

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

Summer 2020

COVID-19 Precautions Close Philmont for Summer

Statement from Philmont Scout Ranch, June 4, 2020. - It is with great disappointment that Philmont Scout Ranch announces the cancellation of all remaining programs for the 2020 summer season. Due to the [New Mexico's] Governor's COVID-19 guidelines, and the State of New Mexico Health Department's restrictions regarding travel, our efforts to secure a portion of the summer season were denied.

The safety of our participants, staff and community has been and will remain our top priority.

The Philmont staff has been relentless in pursuing all options and will continue as Crews navigate reservation options.

Key Points:

- The Reservation Contact and Lead Advisor for each crew should complete the survey sent to them after consulting with their crew
- Philmont will waive the adult to youth ratio (if YPT guidelines are met) to accommodate Scouts who will "age out" by the time they are rescheduled through 2022.

- Philmont Training Center, Family Adventure Camp Participants, and NAYLE participants should have already received a call to discuss rescheduling options or refunds.
- Staff have received communication from the Seasonal Personnel office.

By completing the survey, the Philmont registrars will receive and prioritize your preferences. Priority in response will be given to crews who wish to transfer to another High Adventure Base for Summer 2020. If transferring is your first

preference, please respond immediately to the survey.

We anticipate the rescheduling of Philmont reservations to either 2021 (limited availability) or 2022 to last through June. Refunds will be issued within 10-12 weeks.

Philmont will continue to pursue more programming opportunities as the New Mexico State Health Department guidelines allow. We look forward to seeing you on the trail in the coming Autumn, Winter,

or a future Summer season. Check the Philmont website for late summer/early fall program opportunities.

Philmont Scout Ranch is committed to Delivering Wilderness Adventures that Last a Lifetime. **P2**

**Summer 2021
Ambassador
Seminars are
June 20 to 26.**

Promote Philmont Remotely Using On-Line Resources

Perseverance, determination, inventiveness, and teamwork are just a few of the lessons that a Philmont Trek teaches participants. Resourcefulness, imagination, leadership and cooperation are lessons that Philmont Training Center attendees pick up from their conferences. Ambassadors need to call upon all these skills to invent new ways to reach out to prospective Philmont attendees when in-person presentations are not possible.

Fortunately, people are now more familiar with on-line conferencing

using applications like Webex and Zoom as remote meeting have become the norm in workplaces and institutions. Many Councils and Districts are using electronic media to hold Roundtables that can be attended by Scouters at home. Although there is a loss of the personal touch that comes with meeting face-to-face, the on-line meetings have the advantage of potentially reaching many more Scouters who may not have attended previously because of schedule or travel limitations.

Now is the time to get on the

Roundtable schedule for the coming year because summer is when Commissioners are putting together their annual program.

Ambassadors may have to learn some new skills such as how to present on-line. Roundtable Commissioners should be able to guide them through some simple steps to show slides or videos in a virtual meeting.

Some meeting platforms like Zoom have free access to set up personal accounts. Using these, Ambassadors can arrange one-on-one or unit presentations through an email invitation. You need to "Be Prepared" by practicing ahead of time through setting up a simulated meeting with a friend or colleague to become familiar with the presenter controls on the screen. Your council may also have staff resources or on-line accounts that Ambassadors can tap into. Contact the media and IT specialists in your Council or District to find out how.

The [Philmont Multimedia page](#) has videos and photos that can be used to liven up presentations. Some scouts and leaders in your area may also have put together a video about their Trek that could be used with their permission. Even better, have one of their Scouts talk about their Trek to prospective Crews.

Use Philmont lessons and imagination to come up with other outreach methods to fill up Philmont for 2021 and 2022. **P2**



Golden trails await Ambassadors on the Autumn Adventure Trek.

Expect Special Surprises on Ambassador-Only Fall Trek

The core of Philmont is High Adventure. Many Ambassadors fell in love with Philmont while on their first Trek as a Scout or Scouter. Other Ambassadors may have only attended Philmont Training Center, yet still have the same emotional bond with the Ranch. Many have looked over their shoulder at the Arrowhead and made the commitment to come back again.

The 2020 Ambassador Autumn Adventure offers you that opportunity to return to Philmont and experience the backcountry again or for the first time ever.

