

July 11, 2002

**To:** Troop 652

**From:** Cliff Bellmore, Committee Chair, Troop 652

**Subject:** 2003 Philmont Contingent

I've been getting questions that I could not answer about the 2003 Philmont Trek and the contact for the Cleveland Contingent has been unavailable because of Great Western Day Camp and then the 2002 Philmont Trek getting underway.

On Thursday, July 11, 2002, Jenny Enold-LeBrun (216) 861-6060 ext. 125 discussed how the Philmont program works and answered some of the questions that scouts and adults have been asking about what our options might be for the 2003 trip. I copied some general information from the council web site to our troop web site.

Here's the summary of info from Ms. Enold-LeBrun (Great Western District Executive):

**1. What is this "contingent"?**

- a. Philmont Scout Ranch limits attendance. Councils are granted a number of people each year that they can provide to scouts and scouters (registered adults).
- b. Cleveland usually gets/runs 4-6 "crews" in its "contingent". The crews are usually "provisional" where members of many troops combine to form crews plus one "Single-Troop" crew.
- c. For 2003, Council decided to take one of its provisional crews and award it to a Troop. (There was an application process that I didn't ask about.)
- d. T652 won the lottery for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003 Troop Crew.
- e. The Troop "owns" the slots until it forfeits them. The Troop Committee decides scout and adult eligibility and how the crew attendance is decided. All must be registered.

**2. What happens if we drop out?**

- a. The \$1200 submitted so far is non-refundable but is not necessarily forfeit.
- b. The crew can go back to being a provisional crew to be filled by others in GCC (Greater Cleveland Council).
- c. Since we have won a "claim" and have so far submitted the required fees, we can use whatever slots in the crew that we require. The \$1200 in fees submitted so far can be applied toward any campers who go. If no one from the troop goes, the \$1200 is forfeit.
- d. Since the fees submitted to council are "troop" monies, council doesn't care how we handle people who drop out – that's up to the troop committee to decide.

**3. What options do we have?**

- a. To remain a "Troop" crew requires:
  - i Minimum of 8 people
  - ii Minimum of 2 registered adults
  - iii Maximum of 12 people
  - iv Maximum of 3 registered adults.
- b. Troop can decide to return the crew to council as a provisional crew and retain some slots since the fees have been paid on time.
- c. Council has an official waiting list of four (4) scouts and a scout/adult pair from Shaker Hts. who have requested slots but are not on the official waiting list. Thus, up to 6 people could be used to fill the provisional crew. (I didn't ask what level of commitment these others have made.)

**4. What about resolving conflicts among people who have signed-on?**

- a. Troop decides whether individuals are eligible to go and how their fees are handled. As a Troop Crew, the fees come from the troop and are not allocated to individuals or groups.
- b. If the crew becomes a “provisional” crew, it may be possible that people from T652 could be mixed-in with the other provisional crews to separate individuals but it may be late to start this because others are already doing preparatory outings as is suggested.
- c. They’ve heard that we’ve got some leader “issues”.
- d. The High Adventure Chair reported that he met with the Troop (I’m assuming he means the “Philmont Contingent” because I don’t recall him at a Troop meeting.) and that:
  - i It appears that we were caught unawares by the awarding of the Philmont Crew.
  - ii We had some unresolved issues.
  - iii We might not be ready to do this.

**5. If we handle this poorly, will it affect our ability to attend these in the future?**

- a. No.

**6. What suggestions can you make?**

- a. Kevin Caine is the High Adventure Chair (a volunteer).  
He can meet with us, possibly as early as our meeting tonight, to discuss our options.  
His work number is 440-603-6740.
- b. People who aren’t suitable leaders can have their troop membership revoked by the Charter Representative. There’s no form for it. A letter from the Charter Rep notifying the District Exec does it.

**I called Mr. Caine to see what information he could offer.**

**1. Do you think we can be pulled together?**

- a. The bills for the next payment have not gone out and will be late. The next payment will not be due on the 15<sup>th</sup> as originally expected. **It will likely be due on the 31<sup>st</sup>. That’s our deadline.**
- b. His records will be updated and the bill will be sent to the current Scoutmaster.
- c. We have time to think through what we want to do and respond before the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2. What do you recommend?**

- a. He has heard that we’re having problems and recommends that we figure out a way to get as many of our scouts to go on the trip as would benefit from it.
- b. This is about the boys and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them.
- c. Deal with the adult issues and make all your decisions based on what’s best for the boys.
- d. He and Jenny will work with us as needed to make this happen for the same reason – to provide the boys with the best chance to go.
- e. We need a minimum of 2 adults, maximum of 4. One (1) of the adults needs to be 21 yrs. The Shaker Hts. Dad is over 21 so our crew could go by providing an 18 yr old. They would let us fill our crew from the waiting list and the payments would be worked out privately if we add others to our crew.

**3. Are we behind the others in preparing to go?**

- a. Not really. They’ve all been concentrating on getting the 2002 contingent on their way. His Troop is the other “Troop Crew” and they’ve only gone on one hike (without backpacks). The provisional crews haven’t done outings yet either.

**4. Can we (troop) or parents call you?**

- a. If they need help with something regarding the trip, certainly. Not to air complaints.
- b. He’ll be happy to meet with us if we think it would help.