

PhiNews

Let the Adventure Begin Edition ~ JUNE 12, 2024



“PHILMONT GIVES
OUR SCOUTS THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
**GET COMFORTABLE
WITH BEING
UNCOMFORTABLE.**”

– DR. KJEL LINDGREN, NASA

DELIVERING
WILDERNESS
AND LEARNING
ADVENTURES THAT
LAST A LIFETIME



CHANGING LIVES

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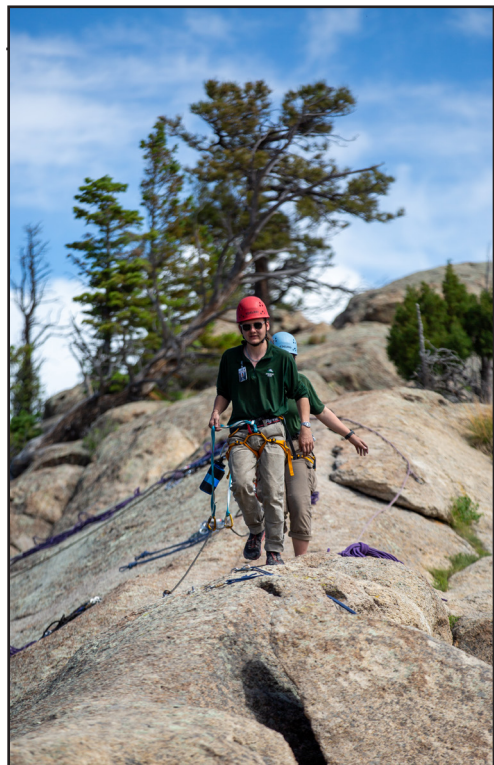
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PhilNews Staff

PhilNews is a publication of Philmont Scout Ranch produced during the summer season by the Marketing & Photography Services (MPS) Department.

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On the cover: Staff members get ready for climbing training at Rock Jocks 2024. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

Left: Staff members at Rock Jocks 2024. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

What's New at PTC?

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager & Ginny Crossland, Writer

Philmont Training Center (PTC) has new events and programs that they're excited to announce for this summer! From additions to the family adventure camp program to the first ever special needs trek, there is a lot to be excited about for those hoping to experience Philmont this summer.

"There's something at PTC for everyone," said Maddy Houk, Director of Programs at PTC.

Family Adventure Camp will have a Home on the Range week June 30th - July 6th for a special week of western-themed fun. The Cimarron Maverick Rodeo on July 4th will take place during Home on the Range week, perfect for the week's theme. There will be plenty for the kids to do!

For years, people have asked if Family Adventure Camp can stay at a backcountry camp overnight. Starting this summer, families that upgrade their itinerary with the Hunting Lodge Campout will experience an overnight campout in the backcountry of Philmont! This family style campout at the historic Hunting Lodge camp features hiking, fishing, a chuckwagon dinner, and a family style campfire program. All that guests will need to bring is their own bedding and personal items, PTC provides all the rest.

The Zia Adaptive Trek is also new this year, bringing together both PTC and backcountry camping programs for a supported 7-day backcountry trek designed for Scouts with special needs. This customized experience is designed to meet the Scouts' abilities and is supported by trained staff and volunteers. The 12-person crew is made up of both Scouts and their parents/caregivers. Attendees on the trek will earn the Arrowhead award. This year's

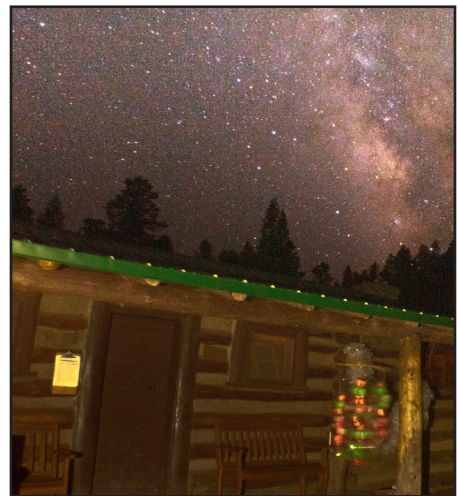
trek is at capacity and we hope to bring it back next year.

