

PhilNews



Trailblazer Edition ~ JUNE 26, 2024

DELIVERING
WILDERNESS
AND LEARNING
ADVENTURES THAT
LAST A LIFETIME



CHANGING LIVES



**“THAT’S WHY WE’RE
HERE, IT’S THE
AMAZING PEOPLE
THAT COME OUT OF
SCOUTING.”**

– ROGER KRONE, CEO OF
SCOUTING AMERICA

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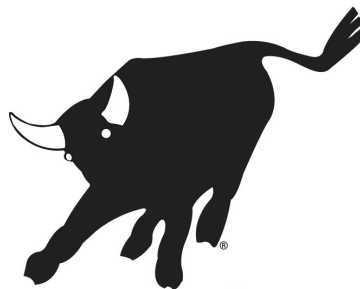
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On the cover: Crew 609-B-1 hike at Webster Trailhead in 2023. Photo by Truman Attaway.

Left: A scout climbs up the spar pole at Crater Lake in 2024. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

The Yurt is Back!

Ginny Crossland, Writer

Anyone walking through Philmont Scout Ranch will recognize the familiar silhouette of the Tooth of Time Traders' Yurt. What some might not know is that this year it's finally reopening after six years of being closed!

The Yurt closed after the Ute Park Fire of 2018, and then continued to stay closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing issues. This year, however, the Yurt is finally staffed and has even begun accepting credit cards, after years of only accepting cash.

The Yurt sits next door to the Tooth of Time Traders and sells discontinued items at a discount. For example, the Yurt is currently selling Nalgene's from last year, which are made of 50% pure plastic and 50% recycled materials. The Nalgene's this year are made up entirely of recycled materials, so they are selling their excess stock from last year at a discount.

The Yurt also sells limited edition items like belts with passed dates on them. If you don't mind an outdated engraving, you can buy a belt that is usually \$60 for as cheap as \$10. The Yurt also carries luxury brands and items like Cotopaxi jackets or hiking boots, sometimes for as much as 50% off.

The backbone of the Yurt comes in the form of Carol Crews, who runs the Yurt five days out of the week. When she's not on her days off, she essentially runs the whole operation herself.

"You're here by yourself, so you have to do everything: sweep, restock, things like that," said Carol.

Carol works hard to make sure everything stays stocked, neat, and folded, so as to not look like a "rummage sale," and she does a remarkable job. Different items and sizes can be found easily, so you don't need to worry about digging around forever to find what you're looking for.

What do you do if you see something you'd like, but you're about to go on trek? You can put an item on hold! Just take the item you want up to the check-out counter and tell Carol what date you'll be back, and she will hold it for you behind the counter. Merchandise goes fast from the Yurt, and it is restocked every day, so make sure to put an item on hold if you really want it.

Even if you don't buy anything from the Yurt, it is still one of the most interesting and unique buildings on the ranch, and you are finally able to explore inside it this year.

"Some people just come in and say, 'we want to see what it is!'" said Carol.

Make sure to stop by this year and get some spectacular gear for cheap, or even just enjoy the wacky shape of the building. And of course, be sure to say hello to Carol!



Carol Crews stands in front of the Yurt next to the Tooth of Time Traders. Photo by Kamila Corwin.

CEO of Scouting America Visits Philmont

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager

Roger Krone, the CEO of Scouting America, visited Philmont Scout Ranch for a three-day immersive experience. Krone was the former Chairman and CEO of Leidos, where he tripled revenue and more than doubled the workforce. He held leadership roles in some of the most prominent aerospace companies before becoming the CEO of Leidos. As an Eagle Scout who trekked at Philmont in 1970, Krone's recent visit allowed him to reconnect with the historic high adventure base and witness its operations firsthand.

