

PhilNews



Pathfinder Edition ~ JULY 10, 2024

DELIVERING
WILDERNESS
AND LEARNING
ADVENTURES THAT
LAST A LIFETIME



CHANGING LIVES



**"WE PACK IN ALL
THESE LIFE EVENTS IN
THIS QUICK WAY, AND
WE CELEBRATE EACH
OTHER."**

-KAT RESMAN, RANGER

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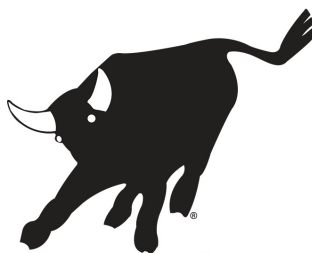
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On the cover: Zia Experience participants hike with the Tooth of Time in the background. Photo by Caroline Fallin. **Left:** The forest fairies around the Ranger Bell at night. Photo by Peter Zito.

Ambassadors Share News from HOME

Danielle Ballantine, Media Team Manager



Philmont ambassadors assemble in a PTC classroom. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

The Philmont Ambassador program began in 2013 to help Scouting America councils promote the Philmont Training Center. Since its inception, leaders who wish to become an ambassador must be approved by their home council. Applicants must have attended a Philmont Training Center conference, served on PTC faculty, participated in a Philmont Trek, or served on Philmont staff. Once approved as a Philmont Ambassador, there are required performance goals that must be achieved. In addition to promoting Philmont in their home councils and remaining current on the Philmont programs, ambassadors are strongly encouraged to attend the Philmont Ambassador conference. This summer, over 25 Philmont Ambassadors attended one of two conferences during the week of June 22-29.

As part of the Ambassador conferences, the attendees met with a panel of Philmont's leadership to hear the latest information and ask questions about promoting Philmont. The attendees of

the Ambassador I conference spent their week immersing themselves in Philmont's culture and programs. Their sessions included walking tours of the Philmont Training Center and Camping Headquarters, and backcountry and museum tours. They developed strategies for promoting Philmont using promotional materials and making in-person presentations. Ambassador II attendees were provided additional backcountry and behind-the-scenes tours and included further discussions about effective marketing strategies. Over the course of the conference, the attendees in Ambassador II created presentations that were given on the last day of the conference. Ambassador conferences were coordinated by Bob Weagraff and supported by faculty members Bob Krehley, Don Winn, Scott McAlister, Barry Bray and Tom Baltutis. Additionally, Philmont Ambassadors Dustin Taylor and Rob Welander dedicated time to recruiting future ambassadors among the crew advisors and Philmont Training Center adult attendees.

To conclude the Philmont Ambassador conference week, the attendees traveled to Rocky Mountain Scout Camp for a group graduation. While their time at Philmont may have been just a week-long, they left filled with information and skills to share the magic of a Philmont experience back in their home councils.

Scout leaders who are interested in becoming a Philmont Ambassador for their council may find information on philmontscout ranch.org under Ambassador Resources.

Home on the Range Week

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager



Philmont wranglers pose with the Philmont banner at the Maverick Rodeo. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Families enjoyed stepping into the wild west during our Home on the Range themed Family Adventure Camp! This special week was packed with unique programs, exciting events, and a build-it-yourself itinerary, offering a one-of-a-kind adventure not available during our regular summer season.

One of the standout moments of Home on the Range Week was the Cimarron Maverick Rodeo, the longest-running open rodeo in the West, celebrating its 101st anniversary this summer. Families watched thrilling rodeo events, cheered on daring cowboys and cowgirls, and soaked in a piece of western history.

Matilda Barr, a horseman at Philmont, participated in the barrel racing event; she was the first person to go, and she did a fantastic job. She was riding a Philmont horse and stated how great it was to participate with it. "It was fun and cool to use a Philmont horse and represent Philmont. Participants will be on this horse in two days so it's cool that they can say they rode a horse that

was in the rodeo," said Barr.

Another notable cowgirl was Maria Segura, who rode in the open bull riding. She went for a wild ride lasting five seconds. When asked about the ride later, she said "It was a good ride, but I wish I would've done better and stayed on for all eight seconds." Even though she wasn't completely happy with her ride, it was above average for the day. It's rare to see women ride bulls, and it was incredible to witness.