Visitors to Philmont are now able to stay in overnight accommodations, from platform tents to roofed housing, including easy access to hikes like the Dino hike or the Lovers' Leap hike. It's a fantastic opportunity for parents who are visiting or dropping off their kids on staff to get a taste of Philmont too.

Additionally, visitors staying in overnight accommodations can purchase an Adventure Pass, which allows them to join in on exclusive guided activities around PTC.

Also, if you're in the mood for arts and crafts, the PTC crafts center has a brand-new glass kiln, resin molds, and supplies for splatter paint!

With so much to offer this year, make sure to visit one of the many fun programs going on this summer at the PTC. Everyone is welcome!



The Milky Way lights up the sky above Hunting Lodge in 2021. Photo by Christopher Nye.

A Day of Learning, Tradition, and Celebration

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager



As seasonal staff began arriving, anticipation grew to kick off the season and commence training. 51% of staff are returning while 49% are new. During the summer season, All Staff Day is the only time when all 1,000-plus staff will be together at one time.

The All Staff Day started with Living the Brand, Preventing Youth on Youth Abuse Training, and backcountry hiking procedures. Then after a picnic lunch, all staff gathered at the Philmont Training Center (PTC) Greensward. Everyone was grouped up by department, and Conservation and PTC went above and beyond with their props and chants. While waiting for Roger Hoyt's opening remarks, departments competed for the photographers' and videographers' attention with roaring cheers.

After the full-time and single digit introductions, new staff members were split into 20 groups for base camp tours with information tailored for first-year staff.

"I loved to see all of the departments together and everyone having fun," said MPS staff Cami Vollmer.

A few minutes before 5:30pm, staff were crowded outside of the CHQ

dining hall for the Flag Ceremony and the Ranger Bell. Chants are loud enough to be heard throughout base camp – an amazing tradition to witness, looked forward to by staff and guests.

To close out the exciting day, everyone gathered at the Closing Campfire Bowl for an all-staff photo and the opening program. Everyone laughed and cheered as the drone flew overhead, taking pictures and videos of the staff. As the sun finally began to set on All-Staff Day, Joey Fernandez received the 2024 Philmont Staff Association Silver Sage Award. "It was awesome when Joey got the Silver Sage Award and it was so fun when everyone was chanting Joey's name," remarked Camping Dining Hall Staff Harper Hughes.



Ending the program, Dr. Kjell Lindgren, Deputy Director of the Flight Operations Directorate at NASA, gave a wonderful speech to the staff (see article on page 12).

Before separating for the night, everyone stood shoulder to shoulder and sang the Philmont hymn. "Singing the Philmont hymn was definitely the best part of the day," said Registration Manager Mary Jensen.

Left Top: Philip Ferrier addresses the crowd on the Villa Greensward. Photo by Dean Bills.

Left Bottom: Joey Fernandez gives a speech at the opening campfire. Photo by Dean Bills.

Top: PTC cheers for a photo on the Villa Greensward. Photo by Logan Albrinck.

Bottom: Conservation poses for a photo on the Villa Greensward. Photo by Cami Vollmer.



Backcountry Scatter!

Ginny Crossland, Writer



The opening of the backcountry has officially begun at Philmont with the scattering of staff to 29 staffed backcountry camps across the Ranch!

Scatter is a big operation, with waves of backcountry staff departing to their camps over the course of three days, but if you are at base camp, it's almost difficult to tell. That's because the Scatter process is a well-oiled machine, and it's all thanks to the hard work of Outfitting Services, Logistics, Backcountry staff, Maintenance, Commissary, and many other departments. Vehicles meet up with the camp staff and make their way through locations around base, picking up personal gear, program materials, kitchen supplies, food and everything else needed to set up their camp.

The Rich Cabins staff showed up to Outfitting Services just before 1 p.m. on June 6. They began loading a massive crate containing all their equipment into two pickup trucks and a Suburban. Amongst the basic

equipment was an enormous upright bass for Rich Cabins' campfire show, which took some maneuvering to fit into the back of the Suburban.

Additionally, each camp accounts for the equipment needed for their unique programs. Whether it's blacksmithing at Cypher's Mine or French Henry, homesteading at Rich Cabins, or rock climbing at Cimarroncito or Miner's Park, each camp has specific equipment requirements that must be met along with everything else needed to run the camp.

