 820-D1 was camping with his crew at Ewell's Park. It was a cold and rainy night so he decided to forgo his final pack check for smellables. The next morning he was



surprised to find that his pack had been torn apart by an animal and the remnants of a bag of granola lay scattered about. After a moment of confusion, he remembered stuffing the granola in his pack after a short break the previous day. What happened? What are the repercussions?

*An animal most likely smelled the granola and found the prize inside Zac's pack. If it was a bear, it will probably return to that site in hopes of finding food again. The bear will also be more likely to investigate packs in the future because it found a reward inside Zac's. If the bear is a continual problem in that area, it may have to be removed and possibly killed.*

- #2 You notice the deer that hang around Clark's Fork tend to get very close to the campsites. You and your tent mate wake up early to get some photos. You want to get as close to the deer as possible for an optimal picture, but your tent mate urges you to stay back. Discuss the pros and cons of each option.

*You might get a close-up photo of the deer if you sneak up on it but you will more than likely spook it. Leave No Trace asks hikers to respect wildlife by not altering their natural habits and patterns any more than necessary. The advantage to staying back is that you will probably get to see the deer longer and more people will get to see it. Consider using a zoom lens or taking a picture of the deer that includes the surrounding landscape.*

*You might also need to consider whether the deer might be protecting a fawn and become aggressive and possibly injure you or your friend.*

*At this point you will have to make an ethical decision as to whether it is right to stay back or approach the deer.*

## **7. Be considerate of other visitors.**

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Remember BSA aims and ideals regarding appearance and language.
- Be courteous. Practice proper trail etiquette when encountering others.
- Understand and practice proper trail etiquette when encounter pack stock, cattle and other animals.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

## Discussion scenarios:

#1 You and your crew have had a great trek, but a tough one. You've grown as individuals and as a crew from the challenges you have faced in the backcountry of Philmont. As a perfect ending to your trek, your crew climbs the Tooth of Time and marvels at how far they have come. As you are standing on the summit looking east across the high plains what might ruin your experience?

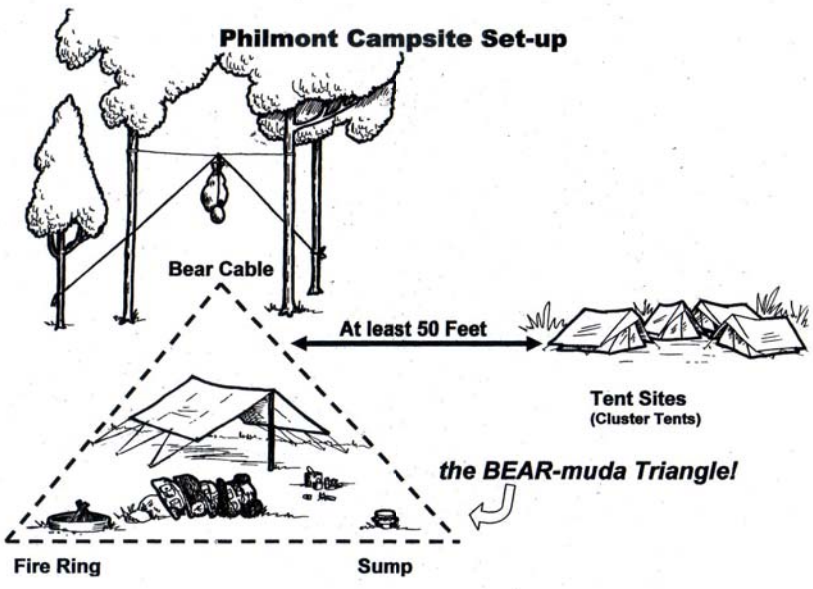
*Some things that might ruin your experience are someone talking on their cell phone, other campers yelling at the top of their lungs off the Tooth, someone swearing loudly hearing the music from an iPod or other music device, etc. There are many things that could ruin your experience. Some of these may not bother you but might bother others. Just remember to be considerate of others.*

**Concentrated Impact:** On Philmont Scout Ranch property we practice concentrated-impact camping. This means that we concentrate or isolate the impact of participants to specific areas.

- **Trails:** Participants hike on trails that are specifically built to withstand the wear and tear of hiking traffic.
- **Campsites:** Participants camp in sites built to accommodate bear procedures and sustainable camping.
- **Man-made features** (bridges, wells, building, etc.): these features are in place to allow participants and staff to concentrate impact in certain areas and in certain ways.

