



ABOVE: Scouts rappel down a rock face at Chase Cow. Photographed by Alex Fields

Challenge at Chase Cow

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Sud Dhanabalan was clawing his way up a tricky sandstone climbing route when his crew started chanting words of encouragement from below.

There was one last obstacle standing between him and the top: a ledge, taller than he was, with only one foothold right at his mid-torso. In order to keep climbing, he would need to take a chance and try to reach the foothold.

“Since I was the first one, there wasn’t really a set path,” Dhanabalan said. “You have to figure it out for yourself because you don’t know which route to take.”

Luckily, his foot held and he found the power to continue. With one last heave, Dhanabalan hoisted himself up to the top as his crew cheered.

The victory marked the end of 10 days of hard work for Dhanabalan, who was wrapping up his trek with crew 629-F2 out of John’s Creek, Georgia. In just one day he would be off the trail and heading home.

Often, Chase Cow is where Dhanabalan and other participants will start and end their treks. The camp is geared toward challenging Scouts one last time before they return home.

A veteran of Philmont’s climbing camps, Camp Director Vero Salazar is spending his fourth summer here perfecting the program at Chase Cow.

“There’s always a lot of enthusiasm with the crews here, and that just makes us more excited to be here,” Salazar said.

Chase Cow was built in 2019 to replace Dean Cow, a climbing camp that was lost in

Continued on page 2

Inside Logistics

Sherry Hamilton

PhilNews Writer & Photographer

The nervous system is a network that communicates messages back and forth from the brain to different parts of the body.

Much like the nervous system, Philmont has its own lightning-fast communication system responsible for keeping all 140,177 acres operating smoothly. The logistics department serves as a behind-the-scenes control center that relays messages across the ranch.

“It’s like playing telephone all day—speaking with different camps and departments and keeping all the facts straight,” logistics manager Fred Davison said. “Essentially, making sure nothing slips through the cracks.”

There are three main parts to the logistics department; transportation, trip planning and communications.

The transportation part of logistics is responsible for getting Scouts and staff where they need to go. This includes organizing rides for Scouts traveling to Philmont and

Continued on page 2



ABOVE: Dom checks a Backcountry map. Photographed by Sherry Hamilton.



ABOVE: A Scout rappels down a sandstone cliff. Photographed by Alex Fields.

Challenge at Chase Cow continued

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page one: the Ute Park Fire. Chase Cow is situated in a dry, grassy meadow a few miles north of the Chase Ranch Headquarters.

Salazar spent time on the Chase Ranch property last summer looking for potential climbing locations. Now, those locations have turned into the Chase Cow climbing program. The program is expanding beyond the standard climbing camp to include bouldering for the first time on Philmont property.

Under Salazar's experienced eye, participants will soon be able to climb shorter rock faces while relying on crash mats for safety instead of ropes.

Chase Cow stands ready to challenge any Scout brave enough to take a crack at scaling its pale sandstone routes. Hopefully, for years to come, participants will follow in Dhanabalan's footholds and find the strength to keep climbing.

Inside Logistics continued

Sherry Hamilton
PhilNews Writer & Photographer

Continued from page one: those who have been pulled off the trail and need to leave early.

Logistics also helps Scouts understand where to go once they reach Philmont. During trip planning, Crew Leaders are instructed on how to mark the camps they will be visiting on their map. Staff members make sure to go over any special challenges the crew may face, like camping at locations without a reliable water source.

Planning for Philmont's 35 different 12-day itinerary options and 16 different 7-day options can get complicated quickly. It's important that the logistics department explain each itinerary option thoroughly in order to reduce the number of radio calls they receive concerning lost Scouts.

"A successful trip plan helps crews from being a radio call in the future," Davison said.

Even with solid trip planning, it's possible that a crew may become injured or lost on the trail. That's where the communications part of logistics comes in. Radio operators act as the 'brain' of Philmont and are responsible for processing and transmitting messages.

Radio calls can range from mundane topics like weather reports to serious issues including medical emergencies. When a Scout becomes injured or needs assistance, often multiple Philmont departments will become involved with the call.

"Whenever we start to use resources from multiple departments, we consider an event an incident," Davison said. "Generally, this involves the ranger department whether it is assembling a team to search for a missing person or assembling a carry team to assist the Infirmary."

When logistics identifies an incident they assign someone to serve as an incident commander. The incident commander is responsible for handling the call and getting Scouts the help they need.

Once the incident commander has completed their job, logistics will organize transportation for the Scout and their belongings if needed. Sometimes the department will coordinate with a Chaplain to ensure that they can reach any crews who might need mentoring.

These types of incidents can happen at any time and will often pop up outside regular working hours. Logistics staff must work in shifts 24/7 in order to get help for anyone who needs it.

