

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who is eligible to apply?

### Individual Treks

- Individual youth who are applying to complete one of Philmont's individual trek options (Rayado, ROCS, Trail Crew Trek, STEM, Ranch Hands) and who meet age/eligibility criteria for those treks are welcome to apply.
- Unfortunately we are unable to offer fee assistance for OATC participants at this time (though we hope to in the future).
- Individual youth who are coming with a crew to complete a 7, 9, or 12-day trek are not eligible.

### Staff

- Applicants must have completed at least one season as a staff member in the year preceding the application deadline (September 1 – August 31) and be eligible for rehire according to Ranch Management.
- Students who are enrolled in a United States military academy, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or who are participating in a federally funded/incentivized program (such as the Health Professionals Service Program) or other programs resulting in free/forgiven tuition are ineligible to apply.

### PTC

- Parents of Cub Scout-aged youth (approx. 4-11 years old/kindergarten-5th grade) who will be participating in one of the Philmont Training Center's family programs may apply for program fee assistance.

## If I've gotten an award in the past, can I apply for another one?

Yes!

## What can Staff Scholarships be used for?

The scholarship is limited to use at an accredited school/program; recipients must be currently enrolled in or accepted by an accredited educational institution as a student in a program leading to an academic degree, professional certification, or skilled trade program certificate.

**Staff scholarships must be paid directly to the institution in question; the PSA cannot write checks to individuals.**

## What is the Staff Scholarship timeline like?

Applications are due on August 31 each year. While verification of rehire eligibility and application review timelines after the deadline can vary, we are typically able to notify recipients around mid-October. If you are awarded a scholarship, the PSA Office will inform you via email and provide a deadline by which you must respond to accept your offer. **Failure to respond to the email in the allotted time will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.**

## What if I don't get an award?

The Philmont Staff Association's awards are made possible by the generosity of former staff, their families, and others who love Philmont and want to support the future generations of hikers and staff – despite this enthusiasm, we can't always fund every single applicant. The number of awardees (and sometimes even the amounts) can vary year to year based on the number of applicants in a cycle and the amount of funding allocated to awards by the PSA Board.

For many of you, this will not be the last time you apply for financial support and we want to do our part in helping give you some general tools for success on any future applications. As such, we are happy to provide youth and staff applicants with feedback on their applications if they are unsuccessful. Should you wish, please contact [officemanager@philstaff.org](mailto:officemanager@philstaff.org) and they'll put you in touch with the Scholarship Committee Chair.

The Scholarship Committee is made up of working professionals, students, parents, and others who volunteer for the PSA – we do our best to provide feedback in a timely manner, but please be patient with us if it takes a little while to get back to you!

## Helpful Tips for All Applicants

- Start the application early and take your time; be thorough and make sure it's complete before you submit! Do not leave any area blank.
- Typed applications are appreciated, but we understand that this isn't always possible. If you fill it out by hand, make sure to use your best handwriting and dark ink.
- Read the questions carefully and make sure you completely answer the questions that are being asked.
- Detailed answers with specific examples are best; the best answers don't just address the "what," but also include a "why."
- Avoid cliches or rambling. Use the space/words you need to answer a question thoroughly, but be concise.
- Don't be afraid to tell us about yourself – we want to know who you are and why getting an award is important to you.
- For Youth:
  - You should fill out the application yourself, but before you submit, ask an adult leader/parent/teacher/etc. to help you proofread your application.
  - Make sure your parent/guardian signs the application!
- For Staff:
  - List an email that you check often, and check the spam folder – you must accept the award within a certain time frame. Failure to do so will mean that you forfeit your award.

Finally, please write a thank you note to tell us about your experiences and what you learned from whatever your award helped you fund! Whether it was an individual trek, a PTC course, or some other learning experience, donors & families love to hear how their gift helped someone.