

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

Summer 2019



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 Parks Council in 2012 as a district executive and camp director. From there he was promoted to the Director of Camping in 2018 at Great Salt 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.

Nick 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 programming 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 Master 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 Annaleigh age 4 into the Philmont family. **P2**

National Outdoor Conference Inspires Unforgettable Experiences

Boy Scouts of America volunteers and professionals are relentless in their pursuit of outdoor programs that are exhilarating, enriching and safe.

That explains the popularity of the National Outdoor Conference held every other year at Philmont Scout Ranch. This September, volunteers and professionals from across the country will travel to the mountains of New Mexico to discover the latest methods for delivering unforgettable outdoor experiences.

They'll select from more than 100 elective sessions, hear inspiring keynote speakers, check out the latest outdoor gear, connect with fellow Scouters, and return home equipped and energized.

And they'll do it all at an ideal loca-

tion: Philmont Scout Ranch, the legendary Scouting paradise in New Mexico, which proudly calls itself the "world's largest camp."

Here's the basics:

What: 2019 National Outdoor Conference

When: The conference opens at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 25, and ends after breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 29. That's three-and-a-half days and four nights.

Where: Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, which proudly calls itself the "world's largest camp."

Who's invited: Anyone involved in outdoor program delivery at any level of the program. That means Scout

Showing Off PTC Amenities Eases Spouse Apprehension

Mark Twain's 1872 book, "Roughing It," about his Western journeys hardly describes Philmont Training Center's (PTC) facilities. Yet many spouses hesitate leaving civilization behind and "roughing it" in Philmont Country.

Bathrooms may head the list when it comes to concerns about PTC accommodations. Fortunately, PTC lucked out when high winds damaged the old bathroom buildings in 2012. They were replaced with new facilities featuring lockable private rooms with a shower, sink, mirror, toilet and changing area. The buildings are centrally located, and Philmont staff keep them meticulously clean. Family shower units have more room for those to attend their small children.

Staying in PTC's canvas condos, as they are affectionately known, provides real twin beds with mattresses, a chair, wardrobe, and electricity for lights and recharging electronics. Participants need to bring their own bedding which can add a touch of home. PTC does have extra blankets to loan out if the nights get chilly.

Those cool, dry nights have a side benefit - no bugs! You can point out that the tents do not have mosquito netting because there are rarely any.

The cafeteria food at PTC is definitely a cut above what Scouts get over in Camping HQ. Entrees like chicken fried steak, pork chops and roast beef, along with DIY salads and a vegetarian option make for good eating in the High Country. Peanut butter and jelly are always available so picky kids never go without. Weekly ice cream socials and cobbler nights keep everyone's sweet tooth satisfied.

Spouses may also be concerned about their children's sleeping accommodations. They will be in the same type of tents right next to their parent's so they can be cared for easily. Some parents split duties so that one can be in each of their kid's tents for further assurance. Cribs can



[Click here for a video on PTC housing.](#)

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 selling point to spouses concerned that they'll be struck 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 carpool 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!" **P2**

FAQs

Question: What kind of bedding should I bring to PTC?

Answer: Although daytime highs can be quite warm, nights in the high country of Philmont Training Center (PTC) can get comfortably chilly. You should bring a warm sleeping bag (rated to 40°) or sheets and warm blankets along with a pillow. PTC does have extra blankets to loan out.

Question: How many bears and other large animals are at Philmont? Will I get to see them at PTC?

Answer: Philmont has 100-150 bears, 300 elk, and 40-60 antelope and over 1,500 deer. Deer often can be seen grazing around the PTC grounds. Antelope are often seen on the roads into camp, and the buffalo herd browses in the fields between PTC and Cimarron. Bear sighting are very infrequent.

Question: Can you ship a box to a scout on a Trek?

Answer: It's not possible to get mail to Scouts while they are on a Trek. However, they can get a box or mail at Camping HQ at the beginning and end of their trip. Send it to:

Scout's Name, Expedition Number
47 Caballo Rd
Cimarron, NM 87714
P2

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 Coordinator role.