At 7 p.m., a night operator will go on duty for a 12-hour shift. Staff take any calls outside of regular business hours on a giant, old-fashioned telephone switchboard. It's not uncommon to hear the phone ringing in the background of a radio call.

No matter what time it is, Davison and the rest of the logistics staff work hard to follow up with requests and keep track of important information.

For Davison, the hard work is well worth it.

"I enjoy getting the chance to work with many different departments across the ranch," he said. "Working in logistics gives me the opportunity to help people."



ABOVE: Logistics staff members discuss Backcountry communications. Photographed by Sherry Hamilton.

Philmont strong

Mark Cordeiro

PhilNews Writer

There are few people on the Ranch with as much passion for Philmont's ecology as Laura Phillips.

Phillips has been working in Philmont's conservation department for two years teaching Scouts about the ecology of the Backcountry. She performs a wide range of jobs as an environmental educator, from running the Roving Outdoor Conservation School and other STEM-oriented treks to taking out crews and helping at the Philmont Training Center when needed. Being able to perform such a wide range of duties is one of her favorite parts of the job.

"People ask me 'What department are you?' and I say 'All of them right now,'" Phillips said. "I'm a Conservationist, I'm an EE, I'm a Ranger, I'm PTC, I do a bit of everything!"

Phillips first made it out to Philmont in 2015 through the Philmont Training Center. Just one year before Phillips had fractured

both of her feet right before her trek, so she was ecstatic to finally make it into the Backcountry.

Immediately after her 2015 trek, Phillips decided to stay at the Ranch to do the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) course at Rayado Ridge. She went on to complete a Rayado trek in 2016 and a ROCS trek in 2017.

With so much Philmont experience under her belt, it's hard to believe that Phillips was once discouraged from going on trek because of her small build. She was told she had to be stronger to survive in the Backcountry.

What she found, however, is that what she might lack in height or build she makes up for in spirit.

"Philmont was a place where I felt very empowered," she said. "It gave me the confidence I think I lacked."

The confidence she found at Philmont helped change her life. When Phillips attended an all-female ROCS trek, she decided to pursue science, a field she had been discouraged from previously.

"I was very much at a place where I thought that I wasn't going to do science, not because I didn't like it, but because I didn't feel like I had a place there," Phillips said. "I had done science camps when I was a kid and there was a lot of misogyny at some of them, so I always felt like it wasn't where I belonged."

When surrounded by young women all interested in science and the environment, however, Phillips realized that she did have a place in STEM fields. Now, she hopes that she can inspire other girls who may feel discouraged or lack confidence in themselves.

"You're so much stronger than you think you are," she said. "Philmont can easily prove that to you in just a few days."

Phillips will be working projects all over the Ranch and finishing leading an all-female ROCS trek later this summer.

BELOW: Laura Phillips. Photographed by Alex Cenci.



Want to win a \$1000 scholarship?

The Philmont Staff Association is here to take a load off of your shoulders. We are looking to award \$1000 scholarships for the fall of 2019 - spring of 2020 academic year to PSA members currently enrolled in an educational institution as a full-time student. If you're a member of the PSA and are a full-time student, you have the opportunity to earn a scholarship to help pay for tuition, room, board, books, etc. If you're not a member of the PSA, you'd better swing by the office so you don't miss this opportunity!

The application deadline is August 31st, 2019, and applications can either be turned in at the box provided at the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center, or mailed directly to the Philmont Staff Association office. You can pick up a scholarship application at the SSSAC, the PSA office, or download and print the application from our website, www.philstaff.org. All you need to do is fill out a few background questions and then answer 5 short essay questions. A simple task for great financial support!

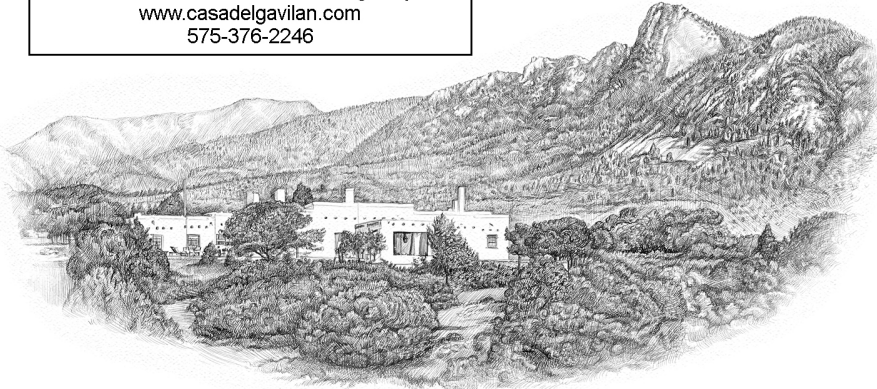


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Activities Calendar

July 14

Philympics @ 9 - 11 a.m.

