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**2017 Saint George Trek
Wednesday, July 5, 2017 to Thursday, July 20, 2017**

**General Information**

The Saint George Trek is The National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s® high adventure Catholic leadership program for older Catholic Boy Scouts and Venture Crew members at Philmont Scout Ranch. The program brings Catholic high school youth from around the country together with selected priests, religious and seminarians for eleven days of backpacking in the context of a vocation retreat.

**Dates and Itinerary**

The 2015 Saint George Trek begins on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the participants meet, get to know one another, train, have fun and pray. Then it's off to Philmont Scout Ranch where they will hike the Sangre de Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains. While hiking, they will experience a program that is designed to encourage the integration of morality, values, spirituality, faith, scripture and vocation in their lives as young Catholic Men and Women. Before returning home on Thursday, July 20, 2017, they will be asked to commit their own continued discernment as well as bringing their experiences home to their respective dioceses, so they can become effective peer leaders and role models for their fellow scouts.

**Candidate Qualifications/Selection**

Each Arch/diocese/Eparchy is encouraged to conduct a search and nominate one or two Boy Scouts or Venture Crew members for participation in the Trek. Because the program can only accommodate seventy youth, only two participants per diocese will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Selection of participants is made by the individual Arch/Diocese and should be made on the basis of demonstrated maturity, physical ability, leadership potential, an interest the life of the Church and an openness to the discernment of vocation.

The earning of Scouting's Religious Emblems and involvement in church, school and scouting activities should be given consideration. Candidates should be emotionally mature adolescents who will be fifteen years of age on or before July 1, 2017, in High School, no older than 18 years old, and committed to assist their Catholic Committee when they return home.

Participants must also have the physical health and stamina to backpack on the mountain trails of Philmont. **NO exceptions can be made to these expectations and requirements.**

A female crew is planned pending sufficient female registration.

The Saint George Trek is a one-time only experience for youth. Previous youth participants are not eligible.

**Forms:**

After the local committee has selected its nominee(s) the following are to be completed

* [Participant Application](http://goo.gl/forms/3LfgDdl2nV%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  *(submitted by participant after approval by local committee)*
* [Diocesan Approval](http://goo.gl/forms/URH9al1NWi%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)      *(must accompany every participant nomination)*

**Fees – *(Instructions on the submission of fees will be given after acceptance)***

Thanks to the financial commitment of NCCS and generous benefactors the 2017 fee for the Saint George Trek has been reduced to **$800.00 per participant**.

Upon acceptance to the trek the participant and local committee will be asked to submit a deposit of $200 for each participant.

**Fee Schedule -** The schedule for subsequent payments is

* October 1, 2016- Second payment due **$200**
* December 1, 2016 - Third payment due **$200**
* Final payment is due February 1, 2017  **$200**

**The fee will cover:**

* All Philmont Scout Ranch fees
* Retreat House lodging in Albuquerque
* Philmont and Retreat House Meals
* Roundtrip Chartered bus travel between Albuquerque and Philmont

**Not Included in Fee**

* Transportation to and from Albuquerque, New Mexico
* Personal gear
* Normal personal expenses

**NOTE:** Philmont has a policy that all fees are non-refundable. NCCS will refund all fees paid if it is able to fill the vacancy with another participant.

**Financing**

The Arch/diocese is expected to underwrite Registration costs for participants. Financial assistance is available. Arch/diocese may submit a request for a scholarship with the approval form. Grants will be made on the basis of demonstrated financial need and first come basis.

**Funding**

The Saint George Trek is funded by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting®

**Questions may be addressed to:**

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