

PhiNews



Innovation & Celebration Edition ~ JULY 24, 2024

DELIVERING
WILDERNESS
AND LEARNING
ADVENTURES THAT
LAST A LIFETIME

← — ◆ — →
CHANGING LIVES

"THERE'S A LOT
OF **TALENT** IN
BACKCOUNTRY
CAMPS, **I LEARN**
SOMETHING NEW
FROM THEM ALL OF
THE TIME."

—JON KENDALL, COMMISSARY
ASSISTANT MANAGER

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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.

Roger Hoyt,
General Manager

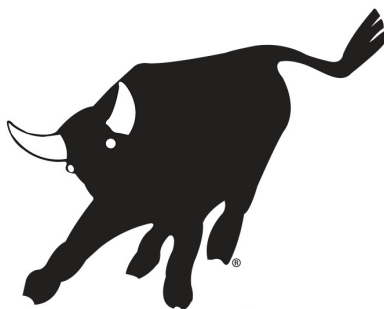
Shelley O'Neill,
Director of Business Operations

Danielle Ballantine,
Media Team Manager, Associate Editor

Lelani Deines,
Publications Manager

Ginny Crossland,
Writer

Kamila Corwin,
Designer



PHILMONT™

17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, New Mexico 87714

575-376-2281
PhilmontScoutRanch.org

On the cover: Two Philmont participants add rocks to the rock pile on the Tooth of Time. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Left:** A Scout cheers while riding a mountain bike at Ring Place. Photo by Logan Albrinck.

PASS Participant Completes Trek

Ginny Crossland, Writer



Crews 704-7A-1 and 704-7A-2 in front of the Tooth of Time Traders. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

Visiting Philmont and embarking on a trek for the first time can be intimidating for anyone. It can be especially daunting for adult advisors, who must ensure everything goes smoothly for youth participants when they themselves are not sure what to expect.

This was the case for Anil Phull, one of the adult advisors for Crew 704-7A1. Phull traveled here from Phoenix, Arizona with his crew and their sister crew, 704-7A2. Their hometown troop hadn't been to Philmont in over 20 years, so a lot of knowledge was lost. None of them really knew what to expect.

Rangers are only with their crews for the first three days of their trek, so it's important that adult advisors are confident in their ability to lead their trek through the Philmont backcountry on their own. PASS is a weekend-long program where attendees can learn every skill they'll need in the backcountry, as well as what base camp day looks like, how to pick an itinerary, and what to do if things on trail don't go as planned. "I think it demystifies things for first-time Philmont attendees," said Phull. "It took some of the pressure off and made me feel very confident that this was really straightforward."

When Phull arrived at Philmont for his PASS weekend, he went through the same

base camp process that any crew attending Philmont would. He visited med recheck, picked up a tent, sleeping bag, and food from outfitting, and met the ranger that would take him and the other PASS participants on a mini trek.

On their mini trek, they were able to learn navigational skills, problem-solving skills, and techniques such as how to hang bear bags, set up camp, and cook backcountry meals. They also were able to experience what it was like hiking with a crew and a pack at Philmont before even coming on trek here.

Phull advises any future adult advisors who are feeling uncertain about leading their crew to Philmont to consider the Philmont Advisor Skill School. "It's very affordable, and it's a no-brainer," said Phull.

He says it would be great if all the advisors of a crew were able to attend to build teamwork, but even just one advisor attending and bringing back the skills they learned would be invaluable.



Anil Phull who attended the PASS last fall and served as an advisor for crew 704-7A-1. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

Mobile POS Transforms the Backcountry

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager



Kevin Spillane, Ponil's cantina manager, uses the POS system at Ponil's cantina. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Philmont is thrilled to announce a significant upgrade in our backcountry services—mobile point of sale systems have arrived! Abreu Cantina, Baldy Town, and Ponil Cantina and Trading Post are now equipped to accept credit and debit cards, bringing a new level of convenience to scouts and advisors.