Mere minutes after the Rich Cabins staff departed, the Metcalf Station staff showed up and the scatter cycle began again.

By the end of the day on Friday, June 7, staff were in place and ready for crews to arrive. Staff camps are now waiting patiently for the first Scouts to come hiking through their camps. After weeks of training, preparing programs and practicing campfire shows, the long-awaited moment has finally arrived to put all that hard work into action.



Top left page: Rich Cabins staff load equipment into the back of a Philmont truck. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Top:** Miner's Park staff sort through their cart of equipment during Scatter. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Bottom left:** Urraca staff unload their supplies. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

Middle right: Harlan staff gets a rundown of their equipment from Backcountry Warehouse staff. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Bottom right:** Urraca staff carry boxes into camp. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

STORE HOURS

May 30-June 5:
3-5 P.M.*
June 6: 1-5 P.M.*
Beginning June 7:
7 A.M. - 6:45 P.M.



*Staff are available throughout the day for special staff needs and visitors.



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Staff enjoy All Staff Day while sitting on the Villa Greensward. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Counselor's Corner

Luke Arnold, PhD, LMFT, NCC

With the business of the beginning activities of the summer, the anticipation of the first participants, and all the mixed emotions that have been running through us we all need to recharge not just our bodies but our minds and hearts, too. Regardless of faith or cultural traditions, each of us can benefit from time to nurture our inner well-being. Here are some ideas for doing that:

Reflect on what worked for you back home and then replicate it. If you regularly attend church, temple, mosque, or synagogue, journal or draw, or practice yoga regularly, find ways to replicate that experience within the camp space. You might need to get creative and be intentional about scheduling this time.

Build a support network, and don't be afraid to reach out. Being away from home means being away from your usual network of friends, family, and mentors. Look to build a supportive group of friends — and try to be that friend for others. Don't be afraid to reach out to leadership if you are feeling lonely. Be sure to reach out if you feel like a friend is struggling.

If you would like to chat about anything, the front desk in the infirmary can help you find a time.

Dr. Luke is the Philmont mental health therapist. He is available by appointment at the Infirmary.



Rangers Rendezvous at Beaubien

Ginny Crossland, Writer

Even before the backcountry camps were staffed, Beaubien was buzzing with activity on Tuesday, June 4. Ranger Rendezvous was fully underway.

The annual Ranger Rendezvous follows five intense days of backcountry training and hiking. It marks the culmination of ranger training, celebrates their hard work and dedication, and the beginning of another exciting Philmont summer.

All morning, rangers were competing in the Ranger Games, earning points on behalf of their training crews. Ranger Games activities included a search and rescue relay, first aid practice, and blind tent assembly. There were two new stations this year, focusing on bear bags and stove maintenance. The Ranger Games are a fun way for training crews to bond, build teamwork, and put into practice their ranger skills they had been working on for the past week.

Some rangers are returning staff, some are here for their first year, and some are here from the Naval or Air Force academy ranger training. The slots for service academy rangers are highly

sought after; both the Naval and Air Force academies offer 30 slots, which received about 150 and 300 applicants this year respectively. All midshipmen must complete summer training, but only a select few are able to complete it in the backcountry as Philmont Rangers.

After a trail meal lunch, the Ranger Games began to wind down as people rested before the evening activities. Everyone gathered at 3 p.m. for a ranger department photo. Bearing their own flag, each training crew had so much enthusiasm and energy it made sitting still for a photo a challenge.

Rangers and guests were then treated to a delicious barbecue chuckwagon dinner, before the campfire where the winners of the Ranger Games were announced. Congratulations to the Naval Academy crew!

The next morning, training crews hiked the 15 miles back to base camp. On June 6, the entire ranger department had the day off, and they descended upon Taos like a swarm of locusts. It was a well-deserved break, tucked in between a tough training trek and the first crew arrivals on June 7!

Rangers practice Search-and-Rescue techniques during the Ranger Games. Photo by Cami Vollmer



Middle left: Rangers and ranger leadership gather around the closing campfire. Photo by Ryan Tanner. **Middle right:** Rangers play a matching game during the Ranger Games. Photo by Cami Vollmer. **Bottom left:** Rangers practice hoisting a bear bag into the trees during Ranger Games. Photo by Caroline Fallin. **Bottom right:** Rangers display their training crew flags. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

How Do You Take Your Socks Off?