During his visit, Krone participated in a Q&A session with Scott Sorrels, National Commissioner of Scouting America and addressed questions from commissioners attending a conference at the Philmont Training Center. The questions primarily focused on cost, accessibility, and the Scouting America's name change. When asked about his favorite Scouting memory, Krone recounted a humorous anecdote from his 1970 Philmont trek:

"We had a dehydrated meal called chicken a la king. My uncle was the trek leader, and I had this package of biscuit mix, and it said to mix it with the chicken a la king. We stirred the mix into the chicken, and it turned into glue. It was inedible."

Krone's itinerary provided a comprehensive tour of Philmont's facilities and operations. He visited the National Scouting Museum, attended leadership meetings, and toured various sites, including the Philmont Reservoir, Rayado, Villa Philmonté, and Ponil.



Roger Krone observes activities at Ponil. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Krone also witnessed conservation efforts, such as the Miner's Park Restoration Thinning Project and the Ute Gulch Burn Scar.

One of the highlights of Krone's visit was hiking the iconic Tooth of Time trail, where he met with crews at the summit. This experience allowed him to connect with the heart of Philmont's high adventure program and witness the transformative impact it has on Scouts.

Throughout his visit, Krone expressed his appreciation for the profound impression Scouting has on individuals and communities. In his own words, "That's why we're here, it's the amazing people that come out of Scouting." His exciting trip to Philmont reinforced his commitment to the organization's mission and values.



Top: Troop 774 at the top of the Tooth of Time with Roger Krone. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Bottom left: Roger Krone brands his belt at Ponil. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Middle right: Roger Krone and Scott Sorrels answer questions during the Q & A. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Bottom right: Roger Krone poses with a Sea Scout crew at Ponil. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

What's New at Philmont Museums?

Danielle Ballantine, Media
Manager

The museums of Philmont offer a wealth of historical experiences catering to all ages and interests. Each year, Philmont welcomes thousands of visitors to the museums – the Villa Philmonté, the National Scouting Museum, Chase Ranch, and the Kit Carson Museum at Rayado. This summer there are new opportunities for new and returning guests.

The Villa Philmonté, the former New Mexico home of Waite Phillips, who donated his property to become Philmont Scout Ranch, is open for guided tours by reservation daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Tours generally last an hour. This year, the Villa has added an open house time from 4-5 p.m. “This is a great option for anyone who can’t take a full hour-long tour or for those who are only interested in one area of the house,” says Ruaidhri Crofton, Villa Philmonté Curator. Guides are available to answer questions or share details during the open house and guests can stay for a few minutes or the entire hour.

This spring, Philmont announced a \$3.2 million restoration effort for the Villa, the second largest single capital project in Philmont’s history. The ambitious project, beginning this fall,



is made possible by the Genevieve Phillips endowment and will include restoration of exterior stucco, window and door casements and decorative iron work.

Visitors to the National Scouting Museum will find new exhibits to explore. A new Special Needs Scouting exhibit showcases how the Scouting program has been adapted to support Scouts with physical and developmental disabilities. A first-year 1924 Eagle rank patch that traveled to the International Space Station with Dr. Kjell Lindgren, is on display in the museum’s lobby. The Philmont Gallery, located in the back half of the museum, has recently undergone renovation. The new exhibit includes the history of Philmont Scout Ranch since its inception in 1938. Also nearing completion, but already open to the public, is the “Story of the Philmont Area” focusing on the history of mining, logging and railroading in the area and features a new mural of the Santa Fe Trail by local artist Melinda Marlowe. The design and layout of the new gallery began last fall and



installation started in February. Another museum that visitors can tour is Chase Ranch, located not far from Philmont. Chase Ranch is the home of the Chase family who settled in the area in the 1860s. The home has been reopened to the public after an extensive interior renovation last year. Guided tours are provided by Philmont staff daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On July 5th the Chase Ranch will host an open house for the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will include tours, music and activities.

