The little toaster that could

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Philmont is, without a doubt, a challenge.

The days are long and grueling, and morale can be an issue even for the most seasoned of crews. Enter the toaster.

It’s not the most traditional mascot, but the cheap Walmart-brand toaster plastered with stickers and bedazzled on every edge helped crew 615-BB1 out of Crawfordsville, Indiana, push through their trek. From Hell’s Fire Canyon to the top of Baldy, the crew shared the load of the little toaster.

The toaster started as a joke on the crew’s train ride to New Mexico. Scouts Logan Vogler and Henry Taylor came up with the idea to start selling toast to other passengers.

“We made six dollars,” Vogler said. “We ate three loaves of bread, though.”

When the train ride ended, however, the crew had become attached to the toaster and decided to make it the first bedazzled toaster to reach the summit of Baldy. Everywhere they went, the toaster went too, accumulating stickers from each staff camp they passed.

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Crater Boys welcome girls

Liz Harper
PhilNews Writer

Editor’s Note: As part of our series Women of Philmont, we will be interviewing groundbreaking female staff members as they return Home for the summer.

Crater Lake staff have earned the nickname of ‘Crater Boys’ for their upbeat campfire and unbeatable enthusiasm.

This year, the Crater Boys are already proving

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Crater Boys welcome girls continued

Liz Harper  
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page 1: themselves worth of their name. Staff members have built an amazing program complete with spar pole climbing and historically accurate acting. They’ve also reached a new milestone: three new female staff members.

“The way we see it, we’re just as much Crater Boys as the Crater Boys of the past have been,” Program Counselor Cassandra Carl said. “Doesn’t matter if we’re girls, we’re still the Crater Men. It’s really dang cool.”

Carl and fellow Program Counselor Wren Stiner were supposed to work at Crater Lake in the summer of 2018. Both were thrilled at the opportunity, and they were even more excited to return this year to put on the program.

“It was fun last year, telling people, ‘I’m at Crater Lake,’ and people got so excited for it,” Stiner said. “And then this year, actually being here, I’m like, ‘Wow. We’re making an impact.’”

Now, along with Program Counselor Mary LaBenne, the three spend their days teaching Scouts to split wood, use crosscut saws and climb up spar poles more than 30 feet tall. The staff at Crater Lake portray characters from 1918, around the time the U.S. entered World War I and sent troops to fight in Europe.

“The importance of [having women here] is the historical significance,” LaBenne explained. “The war left all those open jobs and no one to do the work. The fact is that women did go in and do the jobs.”

For female staff, working at Crater Lake is a dream come true. The entire staff becomes a family during the summer, and together they can face anything that comes their way.

“You start to heavily rely on each other but it’s really nice because you start to build each other up and you get stronger every day,” Carl said.

ABOVE: Mary LeBenne climbs up the spar pole as participants watch at Crater Lake at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico on Sunday, June 30, 2019. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

ABOVE: Wren Stiner looks about thirty feet down at how far she has climbed up the spar pole at Crater Lake. Photographed by Monica Dunn.

ABOVE: Cassandra Carl walks backwards to pull Mary LaBenne’s slack as she climbs up a spar pole at Crater Lake. Photographed by Monica Dunn.
Academy Rangers at Philmont

Chris Langlois
PhilNews Writer & Photographer

Here at Philmont Scout Ranch, the ranger department has long been a staple of the life-changing treks that thousands of Scouts embark on each summer.

Philmont rangers come from all walks of life and every corner of the country. A portion of the ranger department is made up of cadets from the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy and the Military Academy at West Point.

They are responsible for guiding Scouts through Backcountry mountains, streams and meadows while ensuring that they stay safe and enjoy their trek. For many rangers, Philmont’s outdoor program is a natural fit.

"Working with youth, being outside, back-packing was all a big part of my childhood," Naval Academy midshipman Will Ryan said. "I believe that it’s really important sharing passions that you have with a younger more malleable age and instill a love for the outdoors within someone."

Military-affiliated rangers have been coming to Philmont since the late 1950s when a partnership was created between Philmont and the Air Force Academy. The partnership allows cadets to work at Philmont during the summer as part of their leadership training.

“The academies promote programs [like Philmont] to give [their Cadets] an opportunity to have leadership experience outside of the walls of their respective institutions,” Academy ranger coordinator Will Dugger said.

To many, Philmont is synonymous with leadership and cadets have taken notice. According to Dugger, about 250 to 300 cadets compete for a chance to work at Philmont each summer. As the program grows the number of cadets wanting to work at Philmont each summer has increased.

“It’s a competitive program, everyone wants to come out here,” Ryan said.

Philmont offers cadets like Ryan an opportunity to lead youth through the Backcountry of Philmont, leading each crew member to realize their strengths on an amazing trek.

