

SPANISH
PEAKS
SCOUT
RANCH

2010
High Adventure
Leaders Guide

Welcome to Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch!

Mission

It is our mission to deliver unequalled customer service and program to affect a highlight experience Scouts and Leaders will never forget.

Unit Leadership

Scout camp is an extension of your troop's ongoing program Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch has resources especially suited to that program. The High Adventure Programs are complemented by the beauty of the forest, lake, and meadows. Together these provide an ideal setting for Scout camping. Our staff is well trained and ready to teach skills, offer ideas, and model the Scout spirit you want your boys to value.

You, as Unit Leaders, will provide the directions and leadership for your troop. With the support of the resources and staff at Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch, you will be able to focus on the most important task:

TO HELP EACH BOY DEVELOP AS A SCOUT!

We look forward to seeing you at Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch.

Larry Jarrett
Camp Director

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Safety Concerns

Rocky Mountains & Altitude

SPSR is located in the rocky Mountains of Colorado. Besides being beautiful, they are also some of the highest mountains in the continental US. Our base camp is located at about 8,400 feet with surrounding peaks at 13,610 ft, 13,568 ft, and 12,683. It can be difficult for some to come from lower elevations to this high altitude in a matter of a few days. That's why it is important that you train properly before arriving, don't push yourself or others too hard too fast, and plan your goals accordingly.

Weather

These mountains tend to attract and even sometimes create their own weather, so it is very difficult to predict. Your guide will continuously be watching for changing weather conditions, and will help you decide on a change in plans if the weather makes your trek too difficult or risky to continue.

Lightening

Because most of our High Adventure programs include some time on exposed rock and above timberline, it is very important to pay close attention to thunderstorms and lightening. Activities on the east side of the mountains have difficulty seeing these storms moving in from the west. This is why we try to arrive on top of the summits before noon and head back down before the typical afternoon thunderstorms move in.

Hypothermia

Summers in the mountains can fluctuate from the high 80's in the afternoons to below 40 at night. Make sure you bring enough clothing to keep you comfortable in all these conditions. On a warm afternoon you will likely sweat and want something that will dry quickly. Good rain gear will keep you from getting soaked in an afternoon shower. Then you can use a sweatshirt or fleece to stay warm during the evenings.

Dehydration & Heat Exhaustion

DRINK LOTS OF WATER. This is probably one of the most common problems people have doing High Adventure. Besides being in a dry climate, you will be at a higher altitude; both of these cause your body to lose more fluid than you are probably used to. Add to this the fact that you will be physically active and sweating more. It is vital that you have a water bottle handy to constantly replace these fluids. This can keep you from getting a headache, an upset stomach, or even slipping into heat exhaustion and stroke. You also must remember that you have less atmosphere to protect you from the sun's harmful rays. Plan on wearing sunscreen and/or hat to prevent getting badly sunburned.

Environment

We have a lot of respect for the environment and want you to also. We practice Leave No Trace skills while participating in High Adventure activities, so future generations can enjoy this area as much as you. Remember the plants and animals were here long before we came. You are only visiting here for 1 week a year; they make their homes here year round. Any trash you leave or damage you do will affect them and the people who come after you.

Plants

You also have to be aware of plants and animals that can cause you harm. We do have a little poison ivy in places. There are some edible plants in the area, but you should make sure that a knowledgeable person is 100% certain it is safe before trying it.

Animals

SPSR has an abundance of beautiful wildlife. Deer, bears, bobcats, marmots, chipmunks, raccoons, timber rattle snakes, and many species of birds. Please keep your distance from all wildlife. Chipmunks, marmots, and raccoons will dig into your pack for items that smell like food. We don't want animals to become reliant on human food and trash.

Bears

Black bears are prevalent in the area and can become a nuisance. Being driven by their need to fatten up for the winter, they are constantly searching for food with their keen sense of smell. Our guides will instruct you on what smellables to put in the bear bag and how to hang it properly. They will also teach you how to set up your campsite so that the smells of the cooking area and food are away from the sleeping area.

