

PHILNEWS

JUNE 28, 2019

ISSUE 4

Tribute on Trek

Monica Dunn
PhilNews Writer

Dawn breaks through the sky as crew 615-H2 settles into a large boulder to watch the sunrise over the Tooth of Time. The dark blue sky morphs into a watercolor mix of light blue and pink.

The crew sat together bundled up with sweatshirts and hoodies as the wind swept across the mountain. One thing stuck out, though. Lead advisor Jeffrey Neary brought up a piece of leather that reads “Philmont 2005 Max Hickman” with the Philmont Scout Ranch, the “Crazy S” and the Chase Ranch brands burned into the piece of leather.

Hickman was a member of crew 615-H2’s Troop 208 in Orange City, Iowa, but he unexpectedly passed away three years ago. A year later, Eli Young, a member of the troop next door in LeMars, Iowa also passed away unexpectedly. Both Hickman and Young were Eagle Scouts and went on a trek in 2005 with Neary.

This year, crew 615-H2 wanted to bring Hickman and Young back to Philmont one more time. Neary asked Hickman and



ABOVE: Crew 615-H2 poses on top of the Tooth, accompanied by the piece of leather that is branded in tribute to Max Hickman. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

Young’s fathers if they could bring something of theirs along with them during their trek. Neary carried Young’s key fob and Hickman’s piece of leather with him throughout the entire 12-day trek and even branded them at Beaubien and Clark’s Fork.

“Philmont is a special place. I know Max fit in like he belonged in our troop. Same is

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Santa Claus Returns

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

A shooting sports camp named after Chris Kringle himself wasn’t one of the expected outcomes of the Ute Park Fire, but Santa Claus is now up and running.

Some of the first crews at the camp were greeted by a Christmas tree adorned with shotgun shells and clay pigeons on June 19. The Santa Claus canyon is home to a staff camp that had previously been downgraded to a trail camp in the mid-1990s. When Har-

lan, the old shooting camp, was caught in last summer’s fire, Philmont made the push to refurbish Santa Claus and breathe new life into its shooting sports program. After a year of work done by the Maintenance Department, Santa Claus came back to life.

This summer, Santa Claus is outfitted with 14 campsites, a refurbished staff cabin, a reloading cabin and a shooting range. The furnishing of the new camp, however, wasn’t a solo project. A number of firearm companies donated shot, powder, shotguns and even the new reloading cabin to Philmont.

The reloading cabin is the main attraction at Santa Claus. Participants are able to take spent shotgun shells and refill them with powder, wad and shot, making them usable again. Reusing shells helps Philmont save money to put back into programs and teach Scouts the inner workings of firearms.

Once participants make their shells they head down to the firing range for skeet shooting. Experienced instructors teach

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Facing the Unexpected

Emily Adams
PhilNews Writer

When crew 620-RM1 came to Philmont, they were strangers. In just 24 hours they would embark on the journey of a lifetime together—a 20-day Rayado trek.

During Rayado, crews know they'll be hiking, but that's all they know. The details of the trek are kept secret and participants are told simply to 'expect the unexpected.' So far, the motto has served crew 620-RM1 well.

"It's been a lot more unexpected than I expected," crew member Samuel Flusche said.

Flusche and the other Scouts go to bed each night not knowing where they'll go the next day.

They had spent four days adjusting to

Rayado's unpredictability by June 24. The Scouts were already starting to recognize each other's strengths and weaknesses, and when challenging situations arose, they knew to depend on each other.



That morning the crew woke up to find a moderately difficult hike ahead of them. They needed to summit two peaks over the course of ten miles before 3 p.m.

ABOVE: Cullen O'Neill of 620-RM1 crosses a stream while on a Rayado trek on June 25, 2019. Photographed by Gabe Jackson.

Slowly, the Scouts crawled from inside their sleeping bags out into frigid tempera-

tures and packed everything they would need: tents, food, sleeping bags and lightsabers. They started to hike from a meadow of wildflowers into deep green pines, gradually

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Inside Outfitting Services

Alex Fields
PhilNews Writer

It takes careful planning and hard work to prepare roughly 24,000 people for Philmont.

Luckily there's Outfitting Services, the starting point for anyone venturing out into the Backcountry. The department is responsible for ensuring that Scouts have everything they need for a successful trek.