Autumn Adventures are special Treks for those seeking to enjoy the beauty of Philmont during warm sunny days and cool nights while hiking through golden aspens. Only Ambassadors in good standing can attend a special Autumn Adventure from Sunday, September 13 to Saturday, September 19. The cost is only \$450/person.

The crew will be led by a Philmont Guide and will experience a typical arrival routine on Monday, going through medical re-checks, equipment shake-down, logistics, gear

and food outfitting. From Tuesday through Friday, the daily hike will be from 6 to 8 miles stopping at backcountry campsites for the night. Back at Camping HQ on Friday, you can enjoy a museum tour, relax, or plan a group activity.

Crew members must be BSA members and Ambassadors in good standing. They must meet medical requirements and be physically capable of backpacking with gear and food for the 20 plus miles over the course of four days and three nights in the backcountry. They must also have a current Philmont Medical Form (Parts A, B and C) with a doctor's signature within twelve months of the trek end date.

"Be Prepared" to be surprised with special guests, food, and program along the way!

Applications are due by July 15 and include a non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$150. **P2**

**Click here for the
Ambassador
Autumn Adventure
Application.**

Who's Who at Philmont

Keith Nelson - Associate Director of Camping

Duties at Philmont: Responsible for Autumn Adventure. Responsible for Backcountry Programs related to Mountain Biking, Mining/Geology, Search & Rescue, Astronomy, Commissary, Rock Climbing, Challenge Course, Fishing, Waite Phillips.



Years at Philmont: 2.5 full time

Prior positions at Philmont: Range (2006), Conservation (2007), Logistics (2010)

Prior scouting positions: Northern Tier - Full Time - Associate Director of Program; Associate Accountant. Seasonal - HR Specialist, OA Foreman, Winter Guide, Wilderness Interpreter

Most memorable experience at

Philmont: My first Trek in 2000 with many more to follow.

Most Humorous experience: As a Rayado participant when my crew lost our Rangers. **P2**



HOmE* Sick? Visit Philmont Virtually!

You can watch a gurgling stream, hike to Lover's Leap, visit the bison meadow and walk the tracks at Metcalf Station on the new Philmont 360 Videos. Using your computer you can pan, zoom, and get an all-round view of the scenery. Check it out at www.philmontscoutranch.org/multimedia/videos/ (*HOmE = Heaven On Earth)

Recruiting Crews for 2022 Treks

Scout programs will start up again in the fall, one way or another. Summer is when many Troops and Venture Crews start planning their activities for their upcoming year. Now is the best time to plant the idea of a Philmont Adventure so they get it on their calendars.

Although the exact dates of the Philmont Lottery have yet to be announced, it will certainly take place in October and November. There is no advantage to being

HOmE on the Range

Get Up Close and Personal With Philmont's Friendly Creatures

It's not certain how the idea of having a live video conference with a Philmont critter first came up. "When cowfolk and IT people get together, interesting ideas come into play. We wanted to share these awesome creatures with Scouts and adults who may not be able to get out and experience them. The idea may have been a group effort," explains Tanner Lashinsky, Philmont's IT manager.

Then again the idea may also have come from one of the burros who miss interacting with Scouts during the summer. "We do have the friendliest burros in all the land," says Tanner. "They are the most docile and fun friends to hang out with."

The new [HOmE on the Range](#) program is a 10-minute live video group conference with the animal of your choice. It can be used as a great recruiting tool or a meeting suggestion to a Troop or Crew interested in going to Philmont. It might also be a good suggestion for a young Scout's video birthday party or den meeting.

Adding to the backcountry experience, conferences are actually streamed live from a Philmont pasture. Computer links to the foothills of Philmont's backcountry may be

first to register, nor is there a penalty for being the last.

Crews that were scheduled for 2020 will be given preference for openings in 2021 and 2022, but many slots will still be available for new and returning Crews.

The most important thing is for Crews to be flexible in choosing their arrival date. The more dates that they are willing to accept, the more likely it is that they will get a slot. **P2**



Tanner Lashinsky hosts Zoom video meetings right from the corrals with the Ranch's friendly creatures. (Philmont Staff Photo)

a little spotty, so having patience with the connection is a necessity.

"The best conferences are those with inquisitive guests," explains Tanner, "Participants should bring questions about the animal, Philmont, or even the BSA in general to best utilize the session." If you are helping hold a conference, you should have someone co-host so that they can mute/unmute people and watch the chat screen for comments and questions.

