Showing Off PTC Amenities Eases Spouse Apprehension

National Outdoor Conference Inspires Unforgettable Experiences

Nicholas Hutchinson is New PTC Director

Nicholas Hutchinson has been named as the new Director of the Philmont Training Center, effective May 15, 2019. Nick is an Eagle Scout who began his Scouting career in Utah National Lake Council with direct responsibility for the operations of five council properties. He has attended and staffed many training programs in the BSA including Junior Leadership Training, Wood Badge, Philmont Training Center Conferences and National Camping School.

Nicholas has had the unique opportunity of developing and changing the camping operations in the Great Salt Lake Council during the departure of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to better meet the program needs of all units and the creation of Scouts BSA.

Nick has a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theatre Education with a minor in Speech Communications from Utah State University as well as a Masters of Arts in Theatre Production from Central Washington University. His wife, Candace, is currently serving as a District Executive and Camp Director in the Utah National Parks Council. They served as Wolf den leaders for their son’s pack and serve on the committee for their daughter’s troop.

In his spare time, Nick enjoys playing games of all kinds and painting miniature scale models. He also loves hiking, backpacking and camping. He also enjoys visiting the national parks of the west, with his family.

Please welcome Nick, Candace, Shiloh age 12, Kaelen age 9, and Ainalaigh age 4 into the Philmont family.

FAQs

Question: What kind of bedding is provided at PTC?
Answer: PTC has extra blankets to be provided so that infants can sleep in their parent’s tents. Internet and cell phone access are available, so guests aren’t isolated from the modern world. Spouses always have the option of putting down their phone and relaxing on the Villa’s Greensward while letting Philmont’s wonderful Counseling staff take care of their children.

Speaking of Counselors, the PTC family program itself is a great setting point to spouses concerned that they’ll be stuck caring for kids while their Scouter is in a conference. During the day, family program counselors will be taking such great care of them that they may not want to go home at the end of their stay.

Many spouses make friends fast with others at PTC, especially if they participate in the Silverado program. The Silverados program is for adult family members to experience a wide variety of adventure at around PTC. A wide range of activities that may include Villa and Museum tours, local history, Indian arts programs, pottery-making demonstrations, guided nature walks, COPE, fishing, and trips to nearby towns such as Red River or Angel Fire. Silverados can go to any hike or activity away from PTC.

By the end of their week, they’ll all be reluctant to leave and will join with the rest of their family saying, “I want to go back to Philmont!”

Pat Wrath Named as New Western Region Coordinator

Pat Wrath is the new Western Regional Ambassador Coordinator to take over from Dennis Kampa. Pat was spotlighted in last Summer’s Update. Pat is in Hawaii’s Aloha Council and knows the challenges of having to coordinate activities over long distances and where driving is not an option. She brings a wealth of Philmont knowledge and her own personal enthusiasm to the Coordination role.

Dennis Kampa, our previous western regional coordinator, will be devoting his time and energies to helping Philmont with several special projects.
Ambassadors Rendezvous With 3,000 Scouts in Minnesota

Every four years there are really important gatherings: The Olympics, the World Scout Jamboree, the World Cup, and the Camp Ripley Rendezvous.

In May, the Central Minnesota Council held its quadrennial area-wide “Rendezvous” at the National Guard Camp Ripley in central Minnesota. The event is open to Scouts BSA Troops and Venturing Crews from across Central Region Area 1. Five thousand Scouts and Scouts from North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin converged on the Camp. Even Canadian Scouts from Manitoba joined in the activities.

Located in the middle of Minnesota, Camp Ripley is a 53,000 acre regional center with state-of-the-art facilities to support the training needs of military and civilian agencies.

The main Ripley Rendezvous attraction is hands-on high-adventure experiences like climbing, rappelling, running obstacle courses and zip-lining through the forest. Simultaneous with these, a high adventure program featured firearms demos, displays of fishing, hunting and camping equipment, a Voyagers Reenactment Camp to keep Scouts engaged throughout the weekend. At the Adiron Center there were demonstrations of EMS skills, military equipment displays, and outdoor skills training.