On June 9th, 2024, history was made at Ponil as crews enjoyed the camp's famous root beer with the added ease of paying with just a tap or swipe. This new system not only streamlines transactions but also enhances the overall experience, allowing more time for adventure and less time worrying about carrying cash or filling out a trail charge form. Previously, crews could only pay with cash or trail charges.

Trail charges were filled out at the camp, with a copy sent back to

basecamp to be digitized. The crew had to pay their trail charges at Camping Headquarters before receiving their arrowhead patches. Sometimes, the charges were not closed out before the crew left, requiring follow-up calls for payment. "This results in hundreds of phone calls to get card numbers and process payments. We figured out that it takes about 10 minutes on average for a trail charge. With about 1,500 trail charges last year, that's a significant amount of time," said Ashley Olson, E-Commerce Manager and Buyer.

Since there isn't internet or phone service in the backcountry, Starlink is used to connect these remote camps to the internet. Some camps required solar power installations to have electricity, while others already had electrical power. They use iPads, wireless

Backcountry Mobile
Point of Service 2024

TOP 5 ITEMS

9500	Cups of Root Beer
1067	Regular Sized Snickers
965	Toblerones
898	Honey Stinger Waffles
894	Honey Stinger Energy Chews

scanners, and card readers as registers, with the iPads connecting to the same software used in the Tooth of Time Traders. To preserve the backcountry's unique experience, Starlink is exclusively used by the iPads for transactions, ensuring that general internet access remains unavailable, and the magic of the backcountry stays undisturbed.

The mobile POS system also assists Jason Boyle, Assistant Manager of the Tooth of Time Traders, in tracking sales and determining the quantity of items to include in camp orders. By monitoring sales throughout the summer, he can make more accurate predictions for next year's inventory needs, significantly reducing waste. "Instead of having to guess or dealing with a lot of waste, I know exactly what we're selling at those camps, and it helps us be more efficient," said Boyle.

Whether you're grabbing a quick snack at Abreu Cantina, stocking up on supplies at

Baldy Town, or enjoying a refreshing root beer at Ponil, the convenience of card payments is now at your fingertips.

The new mobile point of sale system simplifies transactions, saves time, and reduces the need for manual trail charges and follow-up calls. They also help reduce waste by providing real-time sales data, allowing more accurate inventory orders. For Philmont, this means streamlined operations and a greater focus on supporting campers, enhancing both convenience and sustainability in backcountry operations.



Top: Two scouts sip root beer while interlocking arms at the Ponil cantina. Photo by Caroline Fallin. **Bottom:** A crew purchase root beer at Ponil Cantina using the POS system. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Philmont's Plastics Are Receiving New Life

Ginny Crossland, Writer

If you've ever wondered what happens to your meal bags snakes after you return from the backcountry, then the recycling coordinators at the commissary have an exciting answer for you!

As of the spring of 2024, Philmont has officially partnered with Trex Decking, which turns recycled plastics into decking materials and deck furniture.

Eliana Richards, one of the two recycling coordinators for the summer of 2024, takes all the recyclables that come in from the backcountry and base camp and compacts them into bales. One bale is made up of about six dumpsters of plastic. These bales are then collected by Trex Decking.

We send Trex Decking our No. 4 plastics, which includes items like bread bags, Saran wrap, and most importantly, trail meal bags. No. 4 plastics are difficult to recycle, and not a lot of recycling facilities accept them, so having somewhere to send them is important.

"It's great because that means that all that plastic is not going into the landfill anymore," said Richards.

In the future, Philmont might also start sending Trex Decking our No. 2 plastics, which include milk and water jugs, juice bottles, and cleaning supply bottles.

If you're interested in helping or just think it's cool that your plastic will be a part of someone's deck, then there's a few things you can do. Firstly, make sure your plastic is clean before you recycle it.

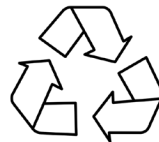
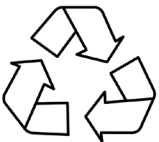


Additionally, if you live in Cimarron or are simply staying at Philmont for the summer, you can also bring in your personal plastics. Richards hopes to set up a partnership with the town of Cimarron to start up a recycling program. The partnership would enable Cimarron residents to send their recyclables to Philmont where they'd be processed and, potentially, turned into a deck somewhere in the United States.

