

EAGLES SOARING HIGH

**TRAIL WORSHIP
FOR
CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS, AND JEWS**

CHRISTIAN

INTERFAITH

HYMNS

MUSLIM

JEWISH

CHAPLAIN AIDE DUTIES

Encourage crew members to strengthen their own relationships with God through personal prayer, devotions, and participation in religious activities.

Teach the Wilderness Grace to the crew and use it for all meals.

Encourage crew members to attend religious services while at the base.

Lead the crew's daily reflection based on *Eagles Soaring High* while at Philmont, being sensitive to the various faiths represented in the crew.

Provide information on religious emblems to the crew.

Collaborate with the crew leader and adviser in assisting the crew during any interpersonal difficulties that may arise.

CHRISTIAN

EAGLES SOARING HIGH

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(CHRISTIAN SECTION)

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CHRISTIAN

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A SHORT ORDER OF WORSHIP—I

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN (see Hymns Section, H-1 to H-20)

Psalm 95:1-7a (Revised English Version [REV])

Come! Let us raise a joyful song to the Lord,
a shout of triumph to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and sing psalms of triumph to him.

For the Lord is a great God
a great King above all gods.
The depths of the earth are in his hands,
the peaks of the mountains belong to him;
the sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land which his hand fashioned.

Enter in! Let us bow down and worship,
let us kneel before the Lord who made us,
for he is our God,
we the people he shepherds, the flock in his care.

PRAYER (in unison) God, our Father, we thank you for
the beauty of the earth, for the food we eat and for
the comforts we enjoy. Help us to love others more,
to be concerned with the problems of our day, and
to understand Your will in our actions. Grant us the
strength to live wisely and well, to be worthy users of
Your creation and ready and willing workers for the
causes of goodness. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:22–25 (Today’s English Version [TEV])

“So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water. Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep His promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer.”

MEDITATION/REFLECTION

You may read the meditation for this day from pages C-13–C-24 or take a few moments for personal silent reflection. Some may choose to share their reflections with the crew.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Spontaneous prayer from participants)

HYMN (see Hymns Section, H-1 to H-20)

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you, protect you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life. Amen.

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP—II

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

KYRIE

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

We worship You, we give You thanks,

We praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sins of the world.

Have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father.

Receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, help us to remember that Christ our Savior lives with You in glory and that He promised to remain with us until the end of time. We ask You to hear our prayers and grant our needs through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

(There are a number of options with respect to the scriptural readings and the litany. Please select the ones that are most beneficial to your crew.)

The Walk to Emmaus

Luke 24: 13–16, 25–34 (TEV)

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus Himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw Him, but somehow did not recognize Him.

Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter His glory?" And Jesus explained to them

what was said about Himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets. As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther; but they held Him back, saying, “Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.” So He went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, but He disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Wasn’t it like a fire burning in us when He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and said, “The Lord is risen indeed!”

Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3–9 New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)

How blessed are the poor in spirit:
The kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
Blessed are the gentle:
they shall have the earth as inheritance.
Blessed are those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness:
they shall have their fill.
Blessed are the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown towards them.
Blessed are the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers:
they shall be recognized as children of God.

Gifts and Service

I Cor 12:4–7 (NJB)

There are many gifts, but always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good.

Priorities

I Cor 12:31–13:8a (NJB)

Set your minds on the higher gifts. And now I am going to put before you the best way of all. Though I command languages both human and angelic—if I speak without love I am no more than a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. And though I have the power of prophesy, to penetrate all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have the faith necessary to move mountains—if I am without love, I am nothing. Though I should give away to the poor all I possess, and even give my body to be burned—if I am without love, it will do no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous; love is not boastful or conceited; it is never rude and never seeks its own advantage, it does not take offense or store up grievance. Love does not rejoice in wrong doing, but it always finds joy in the truth. It is always ready to make allowances, to trust, to hope and endure what comes.

Love never comes to an end.