Because High Adventure is the main theme of the event, the Philmont exhibit was in. Neighboring Northern Star Council (NSC) Ambassador Tom Baltutis worked with Central Minnesota Council Staff to set up the Philmont display.

“I knew the Ripley Rendezvous was definitely too big an event for one person to cover, so I recruited fellow council Ambassadors to help out,” said Tom. NSC Ambassadors Vicki and Jeff Junak and Moose Skolarczyk made the 100 mile trip from the Twin Cities to join the fun.

“We also got the word out to other Ambassadors through our Central Region Coordinator, Rob Walander,” added Tom. “Ken Rudney from Three Fires Council near Chicago heard the call and made the drive all the way up from Illinois. He did a great job inspiring Scouts with stories on how he did a Super Strenuous Trek as a 13-year-old. Ken not only got to experience the jamboree, he also used the opportunity to learn more about promoting Philmont from the NSC Ambassadors. He also brought along his computer to show Philmont’s videos and had his display board with photos of his Philmont experiences which added his personal touch.

Although the weather was less than ideal, their Philmont display was sheltered inside an Army Base-X tent which kept them all dry. Tom brought his new Philmont flag banner so that the tent was highly visible to all at the Midway area. Moose observed, “It was a great day for promoting a great adventure.”

Tom commented that this was an important opportunity because it reached many levels of Scouts regarding Philmont High Adventure programs. “During the morning, we were talking to older scouts who had been to Philmont or had plans for a trek in 2020 and in the afternoon, we were talking to 11- and 12-year old scouts about how they will be the leaders of their Troop in a few years. They’ll be the ones who will be pushing to go to that Philmont high adventure camp they first heard about at the Ripley Rendezvous.”

Scouts are active people. So to get the word out to them about Philmont, well, you have to get out to them!

District Roundtables are but one way to spread the message. These are usually attended by Scouters who probably have heard about Philmont Treks, but may less familiar with Philmont Training Center (PTC) and Individual Opportunities. Cub Leaders at Roundtables may not know that they and their families can attend PTC even at this early stage in their Scoutings careers.

Other events that attract Scouters are:

- University of Scouting or Pow Wow
- Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
- College of Commissioner Service Science
- Council or County Roundtable Recognition Dinners

“Be Prepared” by checking with event organizers about their programs to see if your display is appropriate. You don’t want to spend your time stuck in a corner with no one to talk to.

It is also important to reach Scouters themselves, especially those in troop leadership positions. You can inspire them to consider a Philmont Trek during their upcoming Troop high adventure planning meeting.

Consider being out with Scouts at these events.

- District Camporees
- Council Camporees

Opportunities Abound to Reach Scouts, Scouters

- Order of the Arrow Conclaves
- OA Winter Events
- OA Area and Regional Conferences

Another approach is to get to know Campermasters in your council. These experienced Scouters probably have been to Philmont and would be glad to hand out literature to Troops on weekend campouts. You might also provide them with the camp with a display to bring to camp.

You can also check with your Council Camping Committee about setting up a permanent Philmont Display at local or long-term Scouting Camps.

Cub Scout Leaders can be eager to learn more about the Scouting program. In some places to meet them are

- Cub Resident Camp
- District and Council Pinewood Derby
- Cub Day and Overnight Camps
- Webelos Woods

It’s vital to provide information about family activities at PTC to Cub Leaders. When they see the activities that their children and spouses can enjoy, they are more likely to consider PTC as a family vacation rather than another Scout training mission.

One “Rule of Thumb” in advertising is that it takes at least seven contacts to make an impression on a consumer. So consider that it will take as many touches to get people excited about Philmont. Fortunately, Philmont is a great product to sell!