Water

It is important to only drink clean water while up here to keep from getting very ill. Much of the water can carry *Giardia*, which can give the person a flu-like illness that lasts for many weeks. It doesn't matter how much you drink, only if you drink a bit that has the parasite in it. There are a few pure springs in the area that you can drink from, but the rest of the water must be purified first. Each group will carry water purification and will be instructed on how to operate them to fill up water bottles.

Fire

Careless use of fire could result in the burning of the entire forest and destroying of our camp and many homes in the area. We cook with much safer and efficient white gas backpacking stoves while on the trail. Having a campfire at night will be at the discretion of your guide, and even then please be extremely cautious. Smoking is not permitted on the trail.

Lost Person

It is easier to not get separated from the group than to have to find your own way out of the wilderness. Your guide will assign a lead and trail person for each section for the trail; if you must step off the trail, make sure you stay between these two or someone else knows where you are. You will also re-group several times during the day to make sure everyone is keeping up and that everyone takes the same trail at intersections.

Lost Person (continued)

If you do get lost, stop and allow them plenty of time to come find you instead of wandering around and getting yourself more lost. Our guides are trained to handle situations like this, so please let them do their jobs in organizing a rescue.

Injury & Illness

Again it is easier to prevent injury and illness than to deal with it on the trail. So be careful while on the trail and take care of your health. If you do get hurt or feel sick, make sure to tell your guide so he can help before it gets worse. Remember your guide is trained to handle emergency and medical situations, so listen to and follow his instructions.

High Adventure Program

Introduction

Some people have called our High Adventure Program at SPSR a "Little Philmont". We think our program has as much to offer in a smaller, more secluded setting. One of the big differences is that you won't be hiking on trails that are more than knee-deep or running into many crowds in the wilderness. Because of our much smaller size, we can plan a custom trip for your group that will be a unique experience. Over the next few years we are trying to add some more activities to supplement our already exemplary rock climbing and backpacking programs.

US Forest Service & Spanish Peaks Wilderness Area

Our activities are conducted by permit on San Isabel National Forest Service land, by permit on Bureau of Land Management land, by written permission on private land, and on some of our own property. Please help us to continue using these by respecting the organizations and people you meet on the trail as well as taking care of their land.

Maps & Trails

Your group will be provided with the necessary maps for your trip. Bring a compass as you will be learning route finding skills and map reading. Your guide will also bring along a *GPS* and teach you how to use it with your map. If you would like to look at the maps prior to arriving, we use the following 5 quadrangle maps: Spanish Peaks, Herlick Canyon, Cuchara, Cuchara Pass, and Trinchera.

Camp Dates

Our High Adventure program operates the same weeks that the regular camp is in session. Your older scouts can enjoy our High Adventure program while your younger scouts learn skills. We also offer High Adventure Only programs during the same week we offer 2 sessions of Cub Camp.

Staff Qualifications & Training

Our High Adventure Staff are required to have 1st Aid training and CPR certifications that are current. All of our High Adventure Staff are 18 or older. They are trained in our rescue procedures and knowledgeable of drop-off and pick-up points in relationship to both trail and road systems. The staff are very skilled in backpacking, mountain climbing, and rock climbing. The trail guide or rock guide for your crew will stay with you throughout your experience.

Participant Requirements

The High Adventure Organizational Meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on Sunday evening at the Commissary. Anyone wanting to participate in one of the High Adventure programs, other than the Friday activities, needs to attend. We will help you plan out your schedule for the week, do a gear shakedown, and answer any other questions you have.

Age

Age limitations must be stressed. Persons must be 13 years or older to participate in High Adventure Treks and High Adventure Climbing activities.

Physical

These activities are very strenuous so you must be in good physical condition and not extremely overweight. Be prepared to endure physical challenge of acclimating yourself to higher altitudes while climbing and hiking in rugged terrain. It is advised that you exercise and train to prepare yourself prior to arrival which will make your trip more enjoyable.

Personal Equipment

Each person needs to bring the following: pack, sleeping bag, eating utensils, cub, mess kit, water bottle, hiking shoes (broken in/not new), extra socks, rain gear, warm clothing, hat, and other personal gear.