July 15

Jam Session @ SSSAC, 8 p.m.

July 16

Ice Cream @ Steve Nelson's yard,
8 p.m.

July 18

Casino Night @ Baldy Pavilion, 8
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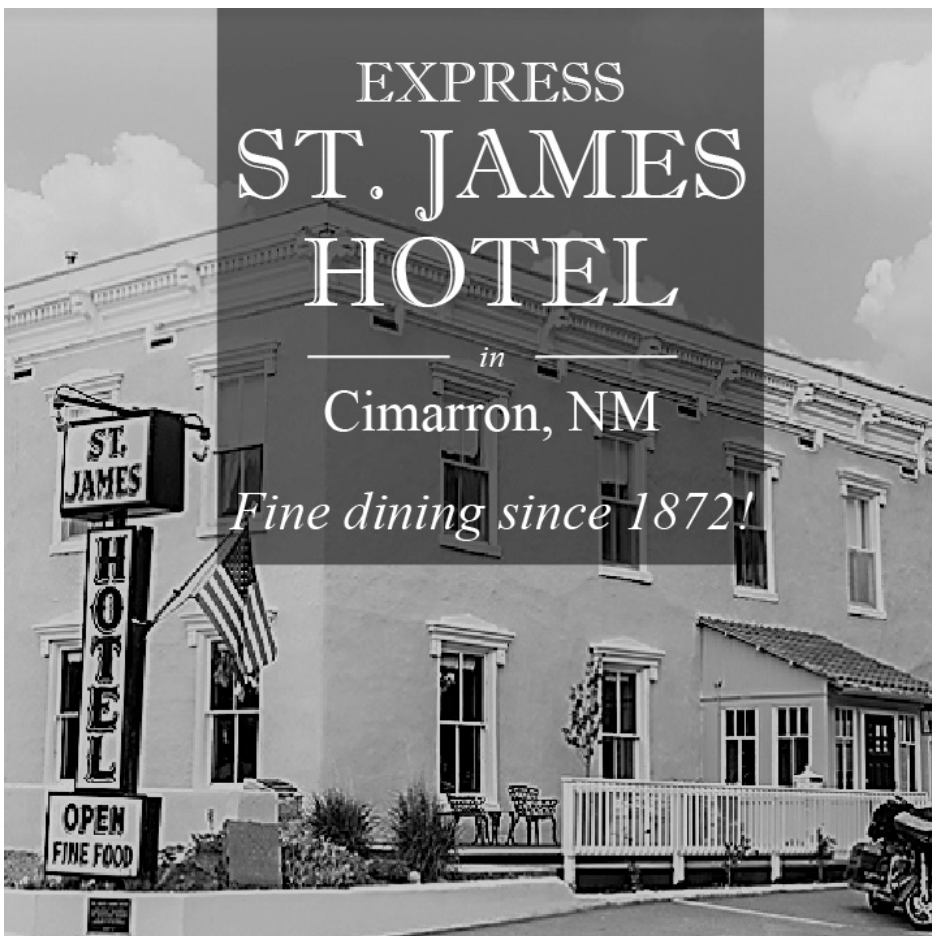
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“Black Out” on the Trail: Syncope vs. Seizure

Emily Lenherr
Infirmary Staff

The New Mexican sun can have quite a beating on the human body. It is not uncommon for Scouts and Advisors alike to experience episodes of “blacking out” on the trail. There are two common reasons for an individual to lose consciousness in the Backcountry – syncope (fainting) and seizures.

Syncope, or “fainting,” is often precipitated by stressful events, including stress, exercise and excitement. There are usually no signs that precede a syncopal episode, though some people may know their own triggers, such as “blood” or “standing up too quick.” A syncopal episode results in a flaccid collapse, where an individual loses tone and may fall to the ground. A syncopal episode is usually less than one minute and an individual may even retain consciousness during the event. After a syncopal episode, a person usually feels better right away and experiences a rapid recovery. After a syncopal episode, have a person sit down and rest. They may hydrate with small sips of water. Let the Infirmary know right away.

Seizure-like activity is defined by abnormal electrical activity in the brain. Most people know if they have seized before. Generalized seizures are not often caused by specific events and can even occur during sleep. Individuals may experience an “aura” or a sign that they are going to experience a seizure. Seizures are defined by motor activity such as shaking, limb retraction and jaw/facial movements. During a seizure, an individual can lose control of their bowels and bladder. They remain unconscious for a longer period of time than those with syncopal episodes. After a seizure, a person may have slow recovery, known as a “post-ictal state.” When a person is having a seizure, it’s important to remain calm. It helps to start timing the seizure, but DON’T attempt to restrain the patient or put anything in their mouth. You may remove anything dangerous from the scene and cushion the patient’s head. When the seizure ends, you may roll the patient on their side and remain with them while help is called.