Dennis Kampa, our previous western regional coordinator, will be devoting his time and energies to helping Philmont with several special projects. **P2**

[Click here for the conference registration page.](#)

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 Scouters 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 ad-



Moose Skolarzyk, Ken Rudney and Tom Baltutis used the large Philmont map to encourage Trek Participation at Ripley Rendezvous.

venture program featured firearms demos, displays of fishing, hunting and camping, rocket launches, and a Voyageurs Reenactment Camp to keep Scouts engaged throughout the weekend. At the Action 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 fit right 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 Jurek and Moose Skolarzyk 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 Welander," 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 presenting the Philmont Scout Ranch experience at the at Camp Ripley. Although the 38 degrees, wind, rain we had may be the more the norm for Northern Canada than Minnesota this time of year! We had fun doing our best to promote a great adventure."



Tom's Philmont flag banner drew Scouts to the display tent.

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 2019 and 2020. 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." **P2**



Displays at OA events encourage active Scouters to promote Philmont to their Troops.

Opportunities Abound to Reach Scouts, Scouters

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 Scouting careers.

Other events that attract Scouters are

- University of Scouting or Pow Wow
- Council Coordinated Committee Event
- College of Commissioner Service/Science
- District and Council 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 very important to reach Scouts 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

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

Another approach is to get to know Campmasters 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 and 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 Scout Camps

Cub Scout Leaders can be eager to learn more about the Scouting program. 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! **P2**

Ambassador Profile

Julia Farr Teams Up, Carries the Message to Nation's Capitol

Julia Farr, one of the Ambassadors to the National Capitol Area Council, knows it takes a group effort to cover a big area. She along with Danielle Ballantine, Jason Bachelor and Arden Dougan 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. Kristin Chioma was also part of the team until she moved to Boston.

Julie explains their strategy. "We share promotional materials among Ambassadors to focus more on OA High Adventure and OA Trail Crew opportunities at OA events. We focus more on NAYLE and PLC 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 successful." 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 share my stories about rock climbing and rappelling at Cimarroncito, 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



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

thrilled when her son joined Scouting as a Tiger Cub. She took the opportunity to expand her Scouting knowledge and brought him along whenever she attended PTC. He progressed from Cowpoke to Deputy, Sidewinder, Trailblazer I and II and Mountain Man, which means that he and Julia attended a lot of conferences. As an older Scout, her son came back to PTC to attend NAYLE and be on NAYLE Staff. He went on to become an Eagle scout and is now a certified paramedic/law enforcement officer.

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!" **P2**

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! **P2**

Name	Region	Council
Michael Anderson	WR	Utah National Parks Council
Gwen Goodrich	CR	Greater St. Louis Council
Michael Martens	WR	Las Vegas Area Council
David Raihle	CR	Chippewa Valley Council



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

Focus on the Backcountry

Cimarroncito Rocks!

Elevation 8,156 ft.

Description

Cimarroncito is located in a broad valley. Most of the campsites are north and west of the main cabin. All are excellent. The rock climbing and rappelling are up the ridge to the east of camp.

Activities

Rock climbing, rappelling, and bouldering.

Water

Purified water is plentiful.

Nearby Camps

Hunting Lodge is just over a mile to the south.

Trails

Head north through Aspen Springs to Ute Gulch Commissary for food pickup, or bear south through Hidden Valley and Window Rock for one of the best hikes at Philmont. South goes to Hunting Lodge and either Clarks Fork (south) or Cyphers Mine (west). Northwest heads toward Sawmill Canyon.

Itineraries Stopping at Cimarroncito

6 – Activity Stop
8 – Overnight
10 – Overnight
14 – Activity Stop
18 – Overnight
20 – Overnight

Keith Nelson, Associate Director of Camping remarks "Philmont's third-party rock climbing trainers and inspectors love our programs for the respect we give to the sport and the pristine condition of our physical features. Vendors and visitors from the industry truly appreciate that we introduce many thousands of young people to climbing who never would have had the notion or experience otherwise.

"The Philmont seasonal staff opens many doors for the young trekkers as they traverse our backcountry, and it's always neat to see which doors they chose to walk through. I've learned time and again to never underestimate the drive and passion in someone's heart. I've seen the sparks we ignite at Philmont grow into incredible lifelong goals and accomplishments. We really do 'change lives' and I get to see it EVERY DAY." **P2**

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 South-Central Colorado, trending southeast and south, ending at Glorieta Pass, southeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The mountains contain a number of fourteen thousand foot peaks in the Colorado portion, as well as all the peaks in New Mexico which are over thirteen thousand feet.