The little toaster

Mark Cordeiro
PhilNews Writer

Continued from page 1: “It was a morale booster, honestly,” Vogler said. “It was one of those things where we said ‘We have to get there because we have to bring the toaster,’ obviously.”

Though 615-BB1 eventually accomplished their goal of summiting Philmont’s highest peak with their mascot in tow, they’re hoping that the toaster’s legacy lives on past their trek. They plan to send the toaster back to their ranger in hopes that he’ll pass it on to another worthy crew.

“Hopefully, it’ll end up in the Scouting Museum,” Taylor said.

It may seem a bit silly to outsiders looking in, but that little toaster was a rock to crew 615-BB1. They cared for it, protected it, and only dropped it a few times before accomplishing their goal.

Preventing nosebleeds

Debra Diepenbrock
Infirmary Staff

Unfortunately, due to the altitude and dry air, nosebleeds are common at Philmont. The infirmary gets multiple calls about nosebleeds each year. Fortunately, most nosebleeds are not serious and can be easily treated on the trail. The best thing, however, is to avoid nose bleeds altogether.

Some tips for preventing nosebleeds include not picking your nose, blowing your nose as little as possible and doing it gently when necessary. Adding a thin layer of Vaseline on the inside of the nostrils can help to moisturize them. You may also use a nasal saline spray if you are prone to nosebleeds.

If a nosebleed occurs, you can usually stop it yourself without calling the infirmary. To manage a nosebleed,

- Sit up and lean forward slightly.
- Pinch the nose firmly underneath the bridge of the nose, holding the soft parts of the nose together firmly. Many people don’t pinch firmly enough, so make sure to squeeze tightly.
- Breathe through your mouth.
- Maintain this pressure for at least 10 to 15 minutes, using your watch to time it. If the bleeding has not stopped, insert a piece of gauze into the nostril, leaving a part hanging out for easy removal when done using it. Repeat the first four steps.
- Gently remove the gauze, taking care to do it slowly so the nose doesn’t start bleeding again.
- You may use an ice pack wrapped in a towel (or other cloth) if one is available, and place it on the bridge of the nose.

Do not take aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), or naproxen (Aleve) for a couple of days since they may cause more bleeding. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is okay.

You should call the infirmary if:

- The nosebleed interferes with breathing
- It does not stop after 30 minutes of appropriate treatment.
- The patient has a bleeding disorder or is on an anticoagulant, including aspirin
- The patient is bleeding profusely (remember, it often looks worse than it is)
- The patient has swallowed a large amount of blood, causing them to vomit.
- The nosebleed started after a serious injury, including a fall or a blow to the face.
- The patient is dizzy, short of breath, having palpitations, or appears pale
CASA DEL GAVILAN HISTORIC INN

Nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, overlooking Philmont Base Camp, Casa del Gavilan offers the very finest in hospitality, magnificent views of Philmont and the high plains to the east, and an uncommon sense of peace and tranquility. All guest rooms have private baths. High speed wifi.

National Register of Historic Places New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties

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Interested in remaining in the Cimarron area for a few weeks after the completion of your Philmont contract? The Casa del Gavilan is accepting applications for an assistant innkeeper/housekeeper from mid August through mid to late September. Applicants must have excellent cooking and hospitality skills, be outgoing, detail-oriented, and self-motivated. Salary with housing provided. For more information please email info@casadelgavilan.com.

Activities Calendar

July 5
Jam Session @SSSAC, 8 p.m.

July 8
Salsa Night @Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.

July 9
Ice Cream @Steve Nelson’s, 8 p.m.

July 10
Brat Day, Movie @Baldy Pavilion, 8 p.m.

July 11
Tye Dye Day @Baldy Pavilion, 2 - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Live music in July

Monica Dunn
PhilNews Writer & Photographer

The Fourth of July is only a taste of the live music around Cimarron this month! You can find musicians jamming out multiple nights a week.

St. James Hotel

- Located at 617 S. Collison Ave., St. James’ Summer Music Series runs from 7-10 p.m. Musicians perform outside in the outdoor patio area.
- Gary West Band is performing on both July 5 and 6.
- The next weekend, Melissa & Matthew DeOrizo is performing on Friday, July 12th and Dale & Gale Eisenhauer on Saturday, July 13.
- Then, Skip Batchelor is performing on Friday the 19th and Jim Garling on the 20th.
- Gary Gorence will perform Friday, July 26 and Bill Hottell & wife will perform on Sunday, July 28.

Colfax Tavern & Diner at Cold Beer, NM

- Cold Beer is located at 32230 US-64 in Maxwell, NM. Musicians typically perform on an outdoor stage.
- Oliver White Band performing at the Run-2Raton Kickoff Triple T Party starting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 18.