A short drive from Philmont's base camp is the Kit Carson Museum at Rayado. The museum is no longer a turnaround backcountry camp and is now operated by the National Scouting Museum. Interpretive guides provide a history of the Santa Fe Trail, Kit Carson and the Maxwell Land Grant. Tours are provided daily with a special candlelight tour on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Coming back to Philmont in late July is Wonders on Wheels, a specially retrofitted 38-foot RV that features an exhibit from a New Mexico state-run museum. This year's feature is "Growing New Mexico," an exhibit curated by the New Mexico Farm and Ranch

Heritage Museum. Wonders on Wheels takes place on July 29th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the National Scouting Museum parking lot.

The museums of Philmont offer many opportunities for staff and guests who want to learn more about the history of this area and the importance of Scouting. All should consider making time in their schedules for a visit.



Left top: Historic mining equipment sits in a display case at the NSM. Photo by Kamila Corwin. **Top:** Hiking boots hang from a Philmont Scout Ranch sign at the NSM. Photo by Peter Zito. **Bottom:** Truck at Chase Ranch. Photo by Logan Albrinck.

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2024 Philmont Photo & Video Contest

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

Video: Shorts (1 minute or less)

Entries Now Open!

Staff photos & videos due July 20

Expedition photos & videos due Sept. 1

Turn in submissions to

RegisterPhilmont.org/PhotoContest



"The Bounty" by Hannah Meikner, 2023

Counselor's Corner

Luke Arnold, PhD, LMFT, NCC

June is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month. Why is that important?

According to the Anxiety & Depression Association of America, men suffering from mental illnesses are less likely to receive mental health treatment or diagnosis. Part of this is due to the stigma about a man speaking out about it, deeming it as a weakness. Men are less likely to openly discuss mental health issues and seek help than women, due to social norms, reluctance, and belittlement from others. These stigmas have a significant impact on males, according to the ADA. Men often face pressure to "man up" when speaking out about mental health issues, and it is seen as a form of weakness or not "manly."

Prior to 2020, our country operated at an incredibly fast pace. With the pandemic, everything screeched to a halt. We were all forced to stop. Then we began to restart slowly. Part of the beauty of slowing down

is your ability to take in and appreciate more of what is happening. You get to be at Philmont! You get to hang out and play! Savor it.

Here are some actions that may help keep some of the focus on self-care activities as you continue to transition into life at camp:

• **S**low down.

• **H**ave fun.

• **B**e curious.

This summer is going to be amazing. Just remember, day in and day out, through the challenges and the successes, the one constant that you have is you. When you take good care of yourself, you'll be exponentially better at taking care of others.

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



Houston? We Have a Philmont Crew!

Ginny Crossland, Writer

On an especially hot and dry afternoon, crew 612-B from Houston, Texas relax in the shade of their campsite at Cimarroncita staff camp. To outside eyes they look like any other crew. The youth crew members are clustered together, chatting and gathering water, and a little distance away, the adult advisors are relaxing in their camp chairs, recovering from their long, 10-mile day of hiking.

However, there's something special about this team; two of the adult advisors work for NASA. Michael Fincke is an experienced astronaut, with 381 days in space under his belt, formerly holding the record for most days spent in space. Bruce Blazine is a flight controller who has known and worked with Fincke for almost 20 years.

In addition to being an active astronaut, Fincke is also a TV star, as pointed out by Blazine. The Wiggles visited

the Flight Control Center in Houston, and Fincke spoke about the space suit for one of their DVDs. Fincke is very proud of his cameo to this day. One of his astronaut coworkers met Paul McCartney, but Fincke doesn't believe McCartney can hold a candle to the Wiggles. "Can he do the Hot Potato? The Cold Spaghetti? The Mashed Banana? I don't think so!" said Fincke.

Despite having one of the most exciting and exclusive jobs in the world, Fincke was brimming with excitement to visit Philmont this summer. As they were approaching the gates of Philmont, he received a call from the space station. In response Fincke "totally blew them off, because Philmont is more important."