Leah Cheney works in the commissary, which provides food for Scouts on their



ABOVE: Leah Cheney provides meals to Rangers heading out on trek on June 13, 2019. Photographed by Alex Fields.

multi-day treks.

"The job is a lot of procedure without much ambiguity," she said. "I find it rewarding that I know I did my job right."

Today she is tasked with organizing and distributing pack meals. There are about 41 crews of scouts coming to receive meals before hitting the trail. This means Cheney and the other staff members must distribute roughly 17,712 meals daily.

Cheney said the commissary always has a surplus of food to feed staff who hike Philmont on their off days.

Next door to the commissary is where gear rentals take place. Scouts can grab pots and pans, bear ropes, bags, tents, rainflies and anything else they might need in the Backcountry.

Philmont staff member Holden Kales works at the front desk handling gear rentals. Scouts often borrow tents and some-

times backpacks.

Once they've finished grabbing their gear, Scouts will head over to the last part of outfitting: packs and gas. Inside are shelves lined with assorted packs that crews can rent including models from Kelty, Jansport and Osprey. When Scouts come to check out packs, they are fitted properly for size and comfort, a crucial factor for a successful trek.

There is also a pile of used packs that staff can purchase for \$20. The packs may be slightly worn from use but are considerably cheaper than buying new.

It is crucial that Outfitting Services sees every participant before they head on backcountry treks. A position in Outfitting Services means personally ensuring the success and comfort of participants.

"It's really nice seeing all the Scouts because I was never involved with Scouting; neither were my parents," Cheney said. "I'm going to keep coming back, this is exactly the thing I love."



ABOVE: The piece of leather 615-H2 made in tribute to deceased Scout Max Hickman sits on a table on June 24, 2019. The piece was branded to include the Philmont and Chase Ranch brands as well as the Scout's name and the year he went on trek at Philmont. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

Tribute continued

Monica Dunn
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page one: true for Eli and his family," Neary said. "It was a nice way we could take them to Philmont one more time."

This trek wasn't easy for 615-H2. On the second day of their trek, they climbed Mount Phillips. It was eight miles uphill, and the biggest challenge for the crew.

"We didn't really know where we were or how far we had left," 615-H2 crew leader Zach Cypersma said.

Despite the struggle, the crew made it to the peak.

"'Never give up' has been our philosophy these last two weeks," advisor Shawn Cypersma said.

Crew 115-H2 made it back to Base Camp with the key fob and piece of branded leather before lunchtime on their last day. For one last time, Hickman and Young were able to cross under the "We All Made It" sign at the bottom of the switchbacks coming down from the Tooth of Time.



ABOVE: The cabin at Santa Claus is busy with crews. 14 crews were scheduled to spend the night on June 19. Photographed by Curtis Waidley.

Santa Claus continued

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page one:

Scouts the basics of shotgun shooting and let them shoot using the shells they made.

"Even if you've never shot before, and you might be scared to, give it a shot." Program Counselor Josh Zitko said. "You might find that you enjoy it. Philmont is a place to try new things."

In addition to the regular shooting sports program, the staff of Santa Claus have a surprise planned for campers: a full Santa costume on order. Soon, the Camp Director of Santa Claus will become Father Christmas himself.

After two decades of waiting, Santa Claus has finally rejoined the ranks of staffed camps. Now crews can come prepared to learn, shoot and deck the halls at one of Philmont's newest camps.

BELOW: The staff at Santa Claus coaches Troop 279 on how to fire at clay pigeons Photographed by Curtis Waidley.



Activities Calendar June 28 - July 4

June 30

Brat Day @ Baldy Pavilion, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Movie Night @ Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.

July 2

Ping Pong Tournament @ SSSAC, 8 p.m.

July 4

Liberty Cookout @ Baldy Pavilion, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

July 5

Jam Session @ SSSAC, 8 p.m.