In addition to the rodeo, families participated in various themed activities, from western BBQ night, hiking the Tooth of Time, horseback rides, and a Cimarron ghost tour. During the ghost tour, 25 people walked around Cimarron and were told ghost stories about the rich history in this area. This was the first time Philmont Training Center held Home on The Range Week, and with a mix of scheduled events, every family crafted their perfect western getaway. Home on the Range Week at Family Adventure Camp was the perfect escape to the wild west!



Top left: Matilda Barr barrel racing at the Maverick Rodeo. Photo by Kamila Corwin. **Middle left:** PTC participants attending the Cimarron Ghost Tour at the St. James Hotel. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Bottom left:** A child holding flags at PTC's Home on the Range parade. Photo by Logan Albrinck.

Top right: Close-up of bull rider Maria Segura in the chutes. Photo by Kamila Corwin. **Middle right:** A bull rider is knocked from their bull at the Maverick Rodeo. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Bottom right:** Ben Herman, Cimarroncita Ranger, poses for a picture at the rodeo gate. Photo by Logan Albrinck.

Upstanding Moments

Maeve Callahan, Videographer & Kathy Leach, Philmont Ranger 1972-1973

Trailblazer Kathy Leach holds the title of first female ranger alongside Nancy Wells. Since her first summer in 1972, Leach has been striving to break barriers that have held women back in Scouting. From: Undaunted, Stories From the Trail, her Women Ranger interviews and an assortment of many other articles and media, Kathy works to document and tell the stories that don't always get told. Most recently she has returned to the Ranch for a visit and new projects. When I asked Kathy about any ideas that she thought should be shared with the wider Ranch audience, she mentioned how the cycles of adversity and therefore self-resilience as a Woman Ranger created an opportunity to be an upstander for others facing similar circumstances. Here, Kathy shares with us the moments worth sharing about being not just a Trailblazer but an Upstander:

Philmont is legendary for tight-knit friendships among staff. Ranger Kat Resman told me how much joy she found in crossing paths with fellow Rangers hiking with their crew in the backcountry. In the space of a few minutes, she re-established those connections by asking, "How is the trek? Where are you going? What did you do on your day off?"

Kat said, "In those brief moments, we pack so much in, in such depth, that it's

10-A-444 Fri., Aug. 18, 1972, DALLAS TIMES HERALD



—UPI Telephoto
Breaking into what previously was an all-male job, 22-year-old Kathy Leach of Laredo and 20-year-old Nancy Wells of Denver guided a group of Boy Scouts on the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

really just a delight. In the off season when I call my Philmont friends, we pack in all these life events in this quick way, and we celebrate each other. What a deep bond it is that you can just pick up right where you left off."

At other times we need to open our hearts and choose to speak up in support of someone who is not being welcomed into a group, for whatever reason. The lone voice speaking the words "Oh no" can be powerfully hurtful when no one else breaks the silence.

The words "Oh no" are what I heard when I summited Baldy with my Ranger Training crew in 1972, the first Woman Ranger in Philmont history to do so. That voice announced to me and everyone else that I was in "enemy territory" despite the Camping Director making the groundbreaking decision to hire two women for the Ranger Department. The worst part of that moment was that no one else spoke up in my support – not the Chief Ranger, not the ACRs, not the Training Rangers.

I experienced that same silence each time I entered the Dining Hall for meals. Even when I entered the Ranger Office to pick up my crew assignment, all conversation would instantly stop. No one would call me by name and ask how my day was going. They all knew who I was, but I did not know a single name. A friend later termed

the phrase “The Oh No Club.” Don’t be a member of the Oh No Club. Here is a story of what genuine support looks like, from a 2022 interview with Willa Pendley as part of Women Ranger Digital Stories project (part of our 50th year anniversary).

Willa recalls, “I think I was just raised to be a Ranger. I think that especially being raised by a female Ranger from the 80’s, that it’s powerful to be in a position of leadership. I faced the same struggles that my mom struggled with, unfortunately, with having to deal a lot with male advisors and the comments that they make and learning how to just kind of brush those off your shoulder, because ultimately you know that you’re capable and that you’re doing what you love.”