Ambassador Profile

Julie Farr, one of the Ambassadors to the National Capital Area Council, knows it takes a group effort to cover a big area. She along with Danielle Ballardine, Jason Barcher and Arden Doughtan form a dynamic team with a year-round schedule of promotions.

Starting in January at their OA Lodge Banquet through December at the Trainer’s Edge Conference, they keep constantly promoting Philmont whenever they can. Kristen Choma was also part of the team until she moved to Boston.

Julie explains their strategy. “We share ideas and information with other Ambassadors to focus more on OA High Adventure and OA Trail Crew opportunities at OA events. We focus more on NAYLE and PFLC opportunities at NYLT and Wood Badge courses, and we focus on PTC conferences at all events.”

She believes personal contact is the key to recruiting others. “I find sharing photos, talking to people one-on-one, and making personal invitations have been most effective.” She explains that sharing her experiences and letting Scouters know they can bring the whole family to Philmont is a great recruiting method.

The National Capital Area Council is one of the largest around, serving over 57,000 youth and 18,000 volunteers in 20 districts spread across northern Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and even the US Virgin Islands. Julia became an Ambassador in 2012 when the Council appointed her and two others to fill this important role.

It was a natural fit because Philmont is in Julia’s blood. Her father would take his entire family to PTC when he attended training. Her Family Camp adventures include being Mountain Woman. “My first back country experience in the 1980’s still resonates. When I shared my stories about rock climbing and rappelling at Cimarrones, pole climbing and star gazing at Crater Lake, blacksmithing and singing around a campfire at Black Mountain and enjoying a chuck wagon meal and roping at Miranda,” recalls Julia.

Later as a young mother, she was thrilled when her son joined Scouting and became an Eagle scout and is now an Eagle Scout older brother, as well as being an attendee at many PTC conferences (including Philmont Leadership Challenge) and as a PTC conference faculty member. I want to share my excitement for Philmont and encourage all Scout leaders, especially new leaders, to create awe-inspiring memories with their families at Philmont!

Julia Farr is all smiles as she poses with her favorite landmark at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Julia is indeed an ardent Ambassador. “I have had incredible experiences with the PTC family program as a youth and serving on PTC program staff along with my Eagle Scout older brother, as well as being an attendee at many PTC conferences (including Philmont Leadership Challenge) and as a PTC conference faculty member. I want to share my excitement for Philmont and encourage all Scout leaders, especially new leaders, to create awe-inspiring memories with their families at Philmont!”

Ambassador Ranks Continue to Grow

Our goal of having a Philmont Ambassador in every council gets closer as we continue to welcome new members to our group. Please welcome these new members! We hope to see them soon at the Ambassador I Seminar at PTC in July. There’s still time to enroll!

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Julie Farr Teams Up, Carries the Message to Nation’s Capitol

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Cimarroncito's terrain provides challenging ascents. (Philmont Photo)

**Elevation 8,156 ft.**

**Description**
Cimarroncito is located in a broad valley. Most of the camping is north and west of the main camp. All are grassed. The rock cribs and rappelling are up the ridge to the east of camp.

**Activities**
Rock climbing, rappelling, and climbing. Water. Purified water is plentiful.

**Nearby Camps**
Hunting Lodge is just over a mile to the south. Trails
Head north through Aspen Springs to Ulte Quitch Commissary for food, picnic, or beef through Hidden Valley and Window Rock for one of the best hikes at Philmont. South goes to Hunting Lodge and either Clark Fork (south) or by Cypress Creek (Northwest). Northwest heads toward Sawmill Canyon.

**Itineraries Stopping at Cimarroncito**

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**Cito Thrills With Hanging Fun**

By Matthew Baide, PhilNews Staff Writer, PhilNews

Cimarroncito is a place to experience the ‘awe-inspiring, general aesthetic beauty’ that is rock climbing. ‘We practice climbing rocks, we climb rocks, we small rocks, we climb climbing plastic rocks, we think about climbing rocks, we talk about climbing rocks,’ Camp Director Jada McGirt said.