Recycling with Trex Decking doesn't have to end when you leave Philmont, and you don't have to be a commercial business with an official partnership. Trex Decking has drop-off locations all over the United States, where you can bring in your own plastics from wherever you call home.



Top left: Commissary staff stands in a dumpster atop a flatbed truck. A snake of used trail meal bags hangs down the side. Photo by Derek Shiney. **Top:** Commissary staff hoists a recycling dumpster into the air with a forklift. Photo by Derek Shiney. **Bottom:** Recycling coordinators Eliana Richards and Collin Stees pose with a large pile of used trail meal bags. Photo by Derek Shiney.



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Counselor's Corner

Luke Arnold, PhD, LMFT, NCC

At some point this summer, you will With the long days and nights of summer, some camp staff feel that they are always in performance mode. It seems like crews, visiting staff members, co-workers, and the single digits are all watching us. Depending on the day depends on how well we handle this real or perceived pressure.

Health Assured tells us that perceived stress is about our feelings about the lack of control and unpredictability than the actual stressors. Perceived work stress is a serious issue. It can cause tension, headaches, pain, and fatigue; digestive issues and stomach problems; anxiety, irritability, and anger; a lack of focus and motivation; depression; eating disorders; substance abuse; and sleep disorders.

We do our best when we are at our best. Here are some more self-care

• **strategies as we are in the home stretch of the season:**

- **G**o for a stroll (or 2 or 3).
- **C**heck out the local farmer's market.
- **T**idy one small space in your work or living area.
- **M**ake a summer feel-good playlist.
- **T**ry a new exercise.
- **R**econnect with someone.
- **D**o a needs personal assessment.
- **C**ontinue to practice mindfulness.

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



The Origin of the Philfiesta

Ginny Crossland, Writer

Almost every day of July, one of the backcountry camps is probably holding their “Philfiesta.” Philfiestas are a celebration that lasts the whole day, where staffers from all corners of Philmont can come to enjoy delicious food and great company.

Philfiestas usually have a fun theme. This year, Miranda’s is Princess Bride-themed, Cypher’s Mine is Richard Nixon-themed, and Metcalf Station’s is birthday party-themed, in celebration of their 10th year of operation. Each camp has fun flyers with the date and theme.

Indian Writings held their Philfiesta on July 18. Theirs was also birthday-themed, celebrating Kokopelli, and the day was full of fun and mischief.

Each year, Philfiestas are a much-anticipated highlight of the summer for many backcountry staffers. Yet not many people know how and why they came to be.

One person who does know this is Mark Stinnett, the editor of the *High*

Country magazine for the Philmont Staff Association. He is the man to go to for niche Philmont staff history. Stinnett worked on the backcountry in the 60s. “It was always a big deal,” he said about Philfiestas, even then.

According to Stinnett, Philfiestas were originally celebrated as “Christmas in July.” The first “Christmas in July” was celebrated at Ponil in 1951. Backcountry staff did not get fresh food very often — camps did not have refrigerators, and they definitely did not have their own cooks. For these “Christmas in July” parties, the base camp commissary brought up a feast of fresh, hot food for staff members to enjoy.

“It was like a staff Christmas party,” said Stinnett. “We were allowed to invite a few people. 200 people showed up, one year, to Beaubien.”

The name was changed at some point in the 80s, from “Christmas in July” to “Philfiesta.” The change occurred out of respect for those who celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday. Thus, the modern “Philfiesta” was born.

Staff enjoy Indian Writings' Philfiesta. Photo by Truman Attaway.



Top left: Staff have fun wearing dinosaur masks at Metcalf's Philfiesta. Photo by Caroline Fallin.
Bottom left: Staff get a train piñata ready at Metcalf's Philfiesta. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

Top right: Indian Writings Camp Director makes garlic bread. Photo by Truman Attaway.
Bottom right: Staff enjoy the sunset hike at Indian Writings. Photo by Truman Attaway.