**Low Impact:** When participants' itineraries take them to our neighbors' properties [USFS – Valle Vidal, Vermejo Park Ranch (Greenwood Country and Lower Dean Country), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish – Elliot Barker Management Area, and Kimberlin's Ponil Ranch (North Ponil)] they are asked to practice low-impact camping. The main change from Philmont is that these properties may not have established trails, campsites, or other man-made features that are found on Philmont.

- Bear procedures STILL APPLY.
- Find a durable place for tents.
- NO CAMPFIRES are allowed off Philmont property.
- Designate a sump area to place clean dishes and practice low-impact sumping.
- Set up low-impact bear lines when hanging bear bags.



Philmont Scout Ranch would like to thank JanSport for sponsoring the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award and the Wilderness Pledge Guia Program. Their support as made the program possible. The profit from the sale of the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award patches will be used to improve the sustainable efforts on Philmont Scout Ranch.

The following experiences will help to further explain the seven principles of Leave No Trace and will show that these principles apply any where a person is enjoying a wilderness outdoor experinec.

Skip Yowell is one of the co-founders of JanSport and has been a friend of Philmont for many years.

## **The Principles of Leave No Trace**

### **Examples of JanSport and Skip Yowell experiences**

#### **Principle 1, Plan Ahead and Prepare**

In 1989 JanSport was planning an attempt to climb the 3rd highest peak in the world, Kanchenjunga. Only Mt Everest and K2 are higher than this 28,169 ft monster mountain.

Unfortunately, many of these world's tallest peaks had been stripped of most of their timber at the higher elevations. The timber has been used for fuel for cooking and boiling water. The ashes left behind were unsightly as well.

JanSport made the decision to climb Kanchenjunga without the use of local timber. We wanted to climb "clean". This required lots of extra planning in order to be properly prepared. The expedition team decided to bring all the extra propane needed for this 60 day expedition. That meant brining over 100 gallons of propane.

The team had to prepare and plan ahead on how to transport this much propane to the Himalayas and most important, how to transport all this extra propane to base camp. The team would have to raise extra money to support extra porters, Sherpa's and yaks too.

Thanks to Planning Ahead and being Prepared, JanSport led the first successful American and "clean" climb of Kanchenjunga! Since then, many expeditions have followed in our footsteps.

#### **Principle 2, Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**

As Outdoor enthusiasts, we respect the playgrounds that nature has

provided us, and try to follow all guidelines that will keep them thriving for future generations.

In 1995, the first "Eco Challenge" race was conducted in Southern Utah. It was a 370 mile race, mostly on Federal (BLM) lands. The race involved hiking, biking, horse back riding, climbing, swimming, and rafting. There were 250 entrants. The Race Director, Mark Burnett, was very concerned about leaving the land as it was found and enforced a policy to stay on the designated trails and campgrounds.

Unfortunately a number of people ventured off the trails and campgrounds and severely damaged a very important part of the region's Ecosystem called Cryptobiotic Crust or "Hidden Life". This Hidden Life exists in many formats depending upon the terrain you are exploring. It often goes unnoticed unless it is very colorful, such as in many desert regions. It could also be a small difference in texture and color of soil between rock outcroppings. These Miniature Forests are critical to the local ecosystems, providing nutrients to the soil and vegetation, enhance the recovery from fires. They take decades to form, and even minor damage can take well over 100 years to regenerate.

Thanks to a post-event study headed by Skip Yowell of JanSport and a group of other concerned Outdoor enthusiasts, this damage was discovered. As a result, the BLM and other Forest Agencies adopted more Eco-Friendly policies for future events throughout the US.

Practicing the principle of TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES may seem very easy, we just need to look a little deeper into our surroundings.

### **Principle 3, Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack it in, Pack it Out)**

For the past 39 years, JanSport has been taking employees of outdoor retail stores up Mt Rainier as a way to introduce our new technical packs. Mt Rainier is the premiere mountain in all North America to train on for big expeditions in the Himalayas. It has long been a rule that you pack out all your waste, including human waste...

On the 2007 climb, one of the climbers was JanSport National Sales Manager, Scott P. Scott was concerned very early during the summit attempt portion of the climb as he was unable to go number two before the 3am start. After seven hours of hard climbing in four man rope teams, the group finally made it to the summit of Mt Rainier. Scott's fears about not going number two at base camp turned to reality on the summit... On the summit, Scott pulled down all his layers of clothes, squatted down and took aim at the "blue bag". A blue bag is a

biodegradable, leak proof bag that the guides carry in case of an accident on the mountain...