Forgiveness

Luke 6:36–38 (NJB)

Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap; because the standard you use will be the standard used for you.

RESPONSORY

(Psalm 100, Revised Standard Version [RSV])

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the
Lord, all the lands!

Group One: Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into His presence with singing!

Group Two: Know that the Lord is God!
It is He that made us, and we are His;
We are His people, and the sheep of His
pasture.

Group One: Enter His gates with thanksgiving,
and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him, bless His name!

Group Two: For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, and will be forever.
Amen.

MEDITATION

You may choose to read the meditation for this day or another of your choice (pages C-13–C-24). Or you may choose to take a few moments for personal, silent reflection. Some may choose to share their reflections with the crew.

HYMN

See Hymns Section, H-1 to H-20

A TRAIL LITANY

Leader: For silver on the sage, for starlit skies above,
For aspen covered hills, for the country that I
love,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For wind in whispering pines, for eagles soaring
high,
For purple mountains rising against an azure
sky,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: For friends who walk with me along the awe-
some trail,
For those who share their care for me, especially
when I fail,

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: O Jesus, Who walked the trail with the Emmaus
two,
Join us on our mountain trek the whole day
through.

All: O Lord, abide with us.

Leader: As the sun rises over the tall lonesome pine,
May your care and love for us in all our actions
shine.

All: O Lord, walk with us along the trail. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against
us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

DAILY TRAIL MEDITATIONS

DAY ONE

SETTING DIRECTIONS

“Lord, make me know Your ways. Lord, teach me Your paths.”

(Psalm 25:4, *The Psalms: A New Translation*)

To hike successfully at Philmont requires much preparation. Physical readiness, adequate planning in terms of equipment, food, clothing, etc., and a planning of itinerary are all ways to set a direction for your crew. Mental and spiritual preparation are no less important. The Philmont wilderness is a place where God can speak to you in new and exciting ways. Just as you prepare for a trek by tapping the resources of advisers, rangers, and those who have gone before you, so too, do you prepare for experiences of God on this trek by tapping the resources of God’s Word. We do daily prayer and reflection which bring us into deeper contact with the Word of God: Jesus. He is your Guide, your Friend, your Strength, your Counselor on this journey. Jesus shows us the way and helps us conquer all fears!

For reflection: How are you preparing yourself to make this trek a journey with the Lord? What can you do to keep yourself aware of Jesus’ continuing presence on the trail? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Lead me in Your truth, O Lord and teach me! You are the God of my salvation.

DAY TWO

STARLIT SKIES ABOVE

“When I look at the sky, which You have made, at the moon and the stars which You set in their places—What is man, that You think of him, Mere man, that You care for him?”

(Psalm 8:3–4, TEV)

How beautiful are the Philmont nights! The stars are so plentiful; they seem so close that you feel you can almost touch them. The silence and beauty of the night help us to realize the quiet power and majesty of God. Yet, this God loves each of us personally and intimately, and the greatest and most beautiful part of His creation lies not in the heavens, but right here on earth. You are the crowning glory of His creative hands—you are the reason for all creation.

For reflection: How do you see yourself as made in the image and likeness of God? What can you do to deepen respect for the beauty and glory of God alive in you?

Are you aware that God is present in each member of your crew? Does that knowledge change how you respond to them? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Lord, thank you for life and beauty and the bounty of your creation.

DAY THREE

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

“If God is for us, who can be against us? Who then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger? For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love . . . there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Romans 8:31, 35, 38–39, TEV)

The Philmont trek involves climbing mountains and hills; crossing rivers and streams; and dealing with weather, fatigue, and unexpected circumstances and challenges. At times, it may seem that the difficulties are insurmountable, the hardships unbearable. However, it often happens that the greatest hardships in life become our greatest opportunities for growth. We have to realize that we are not alone—we have each other and the abiding presence and help of our God Who will guide us and give us strength. Nothing can separate us from His love that comes to us through Jesus. He invites us to trust in him and to realize that we walk with him.