KNIVES • BAJAS



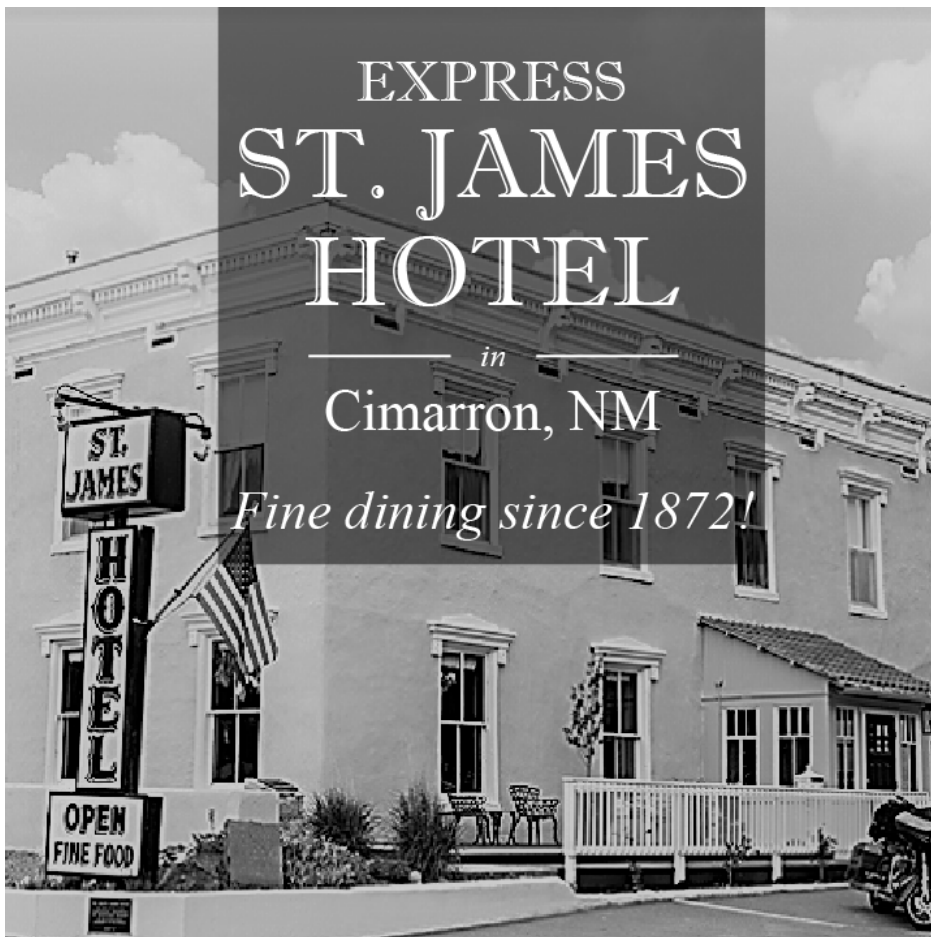
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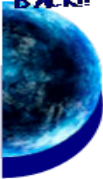
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Chaplain's Corner: Where do you see God?

Father Roger Lopez
OFM, Catholic Chaplain

A staff member recently asked me, "Father, where do you see God at Philmont?"

As a chaplain, I traverse around our property and encounter a diversity of experiences. They range from the quesadilla prepared by the camp director at Santa Claus to the sourdough bread at Philips Junction. There is the musical send off by the Clarks Fork staff to the welcoming smiles of spar-polars at Pueblano.

Experiencing the infirmity seven o'clock rounding where physicians and medical students see patients with attentive compassion to the late-night counseling sessions with a home sick camper. While these experiences can honestly happen in one day of a chaplain, they are also blessed moments where I encounter the Divine – I "see" the presence of God.

As a Friar Minor (Franciscan Friar), our spirituality draws us not only to look up (vertically), but importantly, to gaze outward (horizontally) into the creation.

God is within us and among us, constantly working for our good. When I discovered this incarnational concept, my outlook on the world changed. I look for the small moments within my comings-and-goings.

There in the simple, unnoticed, common experiences is where the Lord speaks to reveals God's self. It is beautiful and splendid. For God does not need to knock me off my horse (c.f. Acts 9), rather, in the simple whisper of the breeze (c.f. 1 Kings 19) of human interaction...there God is.

Facing the Unexpected continued

Emily Adams
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page one: rising above the valley below.

By mid-afternoon, the sun was starting to beat down on the backs of the Scouts and reflect off the rocky trail. As they reached 11,000 feet in elevation, the air became thin and they worked hard for each breath.

When one Scout started to feel tired, the others instinctively stopped, no longer individuals but a team.

“We’re all pushed to our limits with each other,” crew member Matthew Moore said. “You can really only lean on your friends.”

Moore said he was drawn to Rayado because he wanted to push himself and the trek has a reputation for being one of the most challenging at Philmont. The trek is strenuous and not something that every Scout gets to experience.