Willa talked about a difficult crew who challenged her instructions on bear procedures. The crew asked a male Ranger walking by to explain the correct bear practices. The other Ranger said to the crew, “Listen to YOUR Ranger. She had the same Philmont training that I had, and she is completely knowledgeable and capable in all areas.” That was the end of the discussion.

In Kathy’s words, always be an upstander: Your silence is as hurtful as thoughtless words. Find moments to be an UPSTANDER, not a bystander. In a recent Scouts BSA survey, 27% of female Scouts were told by adult advisors that they “did not belong.” It is long past time to embrace the great wealth of diversity in our culture. Step out of your comfort zone, be an Upstander, and truly make Philmont a universal experience for all our youth.

Despite the near forty-year gap in the experiences of Kathy, Kat, and Willa, there still remains a vast overlap of experiences amongst Women Rangers and their stories are all too relatable to my time and to many other women at Philmont or Scouting in general. The adversity that the first Women Rangers had to endure should become a remnant of the past. By being Upstanders, not just for ourselves but for our coworkers and fellow Scouts around us, we are able to,



in Kathy’s words, “change our culture of uncertainty to empowerment, and reach beyond what society offers to us.”

Kathy is currently serving on a national task force for Scouting America called Girls and Women Equity and Inclusion. She has been developing a prototype for a central online resource for Girls and Women where she frequently publishes interviews with Philmont staff. Check out the FAQ tab for an historical timeline of women trailblazers in Scouting. See <https://WomenInScoutingBlog.wordpress.com>



Top left: Kathy Leach (left) and Nancy Wells (right) pose for a picture in the Dallas Times Herald in 1972. **Top:** Kathy Leach stands on top of Touch Me Not in Cimarroncita in 1969.

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"The Bounty" by Hannah Meikner, 2023

Counselor's Corner

Luke Arnold, PhD, LMFT, NCC

At some point this summer, you will hit a moment when you are tired, hungry, dehydrated, or all three. Our physical health and our mental health are intricately connected. Your ability to make decisions for yourself will be challenged, not to mention your ability to make decisions for the campers in your care. The reality of camp is that it is a 24/7 endeavor. It takes a lot of time and energy to make it all work. This is a marathon, not a sprint. So be sure to fuel up accordingly so that you are performing at your best. That way, you will be able to provide campers with the positive, safe experience they came for.

As we near mid-summer, remember:

Get enough sleep.

Take 10: Find 10 minutes a day to pray/meditate/read/run — whatever activity feeds your soul.

Consider journaling or making notes about your day.

Say something kind to at least three people.

Reach out to different people and make new connections each day.

Drink water, wear sunscreen, take your meds/vitamins.

Eat three well-balanced meals a day.

Choose healthy snacks.

Return from your time off rested.

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



Ginny Crossland, Writer

Since 2021, the Philmont Training Center has offered the Zia Experience. This program allows youth participants with special needs or disabilities to enjoy the beauty of Philmont and take part in customized programs suited to their unique abilities. In addition, Philmont hosted the “Zia Trek,” in which participants experienced an adapted 7-day trek in Philmont’s backcountry.

For this inaugural expedition, a lot of preparation from both the Philmont Training Center and Camping Headquarters went into preparing for the Zia participants’ arrival. Staff camp programs and trail meals were adapted to the participants. Philmont leadership kept note of adjustments that could be made to improve future experiences.

Each participant was accompanied by a caretaker. In most cases this was a parent or guardian, but one participant brought along their Scoutmaster from back home.

There was no better group to help work out these small bumps than Crew 630 7A. Six youth participants from all over the United States travelled to Philmont with their caregivers, or “shadows,” where they all met for the first time.

Stuart “Zosh” Shearer was perhaps the most spirited and optimistic member of the group. Despite just arriving at their campsite after a long day of hiking on day three, his smile did not leave his face as he helped set up camp and made conversation with everyone. Even when everyone was hot, tired and a little cranky, he never lost his sense of optimism.

His favorite part of the Philmont backcountry? “The hills!” he said. “I’ve never been here before, but I already love it.”