As the team rested at the top of Mt Rainier and prepared for their decent, Scott slipped his fully loaded blue bag into the backpack of his friend Todd, a sales rep for JanSport. When the team finally made it down the mountain that afternoon, Scott waited patiently to see the look on Todd's face as he unpacked his backpack and discovered he had carried all of Scott's crap down the mountain....

When Todd did find the blue bag, you should have seen what he did to Scott, however that's another story...

In the end, all of the waste was carried and disposed of properly.

### **Principle 4, Leave What You Find**

While exploring the "Hole in the Wall Gang" trail through New Mexico and Colorado, JanSport founder Skip Yowell often came across 3,000 year old Native American ruins and artifacts belonging to the Anasazi tribes. Some of these finds included ancient granaries and pottery belonging to some of the earliest known inhabitants of North America. Skip thought it best to keep that spirit alive and leave everything as he found it for future generations to enjoy, while also preserving the legacy of those ancient people. Many before him had not done the same and had plundered these ancient sites for money, selling artifacts to private collectors never to be seen again by the public.

The key to LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND is to leave any amazing treasures you discover untouched, so they can be enjoyed by anyone following in your footsteps. In turn the people that have come before you leave what they find for you to enjoy as well.

### **Principle 5, Minimize Campfire Impact**

We've all been educated about forest fires and know the rules of fire ring use, dousing properly, and fire bans.

The largest and most destructive forest fire in the Colorado history was started in a fire ring, during a fire ban. It was the Hayman Fire, which began on June 8, 2002 and took over two weeks to contain. It consumed 136,000 acres, (Philmont Scout Ranch is 136,000 acres). It caused the death of 6 people, 5 of which were fire fighters lost in a car crash driving from Oregon to help.

Unfortunately, the blaze was started by someone that knew a lot about fires and fighting them, a Forest Service Worker with 18 years

experience. She was having some troubles in her life and thought she could make herself look better in the eyes of others if she were a hero - by extinguishing a fire. She lit the fire in the fire ring and arranged a small amount of grass and a few branches on the outer edge. The fire was only a few feet outside the ring when she unsuccessfully attempted to put it out. A few flames, none more than a foot high according to the US Forest Service, turned into the Hayman Fire.

The damages caused by this event are far reaching. They include the indefinite closing of a small remote lake visited on a yearly basis by JanSport founder Skip Yowell and his best friend from childhood that lived in the area. His friend lost his house and cannot rebuild for many years due to the surrounding scorched landscape.

A great lesson learned here is that even if you are an expert at MINIMIZING CAMPFIRE IMPACT, things can get out of hand quickly.

### **Principle 6, Respect Wildlife**

While backpacking with a friend in the Pasyten Wilderness in Washington State, JanSport founder Skip Yowell decided to test the first model of his dome tent. While settling down for the first night of sleep Skip had overlooked a bag of M&M's and potato chips left inside his tent. Sometime later that night he and a friend were awakened to the four heavy footsteps and snorting that they thought could only be a bear. Their suspicions were confirmed when the impressions of claws and a snout were pushing against the outside of the tent trying to get to the junk food. Realizing this, Skip's friend yelled and scared the bear causing it to run off. Luckily they both avoided any harm.

When RESPECTING WILDLIFE, try to avoid causing harm to animals and plants that you come across. But also respect the power and danger that some of the wildlife pose to you and take precautions to limit dangerous situations.

### **Principle 7, Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

In 1992 JanSport was on a climb up Mt Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. It had been a long day of climbing and the team settled in for some food and a good nights sleep. The team had a good dinner, cleaned up all their cooking gear and was in their sleeping bags with a full belly and were ready for a great nights sleep. Soon foot steps were heard and the sounds of another team. This team walked right past the JanSport team and set up camp only 50 yards away.

This new team of climbers was quite loud as they set up their camp for the night. As the new team set up camp, team JanSport could hear

loud music and loud voices. They were completely disrespectful of Team JanSport. This did not sit well with Big Lou. Big Lou is Lou Whittaker, founder of Rainier Mountaineering and leader of several successful JanSport climbs in the Himalayas. Big Lou is 6'4" and 225 pounds of solid muscle with a voice like a grizzly bear. Big Lou calmly told the JanSport Team he would take care of the noise. Big Lou walked over the other team of climbers (he probably looked like sasquatch as he walked over). Big Lou spoke to the other team about being considerate of the fact that the JanSport Team was trying to sleep.

No one knows for sure what Big Lou said to the other team, however not a peep was heard again.



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