The name of the mountains may refer to the occasional reddish hues observed during sunrise and sunset when the mountains are covered with snow. Although the particular origin of the name is unclear, it has been in use since the early 19th century. Before that time the terms "La Sierra Nevada", "La Sierra Madre", "La Sierra", and "The Snowies" (used by English speakers) were used. According to tradition, "Sangre de Cristo" were the last words of a Catholic priest who was killed by Indians. Sometimes the archaic Spanish spelling "Christo" is used.

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



Aspenglow, the reddish hue on the mountains at dawn and dusk, inspired the naming of the Sangre de Cristo Range.

Wilderness in New Mexico, as well as some smaller wilderness areas, such as Latir Peak Wilderness. The Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve lies on the southwest side of the mountains in Colorado.

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 Walsenburg. 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 (4,268+ m) peaks (fourteeners) 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 (3,920 m), located in southwestern Huerfano 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) to the north from 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 Costilla Creek, just south of Big Costilla Peak in New Mexico. Its highest point is Culebra Peak at 14,047 ft (4,282 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 (3,920 m)). These peaks were important landmarks on the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail. The bioregion 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 (4,011 m), which is part of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. Other notable peaks include Pueblo Peak, which at 12,305 feet (3,751 m) rises dramatically above Taos Pueblo, and Latir Peak, at 12,708 feet (3,873 m). Williams Lake is located below Wheeler Peak in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness.

Taos Ski Valley lies just to the west of Wheeler Peak. Much of the central portion of the Taos Mountains are on Taos Pueblo land. As viewed from Taos, they are locally called "Taos Mountain."

The southern portion of the Taos Mountains, between Palo Flechado Pass and Tres Ritos (U.S. Route 64 and NM Route 518), is lower and less dramatic than the northern section, with its high point being Cerro Vista, 11,939 ft (3,639 m). The Fernando Mountains are a small subrange lying in this section, just south of US Route 64.

Cimarron Range

The Cimarron Range lies across the Moreno Valley to the east of the Taos Mountains. It is a lower range, with its highest point being Baldy Mountain at 12,441 ft (3,792 m). Philmont Scout Ranch lies on the east side of the Cimarron Range.

Rincon Mountains

This is a minor subrange, significantly lower than the rest of the Sangre de Cristos; 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 (3,993 m), as their highest point. Other notable peaks are Santa Fe Baldy (12,622 ft) (3,847 m) and Jicarita Peak (12,835 ft) (3,912 m). The Pecos Wilderness is crossed by many trails and is popular for backpacking and for fishing in its high alpine lakes.

[Wikipedia contributors. "Sangre de Cristo Mountains." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 11 Dec. 2018. Web. 20 Mar. 2019.]

P2

'Cito Thrills With Cliff Hanging Fun

By Matthew Baide, PhilNews Staff Writer, PhilNews

Cimarroncito is a place to experience the 'awesome, awe-inspiring, general athletic beauty' that is rock climbing. "We practice climbing rocks, we climb rocks, we smell rocks, we practice 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. There are climbs and rappels that are easy, and then there are the difficult climbs. Itinerary 15 is the climbing special trek, and at the end of the trek, they climb at Cimarroncito.

The most popular climb is 'hang these from your toe hitch.' 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 bolt about every six feet on the rock. The climber climbs up the rock, and at each bolt 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 that," 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.0, and both of the most popular climbs are 5.8 difficulty, which is the most difficult beginner range. "The



(Philmont Photo)

rock training 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 the most 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 technique and play games with Scouts and stuff."

He likes climbing Dirt.0 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. **P2**

Chaplin's Corner: Presence

From PhilNews by Fr. Don K. Hummel
Catholic Chaplain

From the lofty mountain peaks' purple grandeur,
To the lush, secret dusty-emerald valleys.
From silver sage carpeted wildflower meadows,
To ice-blue water teeming with glistening life and energy.
From whispering pines and shimmering aspens,
To limitless vistas that see into forever.

-You are powerfully and richly present.
In cool, crisp morning's light,
Scorching, oven-hot midday
Surprise explosion of unrestrained thunder and lightning,
With the drenching afternoon showers and hail,
And soothing soft evening breezes around a languid camp-fire.

You are lovingly and reassuringly present.
In the eagles' soaring, gliding flight,
Or cheerful squirrel and chipmunk chatter.
In harmonious hymn of bear, antelope, deer and coyote.
Or ink-dark, starlit symphony of evening vespers.