Fincke is the father of three children. His oldest son, who just graduated college and is joining the U.S. Space Force, is also an Eagle Scout. He wasn't able to accompany him to Philmont, which sorely disappointed Fincke. His two younger daughters joined the BSA

Crew 612 - B poses for a photo at Cimarroncita. Photo by Cami Vollmer.



as soon as it opened up to girls, giving him another opportunity to go on trek. He is now here with his youngest daughter, Surya.

Being an astronaut has been helpful in preparing for a Philmont trek. Space expedition crews don't always include a doctor, so all astronauts must receive advanced medical training. This made Fincke an obvious choice for the 612-B's crew medical officer.

Fincke's time in space also prepared him well for the expected level of filth you must put up with while in the backcountry. "Four dudes stuck in a stinky spacecraft. . . not unlike four dudes stuck in a tent at Philmont," Fincke said.

While Philmont may not be a walk in the park, it is a brief and much-needed respite from the rigor that comes with being a NASA astronaut. As soon as 612-B gets off the trail, Fincke will be whisked off in a NASA jet to meet a couple of astronaut friends who are returning home from the International Space Station. He'll be getting right back to work on repairing the spacecraft and debriefing in preparation for his next mission, happening in 2025.



Top: Michael Fincke poses for a photo at Cimarroncita. Photo by Cami Vollmer.
Bottom: Michael Fincke and Bruce Blazine talk with Roger Krone, CEO of Scouting America, outside of the camper dining hall. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Philmont Celebrates Inclusivity

Ginny Crossland, Writer

For the second year in a row, the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center (SSSAC) was able to host an “Inclusivity Forum”. The event, occurring this year on June 3, was an opportunity for people of all identities to get to know each other and express themselves. It is an event that Ben Everett, former Director of Activities and current Base Camp Manager, advocated for in 2023.

Everett says that inclusivity at Philmont has come far from when he worked here from 2016 to 2018. During that period, he remembers knowing maybe one openly transgender staff member. Inclusivity and acceptance at Philmont has come a long way.

Everett has also assisted in developing a diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) initiative over the last two years. Everett, along with Ruaidhri Crofton, Yesi Olvera, and Max Miller, presented about DEIB at the Philmont Leadership conference. They spoke about what diversity is and why it is important, as well as what inclusion and belonging look like. They explored into the question, “How do you move past tolerating someone for who and what they are, to accepting someone for who and what they are?”

The hope is that this leadership training will trickle down into the training of all staff, and soon everyone will be a little more comfortable talking about inclusion and acceptance.



Staff paint their nails at the Inclusivity Forum.
Photo by Kamila Corwin.

“Everyone has their biases, but that’s not something to be afraid of,” said Everett. “It’s not an embarrassing thing to be biased towards something, that’s just human nature... If you accept your personal biases and accept that sometimes they change... you can grow and become a better person,” said Everett. “The more people are able to talk about and share the things that they enjoy doing, the easier the conversations come from there. It’s like a muscle that you have to work out. If you let it atrophy, then you lose that ability to have those conversations, but the more you practice it and the more you get used to it, the easier those conversations become.”

Working together with Activities staff, Everett is trying to put on more events like karaoke and open mics, where staff members can express themselves. In a place where we all dress the same and present a united face to Scouts during the day, he finds it important that staff are still able to express their individuality.

Everett also hopes that the Inclusivity Forum will be able to happen again in 2025. This year’s was a resounding success, with plentiful attendance and engaging conversations.