For reflection: What have I done so far to help my crew come together as a team? Do I need to change in order to be more crew-oriented? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Lord, help me to be cheerful in the face of difficulties. With your help I will conquer all obstacles!

DAY FOUR

WINDS IN WHISPERING PINES

“He (the Lord) traveled on the wings of the wind.”
(II Samuel 22:11 and Psalm 18:10, TEV)

These words are a line from a song that King David sang to his Lord. We can often hear the wind moving through the pines and playing a soft melody. It is almost as if the trees were whispering to one another or to us below. Or as if God were playing a lullaby for us on His wind instrument.

The Lord touches all of His creation. He caresses the pines with His wind. He touches us with His love and forgiveness.

The “whispering pines” can become the sound in nature that reminds us of St. Paul’s gentle words, “Be kind and tenderhearted to one another and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ.” (Ephesians 4:32, TEV) He who lives by forgiving and being forgiven lives in peace.

For reflection: Is there one whom you want to ask for forgiveness? Is there one whom you feel the need to forgive? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Dear Father, where I have sinned, forgive me, and where I am afraid, give me courage. Amen.

DAY FIVE

EAGLES SOARING HIGH

“Even those who are young grow weak; young men can fall exhausted. But those who trust in the Lord will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.”

(Isaiah 40:31, TEV)

Have you seen an eagle on the trail yet? We can learn from eagles and from so much in nature.

One day a fisherman watched as a mother eagle dropped a young eaglet into the canyon below. The eaglet plummeted and fluttered. It appeared that it was about to be dashed to its death on the rocks below, when out of the sky plunged the father eagle and caught his offspring on his broad back. Then he flew up high and dropped the young one again. This time the mother caught the little one on her back. The routine was repeated until the little eagle learned to fly.

God gives us opportunities to try our wings so that we might learn to fly on our own. Certainly the Philmont experience is one of these learning and growing opportunities. Yet God always watches over us and spreads His wings of protection beneath us.

God said to the Israelites on their wilderness trek, “I bore you on eagles’ wings.” Christ Who gave His life for us on the cross has promised, “I will be with you always.” So lift up your head and rejoice!

For reflection: Have you discovered new dimensions of your personality? How have you been willing to accept the challenges of the Philmont experience? How have you supported a crew member as he faces the Philmont challenge? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

O Lord, when I grow weary, lift me up on your wings. Give me the courage and strength I need for tomorrow. Amen.

DAY SIX

FOR FOOD, FOR RAIMENT

“Having food and raiment, let us therewith be content.”
(I Timothy 6:8, King James Version [KJV])

Another translation of Scripture translates this verse: “If we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us.”
(TEV)

Most of us at Philmont have become accustomed to having much more than food and clothes. There is nothing wrong with wealth. Some of the Biblical heroes like Abraham and David were very wealthy. Our heavenly Father in His mercy not only forgives us all our sins through Jesus’ death at Calvary, He also provides us with all that we need to support our bodily life.

We who have been so richly blessed may choose in thanksgiving to share our wealth with others.

Dr. William Foege, who helped eradicate smallpox from the world, recently challenged us to work together to eradicate hunger as well.

If we include the hungry in the “us” when we pray, “give us this day our daily bread,” then we are also asking God to involve us in feeding the hungry. What a great commission this becomes: to join God in feeding the hungry and clothing the naked! Jesus promises us “Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for Me.”

(Matthew 25:40, TEV)

For reflection: What have you done for those less fortunate than yourself? What do you consider our obligations to those in need are? What does Jesus mean when he says, “Blessed are the poor . . .”? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

For food, for raiment . . . we thank Thee, O Lord.

DAY SEVEN

FOR LIFE, FOR OPPORTUNITY

“I have come in order that you might have life in all its fullness.”

(John 10:10b, TEV)

How precious is the gift of life! At Philmont we can come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of its importance. How necessary to respect it in all its forms. We can take so much for granted—the air we breathe, the

water we drink, the health we enjoy, the beauty of the earth. God gives us life to enjoy and he gives us opportunity to grow, to achieve, to find joy and to find happiness. Through Jesus, God gives us the ultimate opportunity—the path to eternal life—life with God and each other forever.