Ginny Crossland, Writer

All Staff Day 2024 was an enormous success! The special day finished off with a wonderful speech given by this year's keynote speaker, astronaut Dr. Kjell Lindgren, at the opening program. Lindgren spent 311 days in orbit at the International Space Station over two separate expeditions and currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Flight Operations Directorate at NASA.

In 2021, Lindgren came to Philmont with fellow astronaut Andrew Morgan to serve as advisors for a trek. They stopped in at the National Scouting Museum, where Lindgren offered to take an item up to the ISS with him on his next expedition in 2022. Since he is an Eagle Scout, he decided to take with him a 1924 Eagle patch, one of the first ever made.

Lindgren piqued everyone's curiosity with his opening line, "How do you take your socks off in the field?" This seemingly arbitrary question, he explained, says a lot about who you are as a crew mate in space. Do you fling your socks off and get skin matter everywhere or do you carefully roll them off, out of respect for your teammates?

During his speech, Lindgren shared an array of other amusing and slightly gross anecdotes about the trials of living in space. He drew comparisons to the trials of hiking the backcountry at Philmont: both in space and at



Dr. Kjell Lindgren, speaks to staff at opening campfire. Photo by Dean Bills.

Philmont water is precious, you can't take showers and you use the bathroom in "uncomfortable but beautiful places."

Lindgren also spoke about the pure physicality of Philmont and how when astronauts train to go to space, they participate in similar outdoor activities.

"Philmont gives our scouts the opportunity to get comfortable with being uncomfortable," Lindgren said.

Challenging, outdoor experiences like Philmont provide excellent training in "expeditionary behavior," or the ability to practice self-care and team care, which is vital when living in space. Philmont offers the opportunity to bond, lead, follow, strive, and fail together with your crew.

Lindgren closed his speech by referring back to the sock analogy. He asked everyone to be conscious of their decisions and how they affect their team.

"In the months ahead," Lindgren said, "practice great expeditionary behavior, take care of yourselves, be an encouragement and a blessing to your teammates, so that at the end of the season, everyone knows how to take off their socks."



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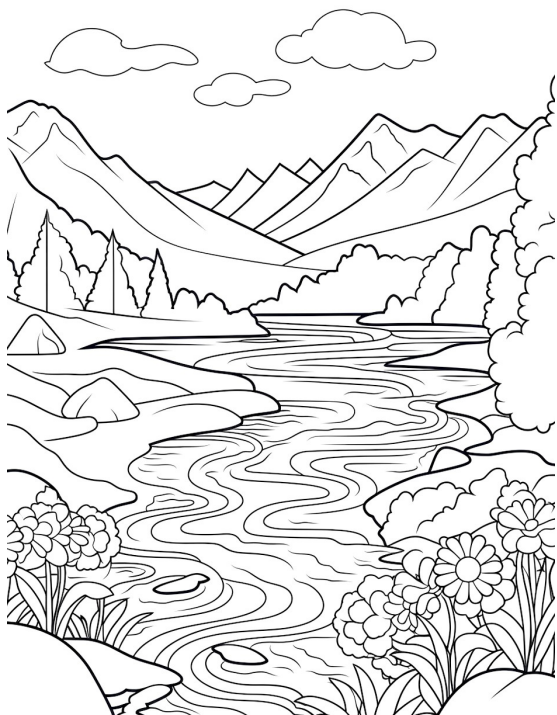
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	9	7					6	1

RIDDLES

1. I can be found on a mountain top and in the deepest valley. I am in the stars and the earth. What am I?
2. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
3. I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I?
4. I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

Answers on page 22

TRY THIS CRYPTOGRAM!

