

# Common Philmont Travel Mistakes

## Trying to get 12 Scouts and gear into a 12-passenger van

- Everybody and everything just won't fit!! Even 10 scouts and gear won't fit!

## Using two or more vans and do a tour you set up yourself

- Gear will fit ***BUT*** Advisors tired (long flight, 5,000 foot elevation change, two hour time change) and not familiar with the area—not safe driving and not fun for kids.
- Stay in campground, gym or military base—no air conditioning, hard floor, can't leave gear there during the day. Usually a very miserable experience.
- Tour itinerary poorly designed; valuable sightseeing time wasted.
- Stay in cheap motel not suited for Scouts (see below).
- Expensive to leave vans at Philmont for two weeks! Why pay all that money for nothing.

## Buying cheap airfare before ground arrangements are made

- Small groups pay a fortune in Colorado for transportation or hire an unreliable company.

## Hiring the cheapest transportation company

- Vehicle doesn't show up at airport for several hours or more, can't reach company or driver-what a poor way to start your trip of a lifetime!
- Bait and switch pricing—tax and fuel surcharges not included, hire a bus but get vans.
- Vehicle doesn't show up at Philmont or is late—homebound flight missed.
- Vehicle breaks down on Interstate Highway with no back up vehicle available and group of Scouts stranded for hours in an unsafe environment.
- Driver and/or vehicle not in compliance with DOT safety rules.

## Staying in the cheapest hotel

- Usually not safe—bad neighborhood with exterior room doors, scout rooms spread out all over hotel with no Advisor supervision possible. Not safe to walk in area after dark.
- Rooms not ready upon arrival.
- Hotel shuttle takes several hours to transport even a group of 12 with gear.
- Hotel continental breakfast not much to brag about and served slowly causing group to arrive late at Philmont further aggravating the check in process.

## Eating at fast food restaurants

- Never as fast as you think for even a small group—lot's of valuable time wasted
- Never as cheap as you think it will be and little nutritional value

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877-225-8375

mike@blueskyadventures.net