BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

International Division
National Office
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079

TO: All Interested Boy Scouts, ages 15 to 18

FROM: Wayne Perry, International Commissioner
Kent Clayburn, International Committee Chairman

SUBJECT: 2008 Philmont International Scouting Trek

The International Division of the Boy Scouts of America would like to invite you to participate in the first Philmont International Scouting Trek. The ages of eligible Boy Scouts are 16 to 19 years of age by the date of the trek. The date of arrival in Dallas, Texas (all participants depart Dallas for Philmont), is June 18, 2008; departure to home city is June 29, 2008.

Selected Scout associations and Boy Scouts of America councils are invited to participate in this special event. The method of selection will be a written essay on the topic "As a Scout, I could convince more young people from my community (and surrounding communities) to join Scouting by organizing a membership recruitment plan that included these important steps/elements." Each association and each council will select a single Scout based on the best essay written. Essays must be limited to1,500 words in length. The BSA International Division will choose the top 10 essays from around the world and the top 10 essays from the USA. This will define the 20-member team that will be invited to Philmont. All expenses will be paid by the Boy Scouts of America, to include all domestic and international travel.

This special Scouting event will be conducted in conjunction with the International Division's International Scouting Conference. The Philmont International Scouting Trek will be a trek/forum to allow discussions based on the topic of the essay. At the conclusion of the trek, the Scouts will give a report to the-International Scouting Conference based on the discussions they had during their time together.

The deadline for submission to the Blackhawk Area Council is January 15, 2008. Mail essays to: Philmont Essay Contest; Blackhawk Area Council, BSA; 1800 7th Avenue; Rockford, IL 61104.