Group Equipment Provided by SPSR

We'll send you out with tents, stoves, cooking gear, water purifiers, and almost anything else you will need. Group equipment and food will be divided and carried by each participant in the trek. Trail guides are in contact with base camp using radio equipment and cellular telephones in case of emergencies.

Health & Permission Forms

The State of Colorado requires a by-yearly physical, within 24 months for participants under 40 years old (youth, adult and staff). all participants 40 years and older a physical is required to be within 12 months. There can be NO EXCEPTIONS! Any participant without a physical has the option of going to Walsenburg and paying to get a physical or returning home. All medical forms require a doctor's signature. Make sure you also have a completed permission form that allows you to participate in High Adventure activities. Go to www.spanishpeaksscouteranch.com for a BSA State of Colorado health form.

Groups

Accurate information from individual groups is crucial to set up food purchasing, adequate staffing, and adult to youth ratios. According to BSA policy, we will have 2 adults per backpacking crew. You will need to provide at least one adult leader in addition to the staff trail guide leading the trip. If the group is co-ed there must be a parent, legal guardian, or another female accompanying the group.

Numbers

We do have a limit to how many can be in a crew, due to wilderness area restrictions. If your group will be more than 12 people, we will have to split it into more than one crew.

Resources

For more information on preparing for a High Adventure activity, what equipment to bring and what to expect, check out the following books:

Backpacking Merit Badge

Climbing Merit Badge

Boy Scout Handbook

Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills

Walkin' the Wahatoyas

SPSR offers a variety of backpacking treks. Difficulty ranges from moderate to strenuous, with daily mileage averaging 8 miles. The camp offers treks from 1 day to 9 days. Three mountains in the area are climbed; East Spanish Peak, West Spanish Peak, and Trinchera Peak at 12,683, 13,610, and 13,568 feet respectively. All trips are lead by trail guides crossing National Forest Land and private land.

Drop-off and Pick-up Points

Trails circle the mountains with different drop points to start and end hikes. Several trips begin and end at our base camp while other require traveling up to 1 1/2 hours away. Transportation to drop off and pick up points is the responsibility of the participants. See the notes about these details, including estimated travel time in the individual Trek Itineraries.

List of Treks

One of the greatest advantages of this program is the ability to adapt to plans or wishes of different groups. From less experienced hikers, who are looking for a taste of the backcountry, to experienced groups ready to conquer multiple peaks. We are ready to accommodate you all! The following is a list of available treks. We will also be willing to make changes or add to these itineraries. The first number of the trek is the number of days it will take to complete. The second number indicates the degree of difficulty on a scale of 0-9, with 0 being easy and 9 being the most strenuous.

Trek 17 Trinchera Peak

Drop off and pick up is 1 1/2 hours from Base Camp

You will want to bring a camera on this trek.

You will hike through flowered, grassy slopes to the summit at 13,517 feet. The trek will take an average of 6-7 hours to complete.

Trek 18 West Spanish Peak

Drop off at Apishpa Pass 1 1/2 hours from Base Camp
Hike through broken scree up 2,500 feet to an elevation of 13,623 feet. The average time will be 6-7 hours.

Trek 19 East Spanish Peak

Leave from and return to Base Camp
Go up 4,200 feet and look back at Base Camp!
Leave SPSR at 6:30 am, following the trail up the north face over scree and rock slabs with a steep up hill hike. It will take an average of 8-9 hours.

Trek 28 East Spanish Peak

Leave from and return to Base Camp
We'll start after lunch and hike to the Miner's Cabin where we will spend the night. Explore the Cirque and Mine Claim area or hike to the snow!
The next morning, it's on to the peak and back down to Base Camp by mid-afternoon.

Treks 39, 47, 55, 63 East & West Spanish Peaks

Leave from and return to Base Camp
These 30 mile treks can be completed in 3, 4, 5, or 6 days. These treks all follow the basic route traveling east from camp, and around the East Spanish Peak before climbing the East Peak, from the saddle between the East and West Peak. Return to the saddle and then proceed to climb the West Peak.