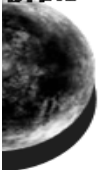


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Chaplain's Corner

Father Steve Hoffer
Catholic Chaplain

As you read this, I am back in Las Vegas, Nevada. I am a Catholic priest and have returned to the 112-degree heat and my parish. It is bittersweet in returning because I have served on staff for 13 years. Every year I return to Philmont and go home it becomes harder and harder because I love Philmont and I love the Philmont Staff. You are what makes Philmont so special to work at. Yes, it is the landscape, it's the participants, but it is the staff that makes Philmont come alive. Each of us will have to leave Philmont at some time and go back home.

I know we, as a staff, are short-staffed and always busy. But I challenge you to take some time and experience the "God Shots" that cross your path daily. These "God Shots" are glimpses of God's love for us and a chance to stop and say, 'Wow; I am truly loved by my Creator.'

Now, what do I mean by "God Shots?" Several examples that happened to me this summer were seeing a bull elk (about a 10-point in the middle of Cimarron Canyon on the way to fireworks on July Fourth!) or having someone who worked for me in conservation 20 years ago come to mass with his son. Others included having the Wranglers ride their horses to mass at Beaubien and seeing the sunrise from Crater Lake. These and many more "God Shots" are what I have experienced this summer.

As I did services in the backcountry for Rayado, ROCS, crews and staff, my challenge was to take time out and reflect on what you have experienced here at Philmont. It is the same challenge I issue to you.

How have you experienced the beauty of Philmont? Have you seen a sunrise or sunset or the stars at night? Have you taken time to see the unique qualities in your coworkers? Do you know their stories? How will you keep the relationships

kindled after Philmont? Know that you will probably never work together with the same people, but they will probably cross your path in the future. As we pass the halfway point of the summer, take some time to experience the beauty of Philmont. If you work in Base Camp, get out into the Backcountry. If you work in the Backcountry, visit different camps and staff. Be open to discovering your "God Shot" each day.

So, what has been your "God Shot?"



ABOVE: Father Steve Hoffer holds mass with horseman from Beaubien. Photo courtesy of Father Steve Hoffer.

SUBMIT IMAGES FOR THE STAFF PHOTO CONTEST AT

<https://registerphilmont.org/photocontest>



Philmont Staff Photo Contest

Hey Philmont staffers! As you start your summer, remember to take photos, document your adventures, and capture some sweet moments this summer and enter them in the Staff Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted from July 1st to July 21st. *Prizes will be awarded!*

Categories

Tooth of Time	Landscapes	Miscellaneous
Staff Activity	Philmont Skies	Porch Views
Camper Activity	Humor	Animals and Wildlife



Ranger Mile

Jake Torkelson
Ranger Trainer

Wilson Mesa might be the most beautiful place on the Ranch. That is high praise for a single location (and potentially a controversial opinion) to be sure. However, Wilson Mesa's beauty is undeniable for any that venture up to the top. Its wildflower-filled meadows surround two placid lakes that reflect the Baldy Mountain skyline.

The easiest and quickest route to the top of the mesa is to hike north from Pueblano along an old logging road. There are two more challenging routes near Bent and Rich Cabins. The routes are steep and not for the faint of heart. The easier option—the trail up from Pueblano—takes 30 minutes to an hour to hike. To reach the Wilson Mesa trail at Pueblano, it is best to hike west from the Ponil Trailhead or down from Head of Dean after starting at the Maxwell Trailhead.

Look around on your way up and imagine logging trucks in the 1920s carting away old-growth timber down the trail's steep slopes to the railroad below. The road from Pueblano to Wilson Mesa was the first road in the area that utilized rubber-wheeled trucks to remove lumber—the first sign of a soon-to-be defunct railroad industry. When Wilson Mesa was being logged for the first time, two logging camps sprang up: one near Pueblano Ruins, and one on top of Wilson Mesa. If you look carefully, traces of log cabins and lean-tos are still readily identifiable.

As you reach the top, stop and take in the expansive views near the lakes. Journal, read a book or simply sit in silence and listen to the lake teeming with life. If you have not been to Wilson Mesa this summer, then put it on your bucket list. It is a must-see. The hike up to the mesa promises to be a memorable experience.



ABOVE: The view from Wilson Mesa. Photographed by Liz Harper.



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Staff photo contest details

The annual staff photo contest has begun! Until 11:59 p.m. on July 21, 2019, summer staff members can submit their photos for a chance to win a TOTT gift card. Categories for submission include the Tooth of Time, humor, porch views and more. The winning photos will be used for future Philmont publication and advertisements. They will also be featured on the wall of the SSSAC next year.

New to the staff photo contest is the video category. Now, Staffers can submit 30 to 120 seconds of video magic to win.

Check out <https://registerphilmont.org/photocontest> for more rules and details.