The camp has six climbs and seven rappels. These are the most popular climbs that are easy, and then there are the difficult climbs. Itinerary 15 is the camping special trek, and at the end of the trek, they climb at Cimarroncito.

The most popular climb is the one by your tent hole. It is a slab climb and a chance for Scouts to practice mock leading, which is when they climb up the rock and practice climbing ahead of their protection.

There is a boulder every six feet on the rock. The climber climbs up the rock, and at each boulder they place a quick draw, which is a piece of protection. There is always a belayer at the bottom with an anchor at the top for safety during this because it is just practice.

‘You can’t do that anywhere else in Philmont and it is really hard anywhere else in the Boy Scouts to be able to do this,’ McGirt said. “It is fantastic.” Every crew that has come through and participated in the climb has enjoyed it, and only about 50 crews during the summer will experience it.

The second most popular climb is Dirt Road, and both of the most popular climbs are 5.8 difficulty, which is the most difficult beginner ‘route. The rock climbing this year was far superior,” McGirt said. “Just the ability to talk about advanced climbing techniques, talking about anchors, setting natural anchors with the staff, teaching mock leading, it’s pretty fantastic.”

The staff was trained for three days, with every staff member having prior climbing experience. Program Counselor Megan Sechler has been climbing for about seven years, climbing in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Florida. This is her first year working at Philmont.

“I love seeing the youths faces when they go, ‘dude, check out this rock,’” Sechler said. “What isn’t there to like about Cito? We have this gorgeous view, about 200 people coming through here a day, always busy.”

Program Counselor Jeff Schritzlinger enjoys the bouldering gym just at Cimarroncito. He has three years of climbing experience from working at a climbing wall at Ohio University. “I can give actual instruction on climbing, I can set routes, I can climb hard,” Schritzlinger said. “I can actually instruct on the actual climbing techniques and play games with Scouts and stuff.”

He likes climbing Dirt Road the most because it is a vertical face which makes it more challenging. The climbing program has developed a lot since it started and hopefully will continue to develop into the future. “Philmont has stepped into the future this year,” McGirt said. **P5**

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**Sangre de Cristo Range Provides Backbone of Philmont Country**

The Sangre de Cristo Mountains (Spanish for “Blood of Christ”) are the southernmost subrange of the Rocky Mountains. They are located in southern Colorado and northern New Mexico in the United States. The mountains run from Poncha Pass in southwestern Colorado, trending southeast and south, ending at Glorieta Pass, southeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are divided into various subranges, described here from north to south. Use of the terms Sangre de Cristo Range and Sangre de Cristo Mountains is inconsistent and either may refer to either the northernmost subrange, the southernmost subrange, or the mountains as a whole.

**Land management and recreation overview**

Much of the mountains are within various National Forests: the Rio Grande and San Isabel in Colorado, and the Carson and Santa Fe in New Mexico. These publicly accessible areas are popular for hunting, camping, hiking, mountain biking, backpacking, climbing, and cross-country and downhill skiing. The mountains include two large wilderness areas, the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness in Colorado and the Pecos Wilderness in New Mexico, as well as some smaller wilderness areas, such as the Culebra Peak Wilderness. The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve lies on the southwest side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Subranges The Sangre de Cristo Mountains are divided into various subranges, described here from north to south. Use of the terms Sangre de Cristo Range and Sangre de Cristo Mountains is inconsistent and either may refer to either the northernmost subrange, the southernmost subrange, or the mountains as a whole.

**Sangre de Cristo Range**
The Sangre de Cristo Range, the largest and most northerly subrange of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, runs directly along the east side of the Rio Grande Rift, extending southeast from Poncha Pass for about 75 miles (120 km) through south-central Colorado to La Veta Pass, approximately 20 miles (32 km) west of Waltensburg. They form a high ridge separating the San Luis Valley on the west from the watershed of the Arkansas River on the east.

