PTC 2020 Entices Scouters of Many Interests

Philmont Training Center’s 2020 schedule offers Scouts and their families an abundance of opportunities for fun and education. The BSA Family Adventure Camp keeps growing, and this summer it will be offered every week of the season and into the fall. Popular conferences, like Scout Advancement, continue to be offered. New ones on timely topics provide valuable tools and techniques for today’s challenges.

Here are descriptions of just some of the conferences being offered.

On June 7-13, PTC kicks off with Commissioners Week, providing an opportunity to meet and interact with BSA’s National Commissioner Ellie Morrison and members of the national service team while networking with commissioners throughout the country. The week also includes a new opportunity, the Philmont Backcountry Sneak Peak, which is designed to teach future adult advisors and crew the ins and outs of High Adventure planning, preparation, and practices for Philmont. It will also include an opportunity for participants to experience the backcountry first hand.

During June 14-20, there is a conference for LDS families on locating a new chartered organization, starting a new unit, and other skills necessary to set up a conference. One of the six National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) courses starts this week as well.

The challenge of keeping youth engaged in Scouting takes center stage during July 12-18 which is sponsored by the Central Region. Conferences on “Delivering The Promise To Older Youth”, “Making Scouting Incredibly Fun” and “Older Youth Program Breakouts” provide Scout Leaders what they need to know to retain youth in the program.

The BSA Family Adventure Camp provides opportunities for everyone to experience Philmont at its best. Philmont Photo.

More experienced Ambassadors at PHILMONT Backcountry Sneak Peaks fill the remainder of the slot.

The fall sessions, from September 20-26 allow Scouts to learn in the backcountry with sessions on angling, climbing, COPE, conservation, shooting, outdoor skills and wilderness first aid. National Camping School and Outdoor Program professionals’ conferences are offered as well.

Ambassadors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the full PTC schedule on-line (https://www.philmontcountranch.org/ptc-2020-conferences). It’s a great way to “Be Prepared” to encourage Scouts of all ages and experience to get to “God’s Country” at Philmont during this coming summer.

Make Your Plans Now To Attend Ambassador Seminar

You have ever gone on a vacation using a friend’s outdated guidebook and map? You soon discover that attractions have changed, roads have been rerouted and that great restaurant they raved about has turned into a fast-food joint. This is why Ambassadors need to get back to Philmont. We must be reliable sources of information for our Council’s members.

The Ambassador Seminars, scheduled for July 5 to 11, 2020, provide a great opportunity to update and refresh your Philmont knowledge. To attend an Ambassador 1 Seminar you must be an approved Ambassador. To attend an Ambassador 2 Seminar you must be an approved Ambassador and have attended an Ambassador 1 Seminar.

As a newer Ambassador, you will learn about the history of Philmont and the surrounding area which will prepare you for visits to Philmont museums, a backcountry tour and a behind-the-scenes view of Camping Headquarters.

Ambassador seminar attendees receive a customized patch.

You will explore techniques to market Philmont in your council, ways to engage Scouts, and methods to meet key leaders and executives. You’ll learn from experienced Scouters about the best ways to reach your audience of prospective Trekkers and FTC attendees.

You’ll also gain valuable insights into the workings of both the camping and training sides of the ranch. This is especially helpful if you have only been on a Trek or have only been to Philmont Training Center (PTC).

More experienced Ambassador seminars at the second-level seminar will get a first-hand view of a Trek Crew experience as well as insights on Family Adventures and PTC operations. They’ll also learn more about how the whole ranch operates from hearing from staff and seeing operations in action. Visits to the backcountry will further instill an appreciation of the beauty and history of the Ranch.

All Ambassadors will benefit from learning new techniques for presentations and displays.

And no matter how many Treks or PTC conferences you’ve attended, you’ll find that Philmont not only constantly updates routes and classes, but it also adapts its offerings to keep current with the Scouting program. The Ambassador II seminar will provide details on these and many more changes.

Make your plans now to get back to PTC! P8
Philmont Training Center Director Nick Hutchinson presented infor-
mation on the latest and greatest happenings before the webinar in early December. These webinars give Ambassadors an op-
portunity to learn about changes at Philmont first-hand as well as to ask questions directly.

Before the webinar got going, though, Nick introduced the new Philmont Training Center webpage that Dom-
nic Bairns developed. The new page is more dynamic and is available as an app for your portable electronic devices.

Nick introduced the new Sneak Peaks (pun intended) program designed to train Adult Advisors and Crew mem-
ers on the skills needed for a suc-
cessful Trek. By doing progressively difficult challenges over the nights in the backcountry, participants will learn tips to bring to their units on how to prepare for a Philmont Adventure.