In order to be selected, participants must provide a letter of recommendation and be able to carry a 40 to 50-pound pack more than 10 miles. On the trail, they may encounter steep grades, loose rock, rain and even snow.

The challenge of Rayado is part of what influenced Peter Dreifuss to become a Philmont Ranger.

Dreifuss went on a Rayado trek in 2015 and said it taught him that you can accomplish anything if you believe in yourself. Now, Dreifuss and fellow Ranger Cal Blubaugh ensure that the crew members of 620-RM1 are pushed to their limit.

Over the course of only a few days, Dreifuss has watched the crew grow closer and overcome multiple obstacles.

“They want to take weight off each other’s packs and be patient,” he said. “Anything to make the crew run like a well-oiled machine.”

The members of crew 620-RM1 will hike many more miles during the remainder of their trek. Together they’ve laughed, crossed streams and climbed mountains, but they still have no way of knowing what’s in store.

What they do have, however, is solid advice from a Ranger.

“You guys have to believe in yourself,” Dreifuss said. “There’s literally nothing you can’t do.”



ABOVE: Chief Ranger Joel Neuhart talks about his experience doing a Rayado Trek to the group of assembled Rayado participants. Photographed by Alex Cenci.



ABOVE: Everyone on a 620 Rayado trek gathers around the dinner bell for a group photo. Photographed by Alex Fields.



ABOVE: Crew 620-RM1 reaches a stream crossing while hiking during their first week of trek. Photographed by Gabe Jackson.

Ranger Mile

Jenny Washburne

Assistant Chief Ranger

While we all love hiking around Philmont on our days off, sometimes it is nice to explore off-ranch, too. Looking for a lovely quick hike close enough to do in one afternoon? The Clear Creek Trail in the Cimarron Canyon is just the place.

As you head west on Highway 64, the Clear Creek Trailhead is about two miles past the Palisades. Watch for Mile Marker 292 and the small wooden sign on the left right before the bridge (just before the tight curve in the road). There are dirt parking areas on both sides of the road and a large sign on the left describing rules and regulations of Cimarron Canyon State Park. This trailhead is one of the only free-access areas in the canyon. Once you've parked, walk on the east side of the road back over the bridge to the trailhead sign. The trail is not well marked past this initial sign, but it is relatively easy to follow.

The trail is a steady incline from start to finish. It does have a few steep sections that can amount to a rock scramble, but besides those, the hike is not overly difficult. The trail sticks closely to the creek most of the way as it winds its way up towards the feet of Mt. Phillips and Tolby Peak. Currently, the stream is quite full, but three or four wooden bridges allow you to hike without getting your feet wet. All the water provides a great environment for horsetail and wildflowers along the trail, and butterflies, too. As you hike, look down. Little clouds of tiny Spring Azures scatter as you step, wings splashing their blue and silver against the dark mud. Look close and you can see the perfect stripes of their tiny antennae.

As you hike, also look up. The trees here are similar to the type of forest we see near Cypher's Mine and Clear Creek Camp; the ponderosas, aspens, and Douglas firs along this trail are massive. Unfortunately, you will also see a lot of graffiti on the aspens along the route. Take a moment and appreciate the LNT principles we sustain back on Philmont property. Note: another reason you should look up as you hike: there is a lot of deadfall in the area! Watch your head.

While there are many small waterfalls along the trail, the biggest waterfall is about 30 minutes in. The trail continues on after this point until it reaches its top elevation (8,485 ft; a total gain of about 750 ft), but many find this waterfall to be a perfect place to stop and turn around. True to its name, Clear Creek rushes over the brink into an impossibly clear pool below. The hike is a perfect break during a busy week, yet close enough that you can grab dinner in Eagle Nest and still be back in Base in time to meet a past crew for Closing Campfire.



Ry Taylor

Live In The Bier Garten

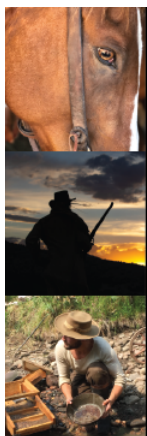
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Philmont Staff Photo Contest

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



Calling All Staff Artists!

The TOTT is looking for Philmont staff to design the 2020 adventure patch!



Guidelines:

- Must be a traditional patch shape
- Needs to have the words:

•Adventure •Philmont Scout Ranch •2020



Patch designs should be submitted by August 1 to ToothofTimeTraders@scouting.org

Puzzle Page

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