For reflection: What does the concept of stewardship mean to you? When have you been a good manager of your own life? When have you shown respect for God’s creation? Have you shown respect for another’s personal property? How seriously do I take the Wilderness Pledge? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

For life, for opportunity, we thank Thee, O Lord.

DAY EIGHT

FOR FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

“The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them. And you are My friends if you do what I command you . . . I call you friends . . . You did not choose Me; I chose you.” (John 15: 13–16, TEV)

One day a kindergarten teacher asked her class, “What is a friend?” One little boy answered, “A friend is someone who knows you and still likes you.” If he is right, then “what a friend we have in Jesus!”

Jesus knows our most secret self and still He loves us. When He prayed on the cross, “Father, forgive them . . .,” He was praying also for you and me. “The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Jesus promised us life with Him forever. He is a real friend.

Friends on the trail are God’s gifts to us and through them God seeks to care for us and love us. They are not perfect, but like us, through Christ’s death and resurrection, they live forgiven. We thank God for good friends.

For reflection: Who are some of the people who have been friends to you on the trail? Thank God for them by name and thank those who have shown you acts of friendship. Have I been a friend? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or crew member.)

For friendship and fellowship, we thank Thee, O Lord. Amen.

DAY NINE

COUNTRY THAT I LOVE

“And you will live a long time in the rich and fertile land that the Lord promised to give your ancestors and their descendants . . . The land that you are about to enter is a land of mountains and valleys, a land watered by rain. The Lord, your God takes care of this land and watches over it throughout the year.”

(Deuteronomy 11:9, 11–12, TEV)

Philmont does something to people—it is not something that can be put into words easily. Something “gets into your blood.” A love for the land, the atmosphere, the people—all these work together in you to make Philmont an experience that you can never forget. The base of that experience is the presence of God—an awareness that all we have and all we offer to others comes from God. The brotherhood that we share as God’s children and as Scouts brings us to a sense of peace, a feeling that in some strange way, everything is all right. In that sense, we can call Philmont a “Scouting Paradise,” a glimpse of that “Paradise” all of us are called to and will one day experience. It can be likened to the mountaintop experience that the apostles felt when Jesus was transfigured before them; when He gave them a glimpse of the beauty of God’s presence. The scriptures say “His face was shining like the sun and His clothes were dazzling white.”

(Matthew 17:2, TEV)

For reflection: Can you identify your mountaintop experience? How might this experience help you during difficult times? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Lord, it is good for us to be here.

DAY TEN

TRAIL'S END

“I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith.”

(II Timothy 4:7, TEV)

St. Paul at the end of his ministry wrote these words to his young friend Timothy. You have come to the end of your trek at Philmont. Do you feel good about having completed your trek? What do you think was one of your biggest accomplishments these past 10 days? (You may share your thoughts with a friend or crew member.)

Not all of your accomplishments have been physical. You have interacted with God's nature and God's people. There has been frustration and fun. Intermingled with this has been your reflection on God's love and care for you in Christ Jesus, especially in His death and resurrection in your behalf. Through it all, you have grown spiritually. You have run the race and kept the Faith.

You have come to a better understanding of yourself and of your fellow crew members. You have grown in your appreciation of God's gifts to you in nature, in friends, and in your Savior.

Now it is time to look homeward to friends and family. You have matured. You are now an even greater and finer gift to your family and friends. God be praised for it all!

For reflection: How will you say “Thank You” for this experience? Will you say “I love you” to those who made this trip possible? What new obligations do you take on because you have been to Philmont? What have I learned about making responsible choices? How can I make better ethical choices when I get home? (You may choose to share your thoughts with a friend or a crew member).

Lord, thank You for every gift that You gave me these past days. As I go home, make me a special gift to my family and friends. Amen.