Philmont saw a need for such a pro-
gram based on the number of crews arriving who did not have all the train-
ing necessary to undertake the rigors of the Philmont experience. Although it would be ideal if all mem-
bers of a crew could take a Sneak Peak, not every crew has enough adults and youth leaders who can then train their units back home will be able to.

Philmont is now partnering with the National Ability Center in Utah to design a fantastic Scouting Experi-
ence for special needs Scouts called “The Zia Experience.” It will feature programming on an individual basis to ensure that everyone can participate in activities that are challenging and fun for them. Adaptive COPE, climbing, mountain biking ability courses. Scouts are just a few of the adventures that will be available. Flyers on the Zia Experience will be available on-line in early 2020.

The Zia Experience is different from the conference titled “Adaptive Spe-
cial Needs Conference”. This confer-
ence teaches best practices in out-
der programs and camping to Scout leaders for integrating special needs scouts with units in their home coun-
try. Ambassadors are reminded that pro-
motional materials are available on the Philmont website by going to “Reminders and Resources”.

When you are ordering materials, Nick requested that you get enough for all the promotions you’ll be doing in the near future. Bundling your order saves Philmont a lot on postage costs.

Family Camp at PTC has been folded into the BSA Family Adventure Camp program. Scouters attending PTC will still be able to bring their children to Philmont, and PTC will still provide counselors for them. Traditional activities such as the annual Trek 1, 4, 11, 15 Rendezvous, Trailblazers, etc., will be combined with Family Adventure Camp partici-
 pants doing the same activities.

The BSA Family Adventure Camp is taking off as a program at several locations near Philmont and council camps. Because of the need to have a consistent program across all locations, registration was delayed but is now accepting applica-
tions.

Nick congratulated Ambassadors for doing a great job of promoting PTC and providing general information on high adventure programs at Philmont. Your service is important toward get-
ning as many Scouts and Scouters to enjoy Philmont as possible.

When it comes to giving specific infor-
mation about Trek preparation, though, Ambassadors are asked to refer questions from Scouters to the Philmont Trek Prep staff at 575-376-2281. Trail conditions and recommendations changing quickly in the backcountry, and Philmont wants to make sure that Scouts have the latest and best infor-
mation as that can make the difference in having the most up-to-date material to ensure that every camper enjoys a Philmont experi-
ence for all participants.

The full webinar program is available at www.philmontscoutranch.org/
resources/promotions/ambassador-areas/webinars.

2019 Treks Broke Records

By Mark Cordeiro, PhilNews Writer

Summer 2019 was a record-breaking year for Philmont in terms of num-
bers. In order to show just how massive the Summer 2019 season has been, several departments around Base Camp have shared their numbers. With

discovery, Sun Butter and strips of the

tops. The most popular snack with riders was 12,335 Participants.

In Base Camp, the number of meals

during the season. By the end of the

season, food service staff at Philmont estimated that they served around 330,000 meals. Using those num-
bers, they can calculate that they’ve served more than 100,000 burritos and 720,000 sausage links.

As far as the Philmont staff goes, all

50 states and many U.S. territories were represented during the summer. Texas had the most Philmont Staffers with 173 of the 1,000 that were here plus 200 additional staff who had over 100 Staffers. Colorado with 101. New Mexico came close with 91. Wyoming had the inclusion of 29 international staffers throughout the season.

These approximations show just how massive this season has been. Be-
hind each of these numbers was a person, whether they were preparing meal bags, hauling the trails, or cook-
ing Chuckwagon dinners. Each of these people, from participants to Staff, helped make summer 2019 Philmont’s best season yet.

Rocky Mountain Trappers Showed Settlers the Way

Jim Bridger as one of the foremost frontiersmen of the Old West.

In the late 1830s, the Canadian-based Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) insti-
tuted a policy to destroy the American fur trade. The HBC’s annual Snake River Expedition was transformed to a trading enterprise. The HBC was able to offer manufactured trade goods at prices far below that with which Amer-
ic fur companies could compete. Combined with a decline in demand and supply of beaver, by 1840 the HBC had effectively destroyed the American system. The last rendez-
vous was held in 1840. A second fur trading and supply cen-
tral to the north. At over 10,000 feet,

Clear Creek lies on a bench at the head of Rayado Creek canyon near the Philmont border. The main cabin looks out across a meadow with a tomahawk throwing area. The 50-
caliber black powder rifle is up the hill to the west. Campsites are pleasant and scattered up the valley to the north. At over 10,000 feet, nights can get quite chilly there.

Activities

Rocky Mountain Fur Company, cabin town. Black powder rifle shooting. Tomahawk throwing. Evening fur trap-
ing stories.

Water

Clear Creek has some of the best tasting water at Philmont.

Nearby Camps

There are no other staffed camps

within a mile of Clear Creek.