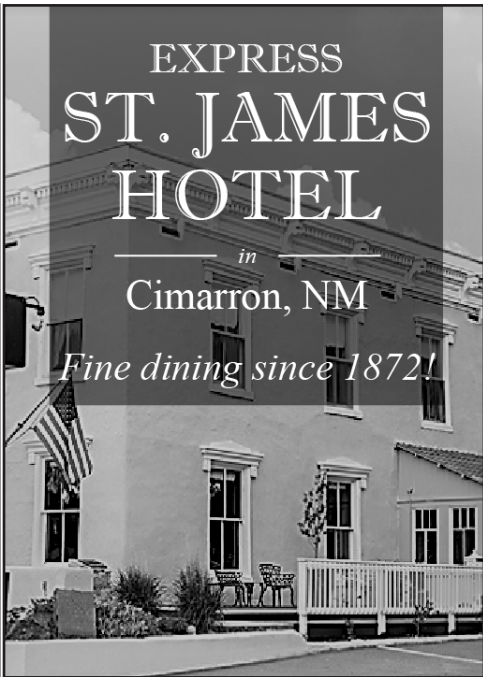


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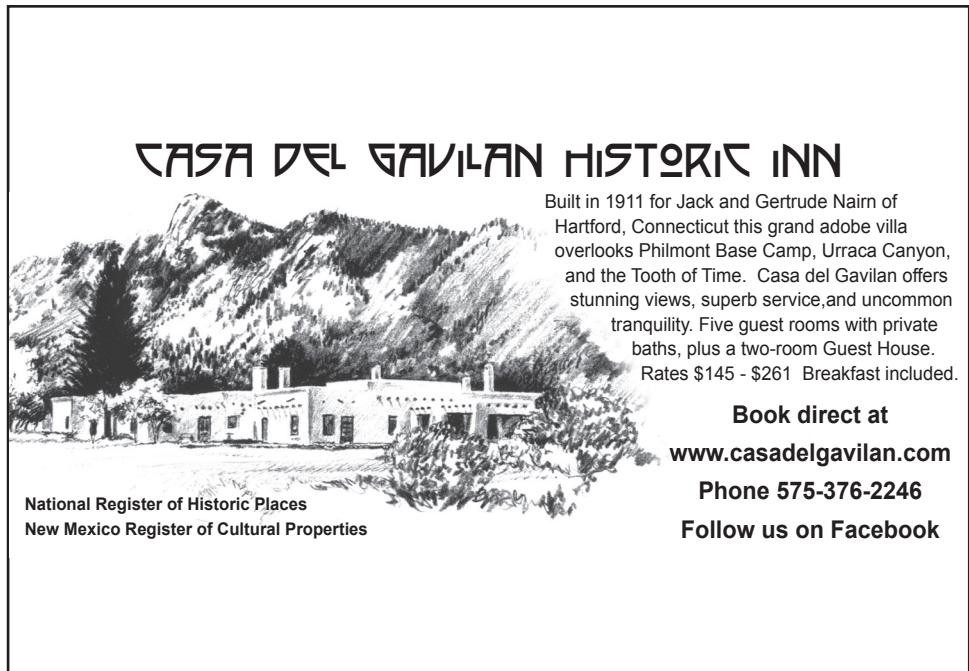
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Can you find this in basecamp?

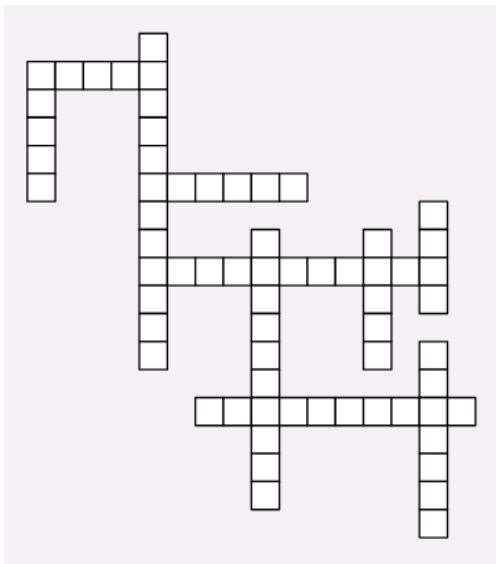


*Tiny wings take their flight
Near where cameras
flash their lights
Under the feeders' sweet treat
A little bear you will meet.*

When you find this item, there will be a QR code where you can submit a selfie of you and the item to be featured on the @PhilmontSmiles Instagram!