Treks 48, 56 West & East Spanish Peaks

Leave from and return to Base Camp
These 30 mile treks can be completed in 4 or 5 days. Hike west to Wahatolla and uphill to the saddle between the East and West Peak. Climb East and West Peak.

Treks 57, 65, 75, 85, 95

Leave from and return to Base Camp

Very advanced and long treks, use of several different maps, and many food drop off points. Travel will be by trail and cross-country, conservation projects and leadership program along the trail. Contact the Camp Director for more details.

50 Miler Award

The 50 Miler Award can be earned by completing a 30-35 mile trek and then hiking to Walsenburg or La Veta by the road. A conservation project can be completed while at camp or on the trail.

Teaching on the Trail

Our trail guides are trained to teach many skills on the trail. You will have the opportunity to learn how to use a map and compass to find your route, the names of plants and trees along the trail, how to set up a good campsite, how the Spanish Peaks were formed, and much more.

Menus

We will supply plenty of nourishing food because you need balanced, hearty meals. The group can learn how to plan and cook their own menus using our stocked pantry. Most of our ingredients are from the grocery store not from pre-packaged and bland backpacker meals. Many groups have used our tasty meals over the last several years.

Rock Climbing & Rappelling

This is the only camp in America where you can climb and rappel the unique dikes formed thousands of years ago through the action of platonic folding. The only two places in the world where these type of rock formations exist are at our camp and Siberia. Most scouts are able to complete the Climbing Merit Badge during this 4-day program. The staff has been teaching scouts to climb and rappel since the 1970's and they are thrilled that the BSA has developed a merit badge to recognize those who have mastered this high adventure activity.

Equipment

According to BSA policy we rotate our equipment every 4 years. Besides quality ropes, belay devices, and protection, we also provide shoes, harnesses, and helmets for your use.

Language & Procedures

SAFETY is our #1 concern! We feel it is very important to focus on learning the proper language and procedures of rock climbing before we get on the rocks. After that, there is plenty of time left in the week for everyone to get in many climbs and rappels.

Taste of High Adventure Friday

These Friday activities give scouts a taste of High Adventure programs. Some are geared to younger scouts while others are designed to let scouts try out an activity for one day but still earn merit badges the rest of the week.

Age and Physical Requirements

The following activities are listed in order of difficulty. It is recommended that you send your first year campers on the Legends Hike. That way older, returning campers may go on the Miner's Cabin Hike, which does have a size limit. The 20-mile hike is extremely difficult and requires approval by the hike leader to participate. The Rappelling and Rock Climbing activity is the only one that has an age requirement of 14 years old.

Legends Hike

A camp staff member leads a 7-mile hike going east of camp circling Bear Creek, Story Creek, and Santa Clara Valleys. They will tell about the interesting history of the area previously only traveled by Native Americans. This hike goes up and over several ridges but overall doesn't gain much elevation. This hike will return in the early afternoon.

Miner's Cabin Hike

Be challenged by a hike to the Miner's Cabin on the East Spanish Peak. The hike will take you above timberline (10,500 feet) and near the bowl where you can get a closer look up at the rocky peak or down for an overview of camp and the valley below.

This hike will return in the early afternoon after eating lunch. Each hiker will need a small pack, rain gear, good sturdy shoes, long pants, jacket, and water bottle with plenty of water. It is recommended that everyone going on this hike take at least one of the other trails around camp during the week. Our permit only allows us to take 30 campers per week.

20-Mile Hike

This hike is designed to fulfill the requirements for the Hiking Merit Badge. This hike will return in late afternoon so be prepared for a very long and difficult hike. You must have permission from the Hiking MB Counselor to go on this hike.

Rappelling and Rock Climbing

Enjoy a safe, exciting day of rappelling and rock climbing on the dikes. See the full program listing for more details. You must be 14 years of age to enjoy this activity.

Off-season Activities

SPSR is also available for use by groups in the off-season. You can reserve cabins and the kitchen for use by your crew. Water is available year round at the Ranger office. Contact the Santa Fe Trail Council Service Center at 620-275-5162 or email to sftcbsa@sbcglobal.net for reservations.