Which South Country Staff Camp Are You?



START HERE!



1 HOW DO YOU PREFER TO SPEND YOUR DAYS OFF?

- a) Go to Taos with friends
- b) Go hiking
- c) Stay at another staff camp
- d) Do laundry
- e) Do crafts at the PTC

2 WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL MEAL SNACK?

- a) Sunflower Seeds
- b) Honey Stinger chews
- c) Chili Lime Peanuts
- d) Animal crackers
- e) Meat Sticks

3 WHAT ARE YOU DOING AROUND A CAMPFIRE WITH FRIENDS?

- a) Collecting wood
- b) Planning activities
- c) Telling ghost stories
- d) Making s'mores
- e) Tending to the fire

4 WHAT FRIEND ARE YOU IN A GROUP?

- a) The extrovert
- b) The athletic one
- c) The daredevil
- d) The mom friend
- e) The quiet one

5 WHAT ARE YOU BUYING AT THE TOOTH OF TIME TRADERS?

- a) A new bandana
- b) Smartwool socks
- c) Crazy Creek
- d) Astronaut Ice Cream
- e) A leather belt



ANSWERS



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Mostly B MINERS PARK

You're a restless spirit with a need for adventure. If your friends can't find you, they'll probably find you at the climbing gym or on a hike.



Mostly C URRACA



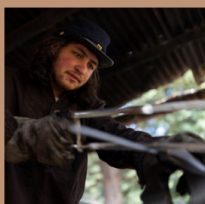
You are unpredictable and always looking for a thrill. Your friends never let you pick the movie for movie nights because you always pick horror movies.

Mostly D ABREU

You are level-headed and practical. You'd rather take care of your responsibilities and before doing something fun with your friends.



Mostly E BLACK MTN



You are a bit quiet and reserved. Some people might find you intimidating at first but all your friends know you are fiercely loyal and helpful.



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Training Center Greensward

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Try this word search!

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 I P O N I L D C T O C G R A O
 M A M T M O A Y S C K N R I B
 A N V I S R D C E I C I Y C I
 R W R N R B V E I N O V R M A
 R A E A E C I R F V U R A S L
 O A I S H M S I L P N A S O H
 N I I E P E O T I A T C S C T
 C C F O Y W R A H Y R D I E D
 I O C Y C I S G P R Y O M C A
 T T H A O M Y A I M P O M F D
 A C A C M F T V G C C W O G E
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Cyphers Mine
backcountry
woodcarving

Ponil
commissary
advisor

Cimarroncita
chef
cantina

Philfiesta
recycle
brat day



Illustration by Kamila Corwin, MPS 2024.

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The Magic of Backcountry Kitchens

Lelani Deines, Publications Manager

The heartbeat of the Philmont backcountry isn't just in its trails and tents but also in its kitchens. Here, backcountry cooks like Cody Payne and Commissary Assistant Manager Ponil Jon play a crucial role in ensuring that staff and campers are well-fed and cared for. Their stories highlight the unique blend of skill, dedication, and adaptability required to thrive in these roles.

Cody Payne, known as "Doc," began his journey at Philmont in 2018 as a prep cook at the Philmont Training Center. For the eight seasons he's been here, he has worked in various roles around the Ranch. Now, as the backcountry cook at Beaubien staff camp, Cody reflects on his personal growth. "This is where I get to have fun being someone that I typically am not at home," remarked Payne. "I've felt the most personal growth out here since 2021."

One of the highlights of Cody's role is the family-style dinners he prepares at Beaubien. These meals are more than just food; they are moments of community and camaraderie. Cody explains that all the staff have different backgrounds and experiences at Philmont, so family-style dinners are his favorite way to bond and share experiences. "My goal is to give you a home here in the backcountry," said Payne.