"I've made a special friend in the burro group," says Tanner with a smile. "As the host, I've been fortunate to conduct all of the meetings

Focus on the Backcountry

Meet Homesteaders at Crooked Creek

Elevation 9360 feet
Staffed Camp
Spring Water

Crooked Creek is a staffed camp in the southwest part of Philmont. The camp is a re-creation of a post-Civil War homestead.

Crooked Creek is one of two staff camps that are not accessible by roads. (Black Mountain is the other.) Because of this, the staff do not provide trash disposal or a food swap box for crews. Staff members have to pack their food in on burrows and carry water up from a spring that is a few hundred yards down the hill from camp.

Program

The homesteading program generally consists of: historic cabin

tours, candle making, wood splitting with an axe, cross-cut saws, woodworking, horseshoe throwing, relaxing in the meadow or on the

porch, and homesteader bowling.

Nearby Camps
Porcupine, Buck Creek, Cold Creek **P2**



Visiting crews get up close and personal with farm critters at Crooked Creek Camp. (Philmont Photo)

1862 Homestead Act Tamed the Wild West for Settlement

Although the Civil War was still going on in the early 1860s, the United States Congress realized that America's future lay in the vast amount of open lands to the West. Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Homestead Act on May 20, 1862. A similar bill had been

passed in 1860, but was vetoed by President Buchanan.

The concept that land ownership and farming formed the basis of the American lifestyle went back to pre-Revolutionary times. However, there was an ongoing debate whether this was best achieved through independent farmers or wealthy plantation owners. Ultimately, Congress decided that independent farmers would provide the best avenue for settling the country's vast frontier lands.

There were a few precedents for the Homestead Act. The Preemption Act of 1841 permitted "squatters" who were living on federal government land to purchase up to 160 acres before it was put up for sale to the public. However, the squatter had to meet certain conditions such as being the head of the household, being a citizen or an alien intending to be naturalized, and be living on the land for 14 months minimum. The new owner also had to reside on the land for five years and work to improve it. If not, the government could take the property back.

Congress also passed the Land Claim Act of 1850 which gave settlers of the Oregon Territory up to 320 acres for single men or 640 acres for married couples free of charge, providing that they live on and improve the land. This law was the first that allow a woman to own land. The Act provided the land free to settlers until 1854, and after that 160 acre parcels could be purchased for \$1.25/acre. As time went on, the cost per acre went up and the amount in each parcel went down.

The act led to wagon trains of people along the Oregon Trail seeking a better life in the rich Willamette valley.

The 1862 Homestead Act expanded on these laws by enabling settlers to buy up to 160 acres of Federal land by meeting similar provisions of living on and improving it. Because it was passed during the Civil War, a provision prohibited those who fought against the United States from taking advantage of its generosity.

Unfortunately, the act was framed so ambiguously that it seemed to invite fraud. Most of the land went to speculators, cattlemen, miners, lumbermen and railroads. Contrary to popular myth, of the 500 million acres dispersed by General Land Office between 1862 and 1904, only 80 million acres went to individual homesteaders.

Most of those who purchased land under the act came from areas quite close to their new homesteads. Iowans moved to Nebraska, Minnesotans moved to South Dakota, etc. Some did make the longer journey West following the various pioneer trails, including the Santa Fe Trail which passed through Philmont.

In northern New Mexico, homesteading was complicated by the fact that a large chunk of land was not owned by the U.S. Government. It had previously been granted by the Mexican Government to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda and was subsequently owned by the Maxwell Land Grand Company. The U.S. Supreme Court eventually decided in favor of the Maxwell Company in 1887.

Still, the allure of owning your own land and making a go of it in the frontier was a powerful motivation for many adventurous families who headed West to find their future. **P2**

Ambassador Profile

Danielle Ballantine Talks Philmont to Everyone She Meets

Danielle Ballantine has a mantra: “Philmont is for everyone.” She repeats it often, whether at a Cub Scout Pow Wow, Order of the Arrow event, Commissioner’s College, Wood Badge course or University of Scouting.

After her first Philmont Training Center (PTC) experience in 2009, she came home and told everyone that they didn’t have to be a youth to come to Philmont, and she shared with them her incredible experience at PTC.

“I am a Cubmaster, so I especially like to promote PTC and the Family Adventure Camp program. Leaders are so often surprised to hear about the Other Side of the

Road,” explains Danielle.