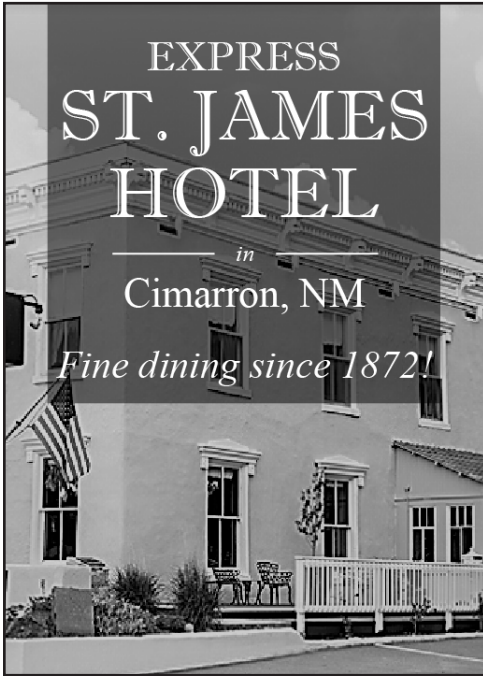
Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a random letter or number. Try to decode the message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
26				11								

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

24 7 20 8 11 6 1 16 4 25 11 24 26 15 11

24 4 26 6 20 7 4 24 3 7 11 24 26 17 1 8 11



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MPS Photo Gallery



Wranglers run horses to Ponil staff camp. Photo by Cami Vollmer.



Rangers practice pitching a tent during the Ranger Games at Ranger Rendezvous. Photo by Caroline Fallin.



Scouts arrive at the Philmont Welcome Center by bus. Photo by Caroline Fallin.



Rangers at Beaubien staff camp for Ranger Rendezvous. Photo by Caroline Fallin.



Two staff members dance at the Music and Fellowship Dance on All-Staff Day. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

2024 Philmont Photo & Video Contest

Photo: Action | Candid | Humor | Portrait
Landscape | Living History | Wildlife

Video: Shorts (1 minute or less)

Call for entries begins June 16!

Staff photos & videos due July 20

Participant photos & videos due Sept. 1

Turn in submissions to
RegisterPhilmont.org/PhotoContest



"The Bounty" by Hannah Meikner, 2023

Which Philmont Animal Are You Most Like?

What are you most likely doing at a party?

- A. Socializing with everyone
- B. Enjoying the food
- C. Finding a quiet corner to observe
- D. Keeping an eye on everything from a distance

What's your preferred way to spend a lazy Sunday?

- A. Exploring new places
- B. Relaxing at home with a good book or movie
- C. Taking a peaceful walk in nature
- D. Waiting for the groupchat to make plans

How do you handle challenges?

- A. Face them head-on
- B. Take a step back and analyze the situation
- C. Seek advice from others
- D. Approach cautiously and strategically

Which landscape appeals to you the most?

- A. Lush forests
- B. Rolling hills
- C. Calm meadows
- D. Rugged mountains

What's your communication style?

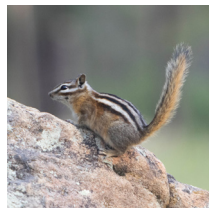
- A. Outgoing and chatty
- B. Thoughtful and considerate
- C. Observant and perceptive
- D. Reserved and strategic

Add up how many times you picked each answer (A, B, C, or D).

Mostly A's -

Mini Bear

You're full of energy and always on the go. Your social nature and friendly demeanor make you a hit at gatherings, and your enthusiasm is contagious.



Mostly B's -

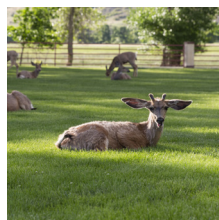
Burro

Reliable, down-to-earth, and with a love for the simple things in life. You're the one friends and family can always count on, and you have a knack for creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Mostly C's -

Deer

Gentle, observant, and with a calming presence. You have a thoughtful and considerate nature, always taking the time to appreciate the beauty around you. Your peaceful aura and ability to listen make you a great confidant.



Mostly D's -

Mountain Lion

Strategic, independent, and always keeping a watchful eye on your surroundings. Your cautious and strategic approach to challenges sets you apart. You're not one to rush into things, preferring to carefully assess situations.

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PhilmontSmiles - a new Instagram page dedicated to sharing the unforgettable moments from Philmont through your eyes. Use #PhilmontSmiles to share your best moments and they could be featured on Philmont's social media channels and reach a wide audience of the Philmont family, Scouts/Leaders, and outdoor enthusiasts.