Cody's day begins at 5:30am to get breakfast ready for everyone, and he likes to keep it simple. He takes a short nap before starting lunch. If a staff member won't be there for lunch, he gives them left overs from the previous day. Later in the afternoon, he starts



Cody Payne in the Beaubien kitchen. Photo by Caroline Fallin.

dinner, and it is the meal that he tries to go all out on. At first, Cody decided what to make every day based on what was in the fridge, pantry, and freezer. After getting into the flow of the season, he decided to make a menu plan to make things easier. Fortunately, they only have a few dietary restrictions amongst the staff, and they happen to be the cooks. If a visitor has a dietary restriction, he makes sure to cook them something else they can eat with what he has.

His greatest challenge is that he has 20 staff members to cook for, and when there are a lot of visitors, he must make sure he has enough food, and cooks a lot of food in a small kitchen. Cody says that his favorite meal to cook is fried chicken; even though he "gets attacked by hot oil,"

it's worth it because people can tell he put his heart and soul into it.

Jon Kendall, known affectionately as Ponil Jon, has a unique role as the commissary assistant manager. He travels to various camps, ensuring they have the necessary supplies and supporting their operations. If the camp he is headed to has a commissary order, he'll bring it out with him, but usually he uses any transportation he can get to the camps and then hikes between them.

Ponil Jon ensures that food ordering is going smoothly and calculates how much food is going out to each camp. He also checks that camps follow proper food handling procedures and how to reduce food waste. Not every camp has a designated cook, so he cooks for the staff while he's there. "I tell them I'm on the payroll, so if they don't need me in the kitchen, I'll do other things," said Jon.

When a camp needs something miscellaneous, such as Fish Camp needing tablecloths, he looks for it at the local thrift store and has great luck finding what they need. "There's a lot of talent in backcountry camps, I learn something new from them all of the time," he remarked.



The work of Cody Payne and Ponil Jon is vital to the Philmont Scout Ranch experience. Their dedication, resourcefulness, and adaptability ensure that everyone at the camp is well-fed and cared for, creating a nurturing environment that enhances the overall camp experience. Through their stories, we see the heart and soul of Philmont's operations, reminding us of the importance of community and the impact of every meal shared.



Top right: Chopped and prepared bowls of ingredients in the kitchen at Beaubien. Photo by Caroline Fallin. **Bottom right:** Beaubien's chef Cody "Doc" Payne makes fried chicken for the Beaubien staff. Photo by Logan Albrinck. **Left bottom:** Commissary assistant manager, Jon Kendall, washes cookware at Cimarroncito. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

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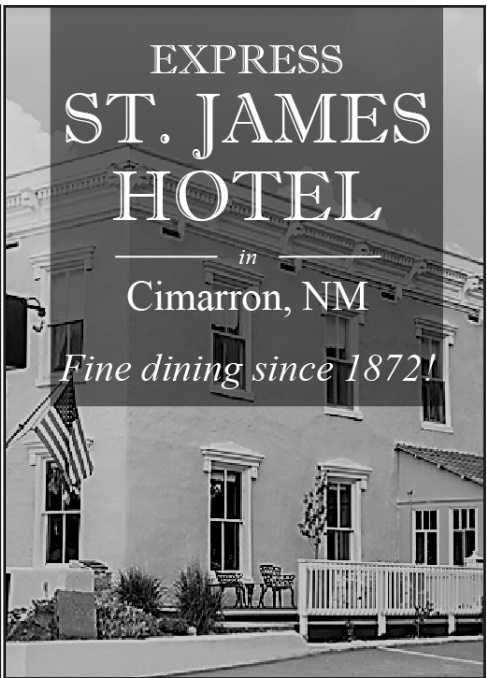
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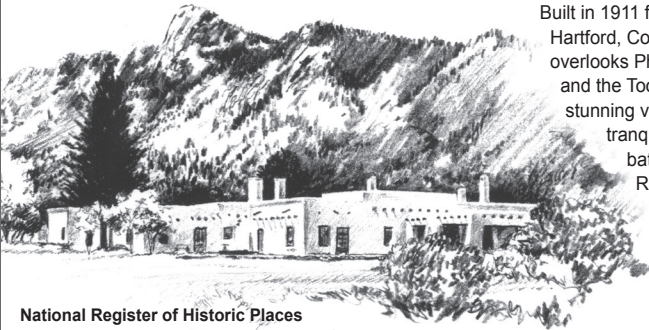
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Upcoming Staff Activities