She discovered that most leaders knew about Treks, but many didn’t know about all the other programs Philmont offers. Through her position on her Council’s Training Team, she soon found ways to spread the word about PTC.

She has developed a good method of approaching Scouters. “When I first talk to a Leader about Philmont, it’s important to find a connection. For those unfamiliar with it, I talk about Treks with Troop and Venturing Leaders and PTC if they are a Pack Leader, Commissioner, or Council Leader. If they are familiar with Philmont, I ask about their experience and try

to update them on what’s going on today. Then I make sure they take materials with them to look at later.”

Danielle is in the National Capital Area Council which is one of the larger ones in the country. It has 21 districts spanning two states along with the U.S. Virgin Islands and serves over 30,000 Scouts. Together with Danielle’s good friend Julia Mae-Shen and the Council’s VP of Operations Arden Dougan, the three make a good team coordinating their efforts and promoting Philmont at larger events.

Julia herself is a great Ambassador having taught numerous times at Philmont. She is a 2020 Silver Buffalo recipient (and this year’s only woman so recognized). She also currently serves in National and Northeast Region Wood Badge coordinator roles.

Even with such great help, because of the size of the Council and the fact that all three Ambassadors are so involved in several scout roles, getting to all the districts is a challenge for them.

The 1800 mile distance from Washington, DC to Cimarron is also a challenge to many people in her area. “Being on the east coast, many leaders see the cost associated with getting to Philmont with their scouts or family as prohibitive. My experience helps them understand the profound impact it has on anyone who’s been there and recognize its worth. I try to compare it to the cost of going on a vacation to Disneyworld or another country. Then I describe all the incredible ways that a Philmont experience is so much better.”



Danielle Ballantine (Right) and Julia Mae-Shen (Left) always have the right handouts for prospective Philmont attendees. (Photo by Danielle Ballantine)

She has an answer for just about everything. “I am never caught off guard when someone says that it would be too expensive or that it would be too far to travel. I’m prepared instead to offer options for ways they can get there. When a leader says that their troop could never get the money together, I talk about long-term planning.”

“When I give a presentation,” muses Danielle, “it brings back all the wonderful memories and makes me want to return for yet another wonderful experience. When I meet another leader who attended as a youth or maybe served on staff, it’s so fun to hear about their experience and then talk about ways that they can return with their own family or how they should plan to take a crew on a trek.”

Danielle is looking forward to the time when she can attend the Ambassador seminar. However, she does return to Philmont frequently. “Unfortunately, for the past few years I have been serving on faculty the same week that the Am-

bassador seminar takes place. Julia Lesko and I had hoped to go this year, but the pandemic thwarted those plans!”

In the meantime, Danielle has a reputation for being able to talk about Philmont wherever and whenever she goes.

“My family traveled to Ireland in May 2019. As we were standing in line in the airport to check our bags, I had my favorite Philmont water bottle. The young woman ahead of me said, ‘Is that a Philmont logo?’ Then she explained that she had once worked at PTC.

“She shared about her experience, and I talked about mine at PTC and my position now as an Ambassador. I caught her up on the recent news, especially the fire of 2018. As we went our separate ways, my daughter said to my husband, ‘Leave it to Mom to find someone in a major airport to talk to about Philmont!’”

PS

Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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Big Philmont Sectional Maps Available Soon

Stephen Duke has been working again with Philmont cartographers to come up with sectional maps of the Ranch. Two versions will cover the North and South Countries. They will include the areas affected by the 2018 fires. Stephen is fine-tuning the maps, and details for ordering them will be made available when the project is completed. (Photo by Stephen Duke) **PS**

Moving On



Dominic Baima and Caroline Miller have left Philmont for new opportunities. Dominic was the Philmont Marketing Manager and is moving to Eastern Illinois University as Social Media Coordinator. Caroline was the Philmont Training Center Program Assistant and will be working at Dinosaur Valley State Park in Texas. We wish them well!



Weagraff, Cohen, Yelk Earn First Level 2 Recognitions

Congratulations to **Robert Weagraff, Mitch Cohen, and Paul Yelk** who are the first Ambassadors to achieve the Level 2 Ambassador Recognition. The award requires serving as an Ambassador for two years, performing 12 presentations at Scout events, achieving the Masters Track Knot, and attending or being on faculty at an Ambassador I conference.