- You are gracefully and gently present
Under strain and sweat of packstrap,

Through shared frustration and exhilaration.
On dust-dry paths and bare-rock summits,
Through the shaken-down, arm-in-arm comradeship of the trail

You are personally and intimately present.
In the sudden, unexpected trail turn, That reveals that life-transforming,
Never-be-the same again glimpse
Your divine face.
We boldly, hopefully reach
And touch -

And we know profoundly.
You are mystically, eternally present.
We listen,
With the ear of the hear.
We see,
With the eye of the soul.
Those who have not,
Cannot.
Those who have,
Are certain.

- You are Presence.

P2

Staff Promotions, Changes

Philmont may be timeless, but Staff is always on the move. Along with a new PTC Director, here are a few more changes that have taken place. Let's wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

Chuck Enloe, long-time Philmont cowboy, has been promoted to livestock foreman to replace recently retired Ben Vargas.



Heather Bermudez, recent seasonal staffer in MPS and the backcountry, has signed on as a personnel assistant in the Camping Office.



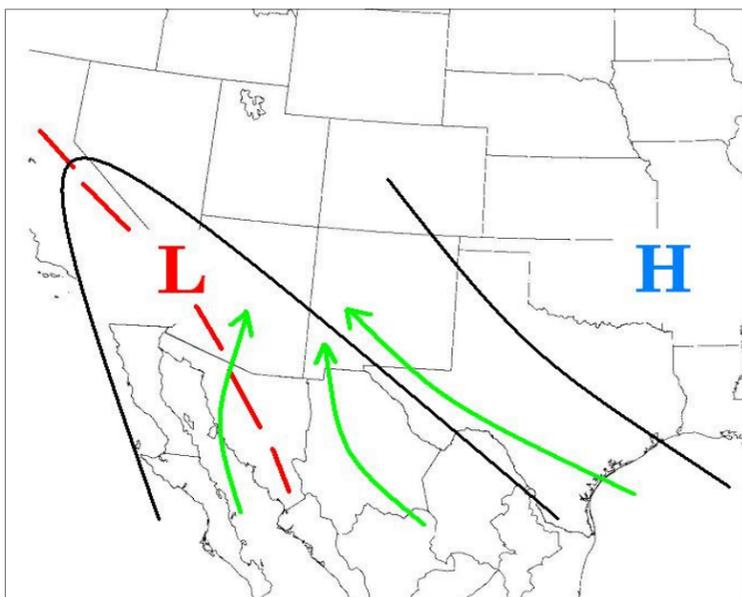
Fran Romero, assistant camping registrar, is moving down the road to admin as Team Leader, Administration and Housekeeping.



John Celley, director of conservation, resigned in December to take a new position in Wisconsin. He played a key role in Philmont's fire recovery efforts.

Michael Johnson, IT manager, resigned to assume a new position with a national tech company. He'll continue to live in Cimarron and work from his home there.

P2



Prevailing summer patterns cause regular afternoon storms at Philmont and high mountains of the Southwest.

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 raingear handy.

From May to September, the weather conditions in the American Southwest cause afternoon storms to rise, seemingly by magic. However, natural forces at work are to blame.

The reason: The North American Monsoon.

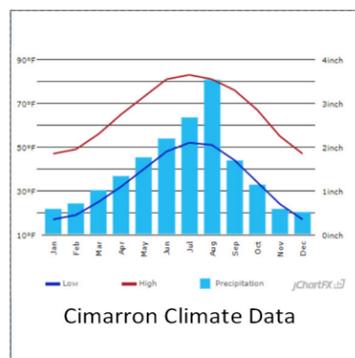
This weather pattern is one of five other global seasonal rain phenomena called monsoons. The others occur in Australia, South America, Africa and Asia. The word *monsoon* itself comes from the Arabic *mawsim* meaning "season" or "time of year." And it's aptly named because almost every day during summer 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 areas heat up every day. This rising air causes an area of high pressure know as a subtropical ridge to form over the Four Corners area where Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico meet.

The rising air brings in low level moisture from the Gulf of California. Additionally, upper level moisture from the Gulf of Mexico blows in, transported by high level easterly winds.

All this moisture condenses in the mountain elevations forming the afternoon thunderstorms and causing

Trekkers to don raingear and hastily set up camp. Those familiar with the pattern know the importance of breaking camp early, hitting the trail, getting to their next camp and set-



ting up before the daily monsoon strikes.