July

- **24:** Hot Cocoa Night w/ Polar Express, 8pm at SSSAC
- **25:** Cookie Decorating w/ The Muppets Christmas Carol, 8pm at SSSAC
- **26:** 25th Basecamp & PTC Luminaries Displays
- **27:** Salsa Night, 8pm at SSSAC
- **30:** Brat Day, 11am-1pm at Baldy Pavillion
- **31:** Summer-ween, 8pm at SSSAC

August

- **3:** Super Smash Bros Ultimate Tournament, 8pm at SSSAC
- **5:** Magic the Gathering Tournament, 8pm at SSSAC
- **7:** Ping Pong Tournament, 8pm at SSSAC
- **10:** Final Brat Day from 11am-1pm w/ Flea/Trade Market from 10am-2pm

Woodcarvers Roundup

Danielle Ballantine, Media Manager



Woodcarver's Roundup Participant whittles a shape into his project . Photo by Kamila Corwin.

There may be a better way to spend a week than whittling a neckerchief slide, bolo tie, or other craft, but the participants in the Philmont Training Center Woodcarvers Roundup probably can't think of any. "Carving is a quintessential Scout skill," said Chris Gardea, a participant in the conference this year and the original conference developer.

The weeklong conference enables participants to lead the Woodcarving Merit Badge in their home councils, providing a large variety of woodcarving projects to set Scouts up for success and help instill a lifelong love of woodcarving. Many of this year's participants have been to the conference more than once. Each year there are new projects to learn and bring home. Each year the conference welcomes new leaders to serve as faculty. This year's faculty, Mark Wagner (lead), Doug Hamil, and Matt Swan, brought a full arsenal of projects, displays, supplies, instructions and tools for the 12 conference participants.

The conference developed in 2016 following the Jamboree where the Gardea and the Jamboree Woodcarver Merit Badge team found there was a need to help Scout leaders. In addition to helping Scouts learn the skills, the Woodcarver Roundup faculty believe it is more important to help Scouts discover a love of woodcarving. Wagner believes Philmont is the perfect environment for the conference. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to be here and enjoy the brotherhood of Scouting," he says. On the evening of Wednesday, July 17th, the Woodcarvers Roundup faculty and participants alike set up in at the PTC pavilion and invited guests and Philmont staff to try their hand at woodcarving. On Friday, Harold White from the National Scouting Museum posted his weekly "Artifact of the Week" on Facebook featuring woodcarving and an interview with Chris Gardea.

Art Williams, a participant from San Antonio, has come numerous times to Philmont and being at PTC allows him to keep coming back. Dave Tjarks, another participant in the conference, notes that coming to the Training Center is the ideal place to meet new people and reconnect with friends.

At the end of the week the Woodcarvers Roundup participants headed home filled with new ideas and projects, new friends and an even greater appreciation for their craft.



Woodcarver's Roundup Participant's small totem pole. Photo by Kamila Corwin.



TOOTH OF TIME TRADERS

UNIFORM BUY BACK PROGRAM

WE ARE ACCEPTING CLEAN, UNDAMAGED, AND IN GOOD
CONDITION USED UNIFORM PARTS

\$5 IN STORE CREDIT PER PIECE (TO BE USED SAME DAY)

THESE USED PARTS ARE SOLD NEXT SUMMER FOR \$5 TO HELP
OFFSET THE COST OF UNIFORMS FOR NEW OR RETURNING STAFF

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 closed

Expedition photos & videos due Sept. 1

Turn in submissions to

RegisterPhilmont.org/PhotoContest



"The Bounty" by Hannah Meixner, 2023

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

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Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS) crew member takes a break from digging to admire a mushroom. Photo by Nikki Moyer.

On the back cover:

Rayado trek participants return to base. Photo by Cami Vollmer.