Illustration by Kamila Corwin, MPS 2024.



Word fit puzzle is a fun word puzzling game, fill this empty crossword puzzle with the given words.

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Letters | 6 Letters | 10 Letters | 12 Letters |
| trek | rayado | blacksmith | conservation |
| villa | | chuckwagon | |
| 5 Letters | 7 Letters | 11 Letters | |
| baldy | metcalf | toothoftime | |
| burro | | | |

Answer on page 23

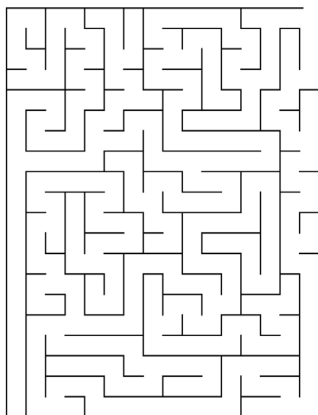


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Commissioner Week at Philmont Training Center

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager



At the Philmont Training Center, more than 200 commissioners from across the nation converged for an intensive training event designed to amplify their roles in fostering and expanding Scouting. This was the first conference week of the season. The comprehensive conference covered a broad spectrum of topics, each tailored to enhance the commissioners' effectiveness and impact.

One major focus was on strategies to boost their influence and promote unit growth, reinforcing the idea that every commissioner is integral to the membership team. Sessions specifically addressed the unique needs of older youth programs like Exploring, Sea Scouts, and Venturing, highlighting the nuanced differences in serving these groups compared to younger Scouts.

Participants also delved into best practices for recruiting and engaging new commissioners, aiming to broaden the Scouting network and strengthen resources. The "Level Up Roundtable" session provided insights into building more successful roundtables, with a deep dive into improving attendance, strategic planning, marketing, and unit service strategies. These discussions offered practical tools and approaches to elevate the quality and effectiveness of roundtable meetings.

Strategic thinking was a key theme, particularly in sessions that guided commissioners on how to collaborate more effectively with units, developing adaptable strategies that cater to various unit types. Additionally, the conference

emphasized the importance of technology, with hands-on training in using Scouting America's suite of tools to identify and solve issues at the unit, district, and council levels. This technological edge is crucial for modernizing and streamlining commissioner tasks.

For council and assistant council commissioners, focused sessions on utilizing volunteer resources and tools strategically were particularly impactful. These discussions centered on delivering the Scouting promise with clarity and vision. District commissioners, too, were empowered with a better understanding of their roles and the resources available to them, alongside strategies for team development and leadership.

Specific attention was given to Council Service Territory Commissioners, addressing their distinct roles, responsibilities, and the best practices needed to navigate current issues successfully. This specialized training ensured that commissioners at all levels left Philmont better equipped to support and grow the Scouting movement.

Overall, the Philmont Training Center Conference was not just about imparting knowledge—it was about building a community of empowered, resourceful commissioners ready to take Scouting to new heights.

Left top: Participants at the Commissioners Conference take their oath during the Commissioning Ceremony. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Top:** Scott Sorrels receives his National Commission at the Commissioner's Conference. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Middle:** Commissioner's Conference attendees enjoy refreshments in front of the Villa Philmonté. Photo by Cami Vollmer. **Bottom:** Participants engaged in classroom discussions. Photo by Caroline Fallin.



Which National Scouting Museum Staff Member Are You?

↓ START HERE! ↓

1 WHAT'S YOUR IDEA OF A PERFECT DAY OFF?

- a) Baking and relaxing
- b) Antiquing for trinkets
- c) Going for a drive
- d) Admiring the mountains with hot coco
- e) Camping or hiking with my wife

2 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PHILMONT CRITTER?

- a) Baby burros
- b) Minibears
- c) Burros
- d) Party Animal
- e) Bison

3 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MUSEUM EXHIBIT?