All the youth participants approached every challenge with enthusiasm. On the trail they made good pace, helping each other at every step. Crew leader Spencer Lengel usually led the way, followed closely by Derek Sheranko, who always had wild hypotheticals to launch at his fellow crew members on the trail.

Elizabeth Ferro kept the crew in check on the trail and at camp. She was the dry, honest voice of reason, and with a sore ankle she was nursing, Elizabeth stayed staunchly determined throughout the group’s activities.

James “JR” Watts was always willing to try an activity, whether that was spar pole climbing at Crater Lake or rock climbing at



Crew 630 7A at Lover's Leap Trailhead. Photo by Truman Attaway.

Miners' Park. John Hornak and his father David Hornak made an iconic pair, always bantering back and forth, much to the entertainment of the rest of 630 7A.

In addition to the participants' caregivers, two members of the BSA's Special Needs and Disabilities Committee, Alyssa Hightower and Chris Werhane, served as the trek advisors to ensure everything went smoothly. There was a lot of excitement surrounding being a part of the inaugural Zia trek.

"So many people wanted to be in on this," Werhane said. "It's pretty cool."

They were all accompanied by their fearless ranger, Libby High, for the entirety of the trek. Libby got on great with both the advisors and scouts, and by the end of the trek they were thick as thieves. Her upbeat energy was just what crew 630 7A needed to remain motivated through the trek.

After an emotional closing campfire, the advisors and Scouts earned their Arrowhead patch, deeply moving all the adult organizers of the Zia Trek. This transformative moment will be cherished forever, and will hopefully make a return in 2025.



Top: Crew member JR Watts participates in spar pole climbing, with the help of his ranger Libby High. Photo by Ginny Crossland. **Bottom:** Crew member Zosh Shearer smiling at Crater Lake staff camp. Photo by Truman Attaway.

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12 Photo by Caroline Fallin.



Photo by Cami Vollmer.



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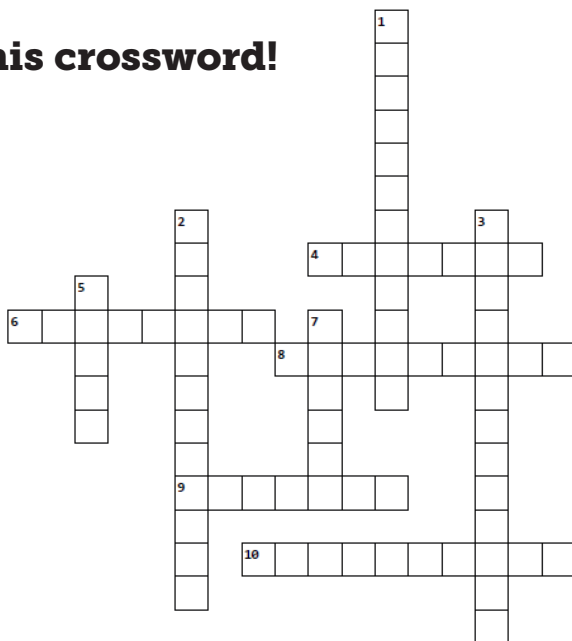


Photo by Peter Zito.



Photo by Peter Zito.

Try this crossword!



Across

4. hoist your smellables high in these
6. light-source for night activities
8. projectile point for bow
9. navigational instrument
10. organized journey for exploration

Down

1. preservation of natural resources
2. where you can rock climb
3. person who donated this land to BSA
5. Philmont's highest peak
7. your compass wont work here



Illustration by Kamila Corwin, MPS 2024.

Join the Tent Takedown Crew!

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GIS Team Captures Tree-Thinning Efforts with Drone

Ginny Crossland, Writer



Since the Ute Park fire of 2018, the Conservation department has been helping prevent more devastation in an unexpected way: removing trees. The GIS Team is using drones to help track the progress of the Conservation's Restorative Thinning Project.

Philmont is partnering with Miller Timber Services, to reduce the basal area per acre of Philmont's forests. 600 acres have been thinned over the past 14 months, taking place predominantly in the Lover's Leap/Miners' Park/Crater Lake triangle. They are taking a break for the summer, due to participants hiking in the area, and will pick back up in October. In the meantime, they are focusing on removing thinned debris and tracking their progress.