The north trail goes to Mt Phillips - this is the highest peak of Mt Phillips. To the southeast, an excellent trail follows Rayado Creek to Comanche Creek and on to Upper and Lower Green River. The southern trail goes past Garcia Peak to Wild Horse and on to Crooked River.
You Don’t Need Nearby Mountains To Prep For A Trek

By Tom Baltutis, Editor

One giant misconception about prepping for a Philmont Trek is that you have mountains nearby to get ready. One of the instructors, Mark Abramson, has about 20 years of fire experience and serves in his own council as an instructor. He’s currently teaching training at Philmont along with fellow shooting instructor Ken Craft, who has worked with firearms for more than 35 years. That shared half-century of experience was put to good use during training.

Building on this fitness baseline with climbing, gymnastics, dancing, biking, and even yoga,_staffers should include bone-strengthening exercises at least 3 days a week. Most programs they offer.

Friday evening, we drove to the park. Instead of parking near the camping area, we parked at the picnic grounds in another section of the park. We headed on our fully-loaded packs and hiked a circular route to our site. There we set up our tents and flew our 2019 OA Fall Fellowship. Round Tables and even a few Pack Blue and Gold Dinners,” says Stephen. “As our District’s Cub Day Camp Director, I do a presentation on Philmont and the other BSA High Adventure bases trying to show them what they have to look forward to as Scouts. My busiest promotion is at our yearly OA Fall Fellowship since that is where most of the Scouts are of Philmont age.”

Stephen finds that he is most effective when he shares his own experiences and provides pictures or YouTube videos of units at Philmont. While using a small Philmont map on a rainy day, he got the idea to create an extra large water-proofed Philmont wall map. Stephen got to work with the Philmont Conservation/GIS department to get the correct file from their GIS application to create it. "When we did this, we thought the map would last us for a few years, but the year after our initial release of the map the map came the Philmont fires of 2018," recalls Stephen. "That drastically changed the Philmont landscape so we had to go back to the drawing board and create a new map. At the same time, Philmont was working to get access to other ranches bordering its property, so we had to adjust the size and dimensions on the map to cover the larger area. We also wanted to organize our pack lists and trails that would be used during the summer of 2019.

Stephen has found that having the extra large Philmont map shows the expansion of Philmont and the other lands around Philmont that the Scouts get access to while they’re on a trek. The revised large map is available to Ambassadors by using the link on Page 4 of this issue. Membership is $50 plus $12 for shipping. See Box on Page 4 to order one.

"Any chance I get I promote Philmont, and I do get interest from Scouts wanting to attend. Since most are indoors, Scouts get tremendous insight and training programs at Philmont. At Cub events I put a larger emphasis on LTC and the new Family Adventure program. I have gotten enough interest from families that we might even look into going as a group trip this summer for one of the BSA Family Adventure Camps.”

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Banners Add Colorful Punch to Philmont Displays

Adding banners to your display is a great way to make it stand out in a crowd. New banners are available that provide a colorful, eye-catching punch to your Philmont display, making it stand out from all the other table-top posters you get or use the same one for different banners.

Each of the banners are 32 inches wide by 72 inches tall. If we can place an order for 10 or more banners of each design, the price will be $40. Each X-Stand is $64.

In addition to the banners, Ambassadors can also order a custom Philmont feather flag emblazoned with the Arrowhead, PTC and Philmont bull logos. It comes with a pole that provides sturdy support for outdoor displays. The bright yellow background color will be sure to attract attention at campsorees, OA conclaves, and fishing derbies.

The feather flag measures about 24 by 80 inches. The cost is $135 which includes a pole and stake for it. For $150, you can get the feather flag with the pole and a cross-shaped base that can be used on floors. You can also order the large Philmont maps. Cost of the maps is $50.

Use the link below to order these items. Shipping costs are $12, or they can be picked up at the Ambassador Seminar at PTC this summer.

After completion of the first two tracks, you mail the appropriate forms to Philmont Training Center which will send you your knot.

By completing the Third Track, you can earn a device to be worn with the knot. Part 1 of the track requires you to serve as faculty at a PTC course or attend a third PTC conference and recruit three more PTC attendees.

Part 2 of the third track first requires you to coordinate at least one training event approved by the Council, Area, Regional Cluster. Part 2 also requires you to complete one of three other requirements:

• Coordinate and staff a promotional booth for PTC at a Council event.
• Coordinate a Philmont Family Meeting to share information on PTC and encourage family participation, or
• Teach a training course in a foreign country – coordinated and approved by the BSA International Division.

Earning the Training Master’s Track knot is a great way of showing your dedication and enthusiasm toward Philmont. It also gives you the opportunity to explain to a fellow Scout about Philmont when they notice the brightly distinctive knot on your uniform and ask, “How’d you earn that one?” The application form is at

As with any Scouter Knot, what you earn the award is what counts the most. P8

Philmont Ambassador Newsletter
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