- a) The mineshaft
- b) The Seton artwork and Lobo
- c) The terrain map
- d) Stage coach
- e) Baden Powell's flag

4 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE DINING HALL LUNCH?

- a) Chicken tenders
- b) Calzones
- c) Quesadillas
- d) Roast Beef
- e) Sandwich bar

5 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PHILMONT PEAK?

- a) The Tooth of Time
- b) Baldy
- c) Lover's Leap
- d) Sail Boat at Cimarroncito
- e) Trail Peak

→ ANSWERS →

Mostly A
DEE DEE



Mostly B
KENNEDY



Mostly C
HALEY



Mostly D
TRISH



Mostly E
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@PhilmontSmiles

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

June

- **26:** Mario Kart Tournament, 8pm at SSSAC
- **28:** Karaoke Night, 8pm at Baldy Pavilion
- **30:** Brat Day, 11am - 1pm

July

- **2:** Color Run, 1:30pm starting at Baldy Pavilion
- **4:** Brat Day, 11am - 1pm
- **7:** Sherlock Holmes Movie Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **8:** Sherlock Holmes 2 Movie Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **10:** Brat Day, 11am - 1pm
- **12:** Casino Night, 8pm at SSSAC

Embracing Scouting's Values at Philmont



Al Parent, Marketing and Photography Services Manager

Nestled in the rugged wilderness of northeast New Mexico, Philmont Scout Ranch offers an unparalleled experience for Scouts, leaders, their families, and staff. Whether you're embarking on a challenging trek, participating in training programs, enjoying Family Adventure Camp, or supporting Philmont as a staff member, Philmont provides a unique opportunity to live out the values of Scouting America's Scout Oath and Scout Law. These values, deeply ingrained in the Scouting tradition, serve as a robust framework for personal development, ethical behavior, and community service, contributing significantly to a successful and positive life vision.

The Scout Oath and Its Promises

The Scout Oath is a pledge that encapsulates the core values of Scouting:

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

This oath is divided into three main promises: Duty to God and Country, Duty to Others, and Duty to Self. Each promise is a cornerstone of the Scouting experience at Philmont.

At Philmont, Scouts, leaders, and staff engage in activities that emphasize their duties to God, country, others, and themselves. Through flag ceremonies, service projects, and reflective moments in nature, they develop patriotism and moral integrity. Opportunities for helping others, such as assisting fellow Scouts and participating in conservation projects, foster compassion and community spirit. Challenging treks and activities promote physical strength, mental alertness, and ethical standards, encouraging

participants and staff to lead healthy lifestyles and uphold strong values.

The Scout Law and Its Values

The Scout Law complements the Scout Oath by outlining specific values that Scouts strive to embody:

"A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent."

At Philmont, participants and staff build trust and loyalty through the challenges they face together, forming strong, lasting relationships. They also foster a cooperative environment by being helpful and friendly, creating a welcoming atmosphere that encourages collaboration. Courtesy and kindness are emphasized to promote respectful interactions, while obedience and cheerfulness help maintain order and positivity, even in tough situations. Thriftiness and bravery are essential for resourcefulness and facing difficulties confidently, and cleanliness and reverence are encouraged to promote physical well-being and respect for diverse beliefs.

Living by the Scout Oath and Law at Philmont instills values essential for personal success and societal contribution. These principles guide Scouts, leaders, and staff to act with integrity, serve their communities, and strive for excellence. Philmont provides a unique setting to practice these values, ensuring participants develop strong character, positive relationships, and a commitment to bettering society. This holistic approach prepares Scouts to navigate life's complexities and make positive impacts on the world.



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CHQ Maintenance clean the Tooth of Time: Jake McFetridge, Sean DeLuca, Cody Bell, Noah Blanchard, Michael Melott, Hunter Hairston, Fletcher McClellan, and Denny Wilkes.
 Photo by Al Taylor.