So, how does Restorative Thinning prevent catastrophic fires like the Ute Park Fire? It all comes down to the natural environment of Philmont's forests. The ponderosa pine tree is the predominant species of tree in the Central Country of Philmont.

Ponderosa pines rely on forest fires to thrive. Ideally, fires burn away the underbrush surrounding ponderosa pines before they can suck up all the nutrients and ground water. Since the ponderosas shed their lower branches, the groundfire is unable to reach the crown. Ponderosas have evolved in another interesting way: they have developed a bark that flakes off and dissipates heat. This means that the cambium layer is protected from the heat of a ground fire and continues to move nutrients, maintaining the trees' health.

However, we've essentially vanquished fires from Philmont. Naturally occurring fires are suppressed, and even controlled burns aren't being done as frequently anymore. It's just too much of a risk to participants and Philmont property. There's also a bit of a stigma surrounding forest fires. However, it is the intent of the Conservation Department

to reintroduce prescribed burns to maintain forest health.

“It’s been ingrained in our national memory to really fear forest fires, especially out in the west, and they can be really, really destructive, as we’ve seen in 2018 [with the Ute Park fire]. But when they happen naturally, a lot of times they burn out on their own,” said John Lesko, the GIS coordinator.

Without periodic forest fires, the underbrush and other species of trees like oaks and junipers grow uncontrolled. When these ‘ladder fuels’ get tall enough that they reach the crowns of the ponderosa pines, any fire that occurs would no longer just take out ladder fuels but the ponderosas as well, devastating the entire forest, and fast.

“If you have a lot of fuel super compact in one area, especially if it’s pine trees covered in pine sap, things can literally explode,” said Lesko.

Most of the thinning is done by Ponsse Bears which are machines that can harvest trees and delimb them in seconds. Not only is mechanical thinning occurring, but staff and participants are involved in the Restorative Thinning process as well. The camper conservation projects at Beaubien and Miranda involve the participants creating defensible spaces around the staff camps. This generates a buffer zone around the camp in case of a fire.



This project saved Cimarroncito from burning down in the Ute Park Fire. The fire went right around Cimarroncito, because it did not have any ladder fuels to catch on. Plenty of trees in the area lived through it and are still standing to this day.

It might look pretty bare right now in the spots where Restorative Thinning has been done, but don’t worry. After a little time, the natural grasses that grow in ponderosa savannas will make a return, and the forests of Philmont will be returned to the way they should be.

This summer, while thinning is paused, the GIS Team is working together with foresters to collect drone imagery of the Restorative Thinning progress. With these videos and pictures, they are creating ‘orthomosaic maps,’ which are similar to satellite images but higher resolution. They are also putting together informational content to educate both decision-makers and the public about the importance of Restorative Thinning. It might seem counterintuitive to save a forest by removing trees, but Philmont’s Conservation department is hoping to change that.

Top left: Drone image of the restorative tree thinning progress in South Country. Photo by GIS. **Top right:** Looking out at the Ute Park Fire Burn Scar in 2022. Photo by Chase Ensz. **Left:** Machinery removes thinned trees from Philmont’s backcountry in 2023. Photo by Will Huffman.