Explore the Aztec Mill
in Old Town Cimarron, NM
artifacts and history in a most unique museum

June-August Hours
Monday-Saturday
10-12 and 1-4
Staffed by Volunteers

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

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Chaplain’s Corner: The inconvenience of meaning

Rabbi Geoff Solomon
Jewish Chaplain

A young man left his village determined to find his way in life. After traveling many miles he came to the fork in the road where he found the sage of a neighboring village.

“Tell me, old man, which path leads to success?”

Without saying a word, the sage pointed to one of the paths.

The young man took the hint and eagerly headed down the road. Very soon thereafter, he returned bruised and weary.

“Perhaps I misunderstood you,” said the young man, “I am seeking success.”

The sage nodded his head and again pointed to the same path as before.

Once again, the young man set off on his journey only to return, this time even more battered than before.

“I asked the way to success, you old fool! But the path is full of steep hills and jagged rocks that are impossible to climb. Look, I’m all bruised up and scarred. You don’t know the path to success.”

But the wise old man just sat there and continued to nod his head and point toward the same road.

“Success is that way,” he said. “It’s just beyond the hills, and the bruises and the pain.”

Folks want convenience. They strive for convenience and purchase convenience at any price. We have more disposable time than any culture in the history of humanity.

People find themselves with more time and nothing worthwhile to do.

They have “convenienced” themselves out of meaning.

A meaningful life is not easy, nor convenient.

Nothing is convenient about Philmont. We would not have come to Philmont, as a Scout, Advisor, or staff, if we wanted convenient.

Here, we achieve the farthest destination, become the most comfortable in our own skin, and learn we are without limits.

We learn perseverance; aye, we learn stubbornness. We learn the task is not done until it is indeed well done, the journey not finished until the destination reached. With all its bruises, scrapes, blisters and inconveniences.

We learn courage, courage to continue when the obstacle is all but insurmountable.

What role has courage in a world where convenience is king?

C.S. Lewis wrote: “Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.”

Every moment at Philmont is an opportunity to show courage.

To take those steps, commit to those actions that lead to physical, mental, and yes, spiritual growth.

Those who acknowledge what it means to be a Scout at Philmont, embrace the Philmont’s physical and spiritual challenges, accept the ramifications of a Creator who is part of the lives of His creatures, must have the courage to live out the conclusions of such a realization.

“The ultimate atheism is not to deny God’s existence but to deny God’s power to help us grow and improve. And the ultimate blasphemy against God’s world is to utter the words ‘That’s the way I am, and there’s nothing I can do about it.’” (Rabbi Harold Kushner)

Courage is to re-examine old behaviors, continually re-aligning to the better path. It is to daily evaluate one’s beliefs in the light of G-d’s revelations.

To press on, to commit to growth, even when stumbling before man or G-d.

Growth comes of stumbling and rising again, within a life of meaning.

Philmont is one of those rare places where one is continually given the choice between challenge fraught with risk, and therefore rich in reward, and complacency, granting little.

Choose therefore, and in so doing define the ultimate meaning in one’s life.

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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

Jenny Washburne
Associate Chief Ranger

Although it’s a pain to get to, Backache Springs is well worth the trek.

Perched on the south side of Urraca Mesa, the trail camp offers spectacular views of both the plains to the southeast and UU Bar land directly south of Philmont’s border. The campsites are spread out along the edge of the meadow with a bear box in the center. With only four campsites, Backache never feels very crowded.

Sunrise and sunset are the best times for enjoying Backache Springs. The meadow, canyon and plains out to the east are illuminated by beautiful soft light. On a clear night, the meadow is a great place to stargaze. Despite the camp’s proximity to base, most light pollution is blocked by Urraca’s cliffs to the north.

One of Backache’s most notable features, perhaps, is the Pilot to Bombardier latrine situated near campsite #1. By some conservation team magic, the structure offers a view of the valley that rivals the P-to-B on Tooth Ridge, while also somehow staying not entirely visible from the rest of the meadow.

The view is gorgeous at all times of the day, but be aware that shade is minimal once the sun comes up and it doesn’t reappear until after 5 p.m. It’s a hot hike up to Backache in the middle of the day. Even without the hot sun, the hike up from either of the service roads by Zastrow Trailhead can be challenging.

The quickest route is to park at the trailhead and walk east until you see the old emergency road branching off to the north (and pretty much straight up the mesa). Another option is to hike directly north from the trailhead, then take the trail east to drop into camp from that angle. Whichever road you take will be quite steep, so take your time, enjoy the views, and bring plenty of water. If you do need to fill up once you’ve arrived, there is a spring up the hill from camp that is easy to find (bring Micropur!).

Like most trail camps with unpleasant names, Backache often gets overlooked as a destination. But for stargazing, meadow-sitting, mountain solitude and a great leg workout give Backache Springs a try.
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.