Lodging

We have a health lodge with 2 sides that rents for \$50.00 per night. It sleeps about 10 people but has no cooking facilities. One side has a fireplace. The 2 upper cabins each have a kitchenette and 2 sides. They can sleep about 10 people each and cost \$25.00 per night. The lower cabin has a kitchen, fireplace, and one room that can be separated. It sleeps about 16 people and costs \$25.00 per night. Bunk beds can be set up in the Coop building which will sleep about 20 people and costs \$25.00 per night. If you will be feeding a group you can also rent the commissary/kitchen for \$50.00 per day. Go to sftcbsa.org for more details and a reservation form. Prices are subject to change.

Tubing

We have a nice tubing and sledding hill here at SPSR during the winter. It does of course depend on how much snow we have received. You should bring your own inner tubes and sleds. There is not rope tow, but you may ride for free all day long or as many times as you can walk back up the hill.

Snowshoeing

Several of the trails around camp are suitable for snowshoeing in the winter. They are well marked with reflective markers that have been placed fairly high on the tree. We do not have snowshoes available for use.

Skiing/Snowboarding

Your group can go skiing/snowboarding for a day while staying at SPSR. Wolf Creek & Monarch Ski Resorts are both within driving distance. Your group will save a large amount of money by not staying the night at an expensive lodge near the resort.

Other Attractions in the Area

Whitewater Rafting

White Water Voyageurs is based in Salida, CO which is about a 2 hour trip from SPSR. You may go for a day while in camp, or plan a stop on your way to or from SPSR. They do have camping available if necessary.

Trips Available

There are a couple of different trips your group can do on the popular Arkansas River. Big Horn Sheep and Browns Canyons are both Class III runs and are good trips for beginners to intermediate rafters. If your crew is 14 or older AND have done some rafting before, you can go through the Royal Gorge which is a Class V run.

Attractions

Great Sand Dunes National Park

Pikes Peak

Garden of the Gods

Seven Falls

Cave of the Winds

Colorado Springs

Royal Gorge

Philmont Scout Ranch

Mount Capulin

Bent's Old Fort

Koshare Indian Kiva & Museum, LaJunta Co

NRA Whittington Center

And many more....

Come stay at SPSR anytime during the year and visit the attractions in the SPSR area. Many of the attractions can be visited in one day out of camp trips.

CAMP LOCATION (8,400 ft)

Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch is located 16 miles Southwest of Walsenburg, Colorado (6,167 ft).

From Walsenburg take US Highway 160 West to the edge of town. Turn south onto a gravel road where you will cross a bridge and your first cattle guard continue 16 miles on County Road 340 (Bear Creek Road). Following County Road 340 for 16 miles, you will cross 11 cattle guards. Do not make any hard right or left turns at the Y's in the road, but stay on County Road 340 it is marked! When you cross the 11th cattle guard, you will be in camp. Walsenburg is located about 65 miles south of Pueblo, CO, and about 40 miles north of the New Mexico State line. Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch is 16 miles Southwest of Walsenburg. The nearest major highway is Interstate 25 which runs North and South through the Eastern part of Colorado, from Trinidad, CO on the South to the Wyoming State Line on the North.

Santa Fe Trail Council Mandan Scout Camp Dodge City, KS

Over Night Camping Opportunity

If passing through Western Kansas, our council has a camp (Mandan Scout Camp) available North of Dodge City, Kansas for a minimal fee.

(Approximately 6 hours from Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch and 7 hours from Philmont Scout Ranch)

A bunkhouse, campground, kitchen area, and showers are available. To make reservations contact the Council Service Center at 620-275-5162 or email sftcbsa@sbcglobal.net Julie.scully@scouting.org

Contact Information

Our home office is located at: Santa Fe Trail Council,
1513.5 E Fulton Terrace,
Garden City, KS 67846
620-275-5162

sftcinfo@sftcbsa.org Julie.scully@scouting.org www.sftcbsa.org

Our camp is located at: Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch
16040 County Road 340,
Walsenburg, CO 81089
719-738-3036

www.spanishpeaksscouteranch.com