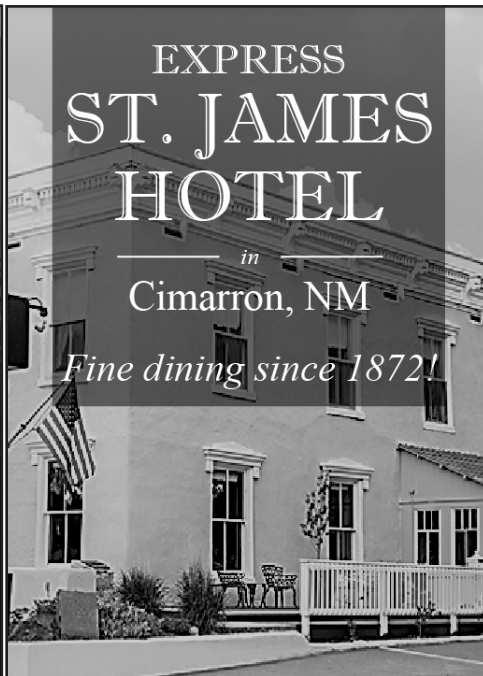


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July

- **10:** Brat Day, 11am - 1pm
- **12:** Casino Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **14:** Yoga Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **16:** 3v3 Basketball Night, 8pm
- **17:** Volleyball Night, 8pm
- **18:** 2v2 Spikeball Night, 8pm
- **20:** Brat Day, 11am - 1pm
- **21:** Chess Tournament, 8pm at SSSAC
- **23:** Pie Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **24:** Movie & Cocoa Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **25:** Movie & Gingerbread House Night, 8pm at SSSAC

Urraca Mesa

Caroline T. , Troop 68 Star Scout



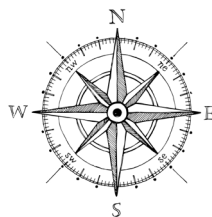
A view of the sunset from Urraca staff camp in 2022. Photo by Emily Schmidt.

Many say that New Mexico could easily be the most haunted state in the U.S. At Philmont, you will find a very haunted location called Urraca Mesa. It's been struck by lightning more than any other place in New Mexico, and some say even in the Nation. Urraca Mesa has many stories originating from the Navajo, and there are many beliefs about the place. There have also been many reports on compasses not working at this camp. On a topographic map, the mesa appears in the shape of a skull.

Urraca Mesa may be known for its lightning, but it is also known for its ghost stories. Many can describe an eerie “aura” in the area, saying that they get sweating palms, and their stomachs turn. According to the Navajo, it is believed that Urraca Mesa is/has “a gateway to Hell”. Some say the mesa was once a battleground between humans and the “supernatural forces of darkness.” According to folklore.usc.edu, “the Navajo felt an eerie feeling in the forest, and sent warriors out to investigate. They found at the Mesa, that there was a short, glowing being who claimed to be the last of the Ancestral Pueblos. The

Navajo allegedly bring back this being to their people, who then claim that the Ancestral Pueblos were fighting forces of evil at the “portal to hell”, and that they all went into Hell, besides that one being who was “guarding the gate”. It is said that he built the cat totems that are now on the Mesa, and it is the only thing from keeping the portal sealed.” Many people tell stories about how they have seen glowing blue orbs floating around the Mesa. According to PhilManac, there were remains found from a mountain man in 1970, but it was determined that he died around 1840. Some still say that they have other paranormal experiences here, adding to the eerie feeling at this specific place.

Caroline submitted this story as part of her Communication merit badge.



Which Mail Room Staff Member Are You?

↓ START HERE! ↓

1 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ICE CREAM FLAVOR?

- a) Coffee b) Cherry
c) Moose Tracks d) Dutch Chocolate
e) Cookie Dough

2 HOW DO YOU UNWIND AFTER A BUSY DAY?

- a) Hang out with family b) Play video games
c) Going for a walk d) Going straight to bed
e) Relaxing

3 WHAT'S YOUR MUSIC GENRE OF CHOICE?

- a) Hip Hop b) Rock
c) Alternative d) Country
e) Classic Rock

4 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE STAMP?

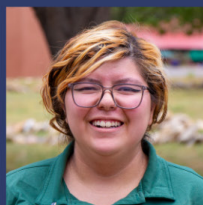
- a)  b)  c)  d)  e) 

5 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

- a) Turquoise b) Green
c) Pink d) Orange
e) Blue

→ ANSWERS →

Mostly A
EMMA



Mostly B
JACOB



Mostly C
RAIN



Mostly D
MAX



Mostly E
LEON



Cimarron Shuttle

Shuttle service is free!
Participants and staff
are welcome!

Depart
Welcome
Center

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

Depart
Downtown
Cimarron

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



HOURS
FRI 11-5
SAT/SUN 11-4
MON 11-2

FRONTIER PARK
ANGEL FIRE, NM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM



Philmont staffers cooking hotdogs on top of Baldy Mountain dressed as chefs and a hot dog.
Photo by Kamila Corwin.

On the back cover:

Philmont participants celebrating at Metcalf Station. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