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Upcoming Staff Activities

All activities take place at the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center

June

- 14: Just Dance Night 8pm, Baldy Pavilion
- 17: PB&J night 8pm, SSSAC Kitchen
- 20: Summer Vibes Brat Day 11am - 1pm Baldy Pavilion
(wear your Hawaiian shirts!!!)
- 21: D&D Character Creator Night 8pm Walcutt Room
- 23: Irish food and music 8pm
- 26: Mario Kart Tournament 8pm
- 28: Casino Night (subject to change)
- 30: Brat Day 11am - 1pm

Looking Beyond The Hills

Rev. Bob Deich, PSR Chaplain

“Beyond the Hills” is a biography of Waite Phillips, penned by Michael Wallis. The title of the book is taken from the words of Chope Phillips, describing his father as a man who was “always looking for what was beyond the hills.”

It’s an echo of the human heart and one shared by many in the Scouting family. It was as alive in the souls of pioneers who traveled the Santa Fe Trail as it is in space explorers of our day.

Centuries ago, a songwriter penned lyrics that come alive to us today as we walk the sacred grounds of Philmont:

“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”
(Psalm 121:1-2)

As one who has traveled on five continents, I can attest to many lands’ countless numbers of shrines, temples, monuments, and obelisks on seemingly every hill, ridge, and prominence. There’s something in the human spirit that wants to mark the high points, not only of geography, but of our lives. Perhaps that’s why we pursue the high ranks and the awards of Scouting.

I believe that Chope Phillips saw something in his father that the Psalmist had put into words that likewise echo in our own hearts: We look for inspiration to the hills, but our real, true, and only help comes from the One who made these very hills, the Creator of heaven and earth.

The Psalmist has a personal knowledge of this Holy One, this Master Designer and Maker, and claims what you and I serving at Philmont can claim as well - that God will be our Keeper, our Shade, our Shelter, our Protector, our Companion and Guide, now and forever.

Here’s the complete text of Psalm 121:

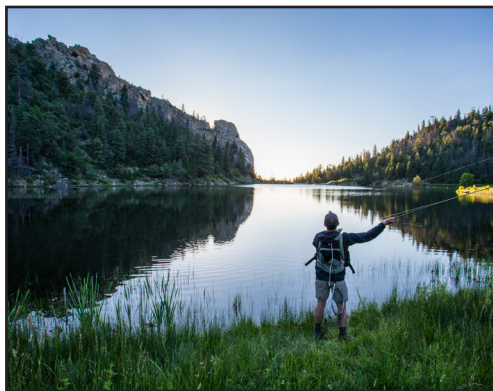
*“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

He will not let your foot be moved, he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.”



Clay Helfrick casts a dry fly onto the still waters of Cimarroncito Reservoir beneath Cathedral Rock in 2016. Photo by Clay Helfrick.



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11:00 am	11:30 am
1:00 pm	1:30 pm
4:00 pm	4:30pm
6:00 pm	6:30pm

Game Answers

5	4	3	2	7	6	9	1	8
1	2	8	9	4	3	7	5	6
6	7	9	1	5	8	2	3	4
7	3	4	6	1	5	8	9	2
9	8	1	4	3	2	6	7	5
2	6	5	7	8	9	1	4	3
3	A tree							
4	A map							
7	3	5	6	8	9	1	4	2
3	5	6	8	9	1	4	2	7
4	1	2	5	6	7	3	8	9
8	9	7	3	2	4	5	6	1

Riddles-
1. The letter 'e'
2. Footsteps
3. A tree
4. A map
5. Silver on the sage, startit
6. Skies above

Meet the 2024 MPS Staff!



Al Parent,
Marketing and Photography
Services Manager



Danielle Ballantine,
Media Team Manager



Lelani Deines,
Publications Manager



Caroline Fallin,
Photographer Foreman



Truman Attaway,
Videographer Foreman



Dean Bills,
Portrait Photographer



Ginny Crossland,
Publications Writer



Drew Menifee,
Philmont Micro Influencer



Maeve Callahan,
Videographer



Caitlyn Kviz,
Graphic Designer



Peter Zito,
Videographer



Cami Vollmer,
Field Photographer



Logan Albrinck,
Field Photographer



Kamila Corwin,
Social Media Writer/
Designer



Ryan Tanner,
Portrait Photographer

On the back cover:
Chief Ranger's Philmont
Jac-Shirt at Ranger Rendezvous.
Photo by Al Parent.