The North American Monsoon System produces most of the annual rainfall over the southwestern United States.

The overarching trend is that as temperatures warm globally, monsoon rainfall will increase. While this may help relieve the Philmont area from future droughts, other weather patterns and the varied southwestern landscape means that both periods of severe drought and consistent storms can occur.

One of these seasonal weather variations last year caused the dryness that led to the fires that plagued much of the west. On the other hand, increased rainfall during 2018 in other areas caused widespread flooding in Australia, Africa, North Korea, Nigeria, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Trinidad and Tobago, and Viet Nam as well as in parts of the U.S. P2

Out of Eden Project

Walking with Intention

The Philmont experience is filled with new people, places, and programs that will enhance Scouts' lives for many years to come. For over 80 years, more than a million participants and staff members have had the opportunity to share their Philmont experiences through letters, pictures, stories, and journals. Much like the news cycle of today, the ever-changing landscape of the internet has transformed how we share our experiences and stories. Quick posts, likes, and "trending" articles often fill the voids of time that were once spent in deep/intentional thought, observance, and reflection.

While many news outlets follow the "trending" model, there are still thoughtful organizations that focus on authentic journalism, impartial reporting, and real issues that are being faced by people around the world today. Their hopes are to inform/educate the public, create collaborative action, and be a catalyst for change to improve the quality of life for people/places in need. One of the leading nonprofit organizations with that focus is the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting.

The Pulitzer Center is currently working on a project with National Geographic Fellow, Paul Salopek. In 2013, Paul began a seven-year journey walking around the world in an effort to retrace the migration of our oldest ancestor's - from their birthplace in Ethiopia to the Middle East, Asia, North America, and on to the southern tip of South America. On his Out of Eden Walk "he is engaging with the major stories of our time - from climate change to technological innovation, from mass migration to cultural survival - by walking alongside the people who inhabit these headlines every day. Moving at the slow beat of his footsteps, Paul is seeking the quieter, hidden stories of people who rarely make the news."

Working as an educational partner, the Pulitzer Center identified Philmont Scout Ranch as an ideal place to tell Paul's story due to our excellence in youth development, interpretive programming, and extended day trekking. Philmont's physical location alongside the Santa Fe Trail is also a unique component of the partnership.

Since 1938 Philmont has shared the rich history of commerce and conflict that unfolded on the heavily traveled trade route. Similar to Paul's journaling efforts, back in 1846 Susan Magoffin slowly documented her adventures across the plains, through the forts and into the oldest capital city of the American southwest. We continue to share stories of people



Paul Salopek (left) and Scout Christopher Sherman (yellow Hat) talk with some residents (and a camel) during their adventure. Photo by Chris Sawyer.

and places along the trail and enjoy re-experiencing their journeys through the lens of our participants.

During Philmont Treks, Paul reminds us of how journaling can help each of us be "more observant, more attentive, and more in the moment" as we navigate our walks in life. During his intentional walk, he is recorded "milestones" every 100 miles where he documents his location, a photo/video, and a sound recording of what he is feeling and thinking at the time. He has challenged all of us to stop and record milestones this summer and says that when a few have been recorded, "you get to see the world unfold before you, in a stop - motion fashion, you get to see the small changes happening before your eyes."

What could some of those milestones look like for you and how might they unfold into something more?

- Motivating our participants to overcome challenges and helping them work together to succeed.
- Being caught in a thunderstorm and watching the weather clear.
- Watching the sun sink into the horizon from a favorite spot.
- Hiking up Sawmill Canyon or over a snow-covered Baldy Mountain.
- Laughing and telling stories during dinner at a trail camp.
- Enjoying moments of complete solitude and reflection.
- Deeply thinking about how you might make a difference in the world.
- Realizing that you have fully seized each moment in these New Mexico mountains.

In the absence of "trending" likes and posts in the backcountry, Paul encourages Scouts to slow down and fully embrace their "milestones." Scouts can use the Passport to Adventure

Journal to make entries as they navigate across the ranch. Their time at Philmont will be defined in many ways that they will discover and redefine over the course of the summer, but what they do with their life is the true discovery that will take discipline and continual refinement. Philmont hopes that each Scout will use their time an opportunity to be intentional about how they spend each day, treat each person, and plan their next steps in life.

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Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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