



St. George Trek 2020



The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has announced its high adventure leadership program for older Catholic scouts and Venturing crew members to be held at Philmont Scout Ranch next summer. The 2020 St. George Trek is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8 through Thursday, July 23.

Purpose and Program – Designed to develop organizational and relational skills for leadership as well as nourishing the scout's spirituality, the 2020 St. George Trek will bring together Catholic high school youth from around the country with selected priests, religious and seminarians for eleven days of backpacking on the trail including three days of leadership training at a back country base camp. Two days will be spent at the Madonna Retreat House in Albuquerque, New Mexico preparing for the trek and one day will be spent there at the conclusion of the Trek.

The St. George Trek encourages the integration of morality and values, spirituality, faith and Scripture with the responsibilities of Christian Leadership and Vocation Awareness. Participants will be expected to carry this meaningful experience home with them and become effective peer leaders in their diocese.

Crew members typically backpack a few hours from after breakfast and breaking camp before arriving at the next campsite. Activities at the many staffed camps are open to St. George Trek crew members in the afternoons and evenings. Staffed camp activities are many and varied (and fun!), and activities available to each crew will differ based on the assigned itinerary.

All registered Scouts BSA and Venturing youth members meeting the qualifying criteria are encouraged to apply. A female crew is planned pending sufficient number of female registrants.

Funding – The Charlotte Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting will pay the \$925 St. George Trek program fee for up to two participants. The program fee covers Philmont Scout Ranch fees, Retreat House lodging in Albuquerque, Retreat House and Philmont meals, and roundtrip, chartered bus travel between Albuquerque and Philmont.

Each participant will be responsible for their individual round-trip transportation to and from Albuquerque plus their personal gear and incidental personal expenses.

Qualification Criteria – Catholic Scouts and Venturers who will be 15 years of age on or before July 8, 2020 and in high school in the fall of 2020 are eligible to apply. No exceptions can be made.

Selection will be made on the basis of demonstrated leadership potential, earning Catholic Scouting religious emblems, participation in the Charlotte Diocese Catholic Camporee, and involvement in church, school and community activities.

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.**

Applications – Send a completed [DIOCESAN YOUTH PARTICIPANT APPLICATION](#) along with a cover letter of 100 words or less stating why you would like to attend the 2020 St. George Trek to mnielsen@carolina.rr.com. Applications can also be mailed to:

Mike Nielsen
Chairman, CDCCOS
7718 Springs Village Ln.
Charlotte, NC 28226

All applications must be received by September 30, 2019. Please email any questions to Mike Nielsen at mnielsen@carolina.rr.com, or text or call (704) 907-1234. Additional information may be found at <http://nccs-bsa.org/index.php/st-george-trek>.