**Crestones**
The Crestones are a group of four 14,000+ foot (4,260+ m) peaks located in the Sangre de Cristo Range above Crestone, Colorado.

**Spanish Peaks**
The Spanish Peaks are a pair of mountains, West Spanish Peak, 13,626 ft (4,153 m) and East Spanish Peak, 12,860 ft (3,902 m) located in southern Teller County, Colorado. The Spanish Peaks were designated a National Natural Landmark in 1976 as one of the best-known examples of igneous dikes. The mountains can be seen from as far as 133 mi (214 km) north to Colorado Springs, 50 mi (80 km) to the west from Alamosa, Colorado, 65 mi (105 km) to the south from Raton, New Mexico, and 85 mi (137 km) to the east from La Junta, Colorado.

**Culebra Range**
The Culebra Range runs almost due north and south, with its northern limit at La Veta Pass in Colorado, and its southern limit at Culebra Creek, just south of Big Costilla Peak in New Mexico. Its highest point is Culebra Peak at 13,447 ft (4,098 m), which is notable for being the only fourteener in Colorado which is on private land. Climbers wishing to ascend Culebra must pay a fee and the number of climbers per year is limited. It is also the most southerly fourteener in the U.S. Rockies. Standing to the east of the main crest are the two prominent Spanish Peaks (West: 13,626 ft (4,153 m), East: 12,860 ft (3,902 m). These peaks were important landmarks on the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail. The biogeon receives very little water and has an annual precipitation of seven to eight inches (180 to 200 mm). This region is also home to the Culebra Micro-basin which has a rich agricultural history in the state of Colorado.

**Taos Mountains**
The Taos Mountains span the western lobe of the range from Costilla Creek in the north to Tres Ritos in the south. They include the highest point in New Mexico, Wheeler Peak, at 13,161 feet (4,001 m), which is part of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. Other notable peaks include Puebco Peak, which at 12,305 feet (3,751 m) rises south-southwest of Wheeler Peak, and La Entrada Peak, at 12,708 feet (3,873 m). Williams Lake is located below Wheeler Peak in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness.

**Sierra del Verdet**
This is a minor subrange, significantly lower than the Sangre de Cristo Mountains; it lies east of the southernmost portion of the Taos Mountains.

**Santa Fe Mountains**

Rounding out the Sangre de Cristo Mountains are the Santa Fe Mountains, which include all peaks south of NM Route 518. This group lies near Santa Fe and surrounds the Pecos Wilderness, which protects the source watershed of the Pecos River. The peaks include Truchas Peak, 13,102 ft (3,933 m), its highest point. Other notable peaks are Santa Fe Baldy (12,622 ft (3,847 m) and Jicarita Peak (12,325 ft (3,732 m). The Pecos Wilderness is crossed by many trails and is popular for backpacking and for fishing in its high alpine lakes.

Afternoon Forecast: Rain, Naturally!

Thunder Ridge didn’t get its name for nothing. Nor do Philmont Rangers teach the importance of getting off high ridges during the mid-afternoon just for fun. Philmont veterans know that the daily summer forecast in the Sangre de Cristo mountains is “good chance of afternoon thunderstorms,” and they keep their rain gear handy. From May to September, the weather conditions in the American Southwest can cause afternoon storms to rise, seemingly by magic. However, natural forces at work are to blame.

The reason: The North American Monsoon. This weather pattern is one of five other global seasonal rain phenomena—called monsoons. The others occur in Australia, South America, Africa and Asia. The word monsoon literally means “season of wind.” In Arabic it means “season” or “time of year.” And it’s aptly named because almost every day during summer season at Philmont, it rains in the afternoon.

Starting in early July, hot desert air rises over the Mexican Plateau and American Desert Southwest as these mountain elevations forming the afternoon high ridges during the mid-afternoon cause an area of high pressure rises over the Mexican Plateau and starting in early July, hot desert air rains in the afternoon. Every day during the summer season at Philmont, it rains in the afternoon.

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