All Ambassadors are encouraged to be recognized for their work. The application for can be found under Important Links at <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/resources/promotephilmont/ambassador-resources/> **P2**



Re-living life the in old west on a six-day Cavalcade was a popular activity when programs were first being developed to appeal to adventuresome Scouts. (Philmont archive photo.)

Crews Chose Own Routes, Programs on Early Adventures

In the early years, after Waite and Genevieve's 1938 and 1941 gifts, Philmont haltingly began with a smattering of programs and at times none at all. When the Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp hosted its first visitors in 1939, the groups of senior Scouts (minimum age was 15 years) were allowed to make their own itineraries. They could backpack during their entire trip, mix in horse and burro packing activities, and even take side day-trips to regional attractions, such as the Taos Pueblo or the Capulin Volcano.



Early crews left their mark at Philmont like these carved benches and totems at Cimarroncito Camp. (Photo by Tom Baltutis.)

techniques) and the Ranch Pioneering Trek (thirty days, much like the Service Corps).

Philmont, with its unique outdoor programs, was a hit. By the mid-1950's summer attendance had grown from the mere hundreds of the first few years to about 8,000. That volume of Scouts started to create logistical difficulties with the existing lineup of schedules. Jack Rhea, who took over as Camping Director in 1954, made a big change in 1956. He standardized all prior programs in the trek system still used today – the twelve-day High Adventure Expedition that allows crews to pick the terrain they cross and the activities found at chosen camps. That summer, Philmont attendance topped 10,000 for the first time.

Other early "schedules" instituted under Camping Director George Bullock included the Wagon Train program (much the same as Senior Training, but a full twenty-three days), the Service Corps (two weeks of trail building and conservation projects), the Cavalcade (six days on horseback), the Kit Carson Trek (all backpacking, and climbing of Philmont's highest five peaks), the Junior Leader Training Troop (a month learning teaching

The following year, Rhea and legendary campcraft instructor Doc Loomis started another now-standard Philmont practice - sending a staff member "ranger" out with a crew for the trek's first six days to offer advice and ensure the Scouts were equipped to negotiate the terrain on the own for the final six days. The time a ranger spend on the trail was whittled down to four days in 1960, then to two in 1962; today it is three, with two on the trail.

The early twelve-day treks served Philmont and its visiting Scouts well, but the system was not perfect. Bottlenecks would develop at certain camps as crews would choose their own itineraries and because Philmont's growing popularity increased trail traffic. Into the 1960s, 400 campers could be found on Cimarroncito on a given night. Beaubien, with the 1965 flood having washed away many campsites at Fish Camp, would see a crowed of 300. Additionally, crew-planned itineraries often resulted in logistical headaches, including poorly-thought-out food drops, bad sequences of camps with no water or no facilities, and ill-timed bus transportation.

In 1968, a record 18,648 Scouts flocked to Philmont, tipping the scales. The next summer Philmont implemented pre-planned itineraries, where the Scout Ranch dictated routes from which visiting crews could choose. The added organization and traffic control have allowed Philmont to host an average of 17,275 trekkers since the change was adopted. Attendance has been more than 20,000 each summer since 2002, including a record 23,325 in 2012. [Editor's note. In 2019, a record 24,000 hiked the backcountry.]

Excerpt from **A Million Miracles** by David Mullings, (c) Philmont Scout Ranch, 2014, which is available at [Tooth of Time Trad-ers](#).



If was built at Philmont - be it a cabin or trail - chances are youth have lent a helping hand. (Philmont Museum archive photo.)

The Ski Pack or Norwegian-style pack is made for rough hiking and climbing. Rides perfectly on the back.

The Green Bar Bill Pack you can make yourself. Drop a line to Green Bar Bill BOYS' LIFE for pattern.

The Pack Basket was an invention of Northwoods Indians. It is made from ash strips peeled off a green log.

The Yucca Pack is a popular overnight pack. Place blankets inside or put on outside, horseshoe-style.

The Pack Frame originated in the packboards of early trappers. It has become very popular in the West.

Study the diagram carefully and follow its packing suggestions. Pack should be the "bag of many bags."

“We must change boys from a ‘what can I get’ to a ‘what can I give’ attitude.”

Robert Baden-Powell

Philmont Crews could get advice from the first Scout Field Book written in 1948 by James West and William Hillcourt which illustrated backpacking equipment and techniques.