



SCOUTING TIMES

A Newsletter of BSA Memories

Volume 1, Issue 1 | August 2020

National Scouting Museum | COVID-19 Update

By **HAROLD WHITE**

For the National Scouting Museum

Philmont is eerily quiet this summer. What should have been a second consecutive season with more than 20,000 summer visitors to the National Scouting Museum is now right at 100 visitors and only the gift shop is open at this time. On March 13, 2020 the

decision to close Philmont to the public was announced and the NSM staff began working from home. Since then, the staff has supported over 450 requests related to the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge and joined the rest of the world in learning how to use Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Facebook groups for Merit Badge Counselors and Scouting Volunteers became a place for us to tell people how the National Scouting

Museum could help them during the quarantine. The staff participated in several virtual Merit Badge sessions, talking about the National Scouting Museum's purpose and sharing stories about the founders of Scouting. NSM even produced a 20 minute video on the Scouting Founders, investigates hand written notes of Ernest Thompson Seton and Dan Beard in the first edition of the Boy Scout handbook, and tells the story of a tee pee door covering that Seton used during the first official campout of the Boy Scouts of America. If you are interested in sharing this video in your district or council, please contact us at 575-376-1136 or send an email to Philmont.museums@scouting.org.

The time has also been used to do additional work on the NSM and Philmont Museums collections. Daisy Allen, the NSM Collections Curator, is busy continuing to update the collections inventory and make sure we are properly accounting for the more than 600,000 artifacts at the National Scouting Museum.

Currently the staff is working on a variety of digital assets to help tell the story of the BSA and share the artifacts of the NSM with Scouts and Scouters around the world. While these resources will not replace a personal visit to the NSM, they certainly will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the rich history of the BSA and our positive contributions to society.



National Scouting Museum and Philmont staff members on set preparing a documentary on the history of Scouting. Note, this was filmed before COVID-19 and the Philmont wide use of facemasks.

ARTIFACT OF THE WEEK & FACEBOOK FRIDAYS AT THE NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM



With more than 600,000 artifacts in the NSM collection, the NSM archivists dig deep in the vault to showcase unique and historic items every Friday on the NSM Facebook page. In June 2020 a 1950 U.S. postage stamp attracted particular attention. Issued on June 30, 1950 in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, at the opening day of the National Jamboree, the stamp commemorates the 40th anniversary of the BSA and features a Cub Scout, Boy Scout and an Explorer with the Statue of Liberty in the background. Check out the weekly Artifact of the Week, each Friday, on the NSM Facebook Page. (Compiled by Harold White)

FOLLOW THE NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/nationalscoutingmuseumbsa>

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

A quiet museum, especially one at a Scout camp, puts me a bit on edge. As we enter this era of virtual outreach, voiceless fact checking, video meetings and online "research entertainment" I believe that this National Scouting Museum Newsletter could not kickoff at a better time! WHY? Because even though the galleries are silent, there is a furor of activity going on in the 'back of the house,' online and across the country.

As we dedicate more time and energy to preserving and making accessible our Scouting heritage to ALL Scouts, this newsletter will help keep us connected, motivated and moving in the same direction in a timely fashion. To make this newsletter truly work we will need your input and feedback, so please reach out and share unique stories and ideas with us at: philmont.museums@scouting.org

Hope to hear from you soon!

DAVID WERHANE, Director
National Scouting Museum



Bricks purchased will be placed surrounding the "Wonder of Discovery" monument at the entrance of the National Scouting Museum.

Buy a brick to support the National Scouting Museum

The National Scouting Museum provides an unprecedented opportunity to tell the history of The Boy Scouts of America, Philmont Scout Ranch, and the American Southwest. Help the museum grow and connect in new and innovative ways with Scouts, Scouters, and history buffs.

A contribution of \$300 will purchase a customized brick for inclusion in the new courtyard at the National Scouting Museum. Each brick sold will generate funds to grow the museum endowment, fund permanent and seasonal positions, create and support on-going college internship opportunities, develop and expand exhibits, and increase museum outreach. Purchase a brick by visiting www.philmontscout ranch.org/museums/bricks/.

Scouting Memories Project: connecting the past and present

A dedicated team of National Scouting Museum volunteers are busy preparing for the launch of a new national initiative called the Scouting Memories Project.

This project aims to tell the stories of over 100 million individuals whose lives have been impacted by the Scouting program. The project will bring Scouting history to new audiences and generations by curating and preserving Scout council, camp, OA lodge, and museum histories in a digital format.

For more information or to submit your local history please reach out to ScoutingMemories@scouting.org.



Launching the Unit History Collection: a call for submissions

The National Scouting Museum is collecting local unit histories as a way of preserving the very core of the Scouting experience. Regardless if your unit has a lengthy history or is brand new, NSM Archivists are interested in digitized local unit histories to include in the BSA Repository.

If your unit has a history book, a presentation, or a video, please email a copy to Philmont.Museums@scouting.org.

Teaching history through Scouting Heritage

By **ROBERT MASON**

National Scouting Museum Committee

During this time of quarantine and limited in-person activities, Scouts everywhere are using the last few months to engage in Scouting at Home. The National Scouting Museum staff has been hard at work supporting requests from Scouts and Merit Badge Counselors working through the eight (8) requirements of the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge.

If you are looking for a great merit badge to work on at home or to recommend to your unit, consider Scouting Heritage. View the Merit Badge Pamphlet online, at: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges>.

By working through the requirements, Scouts will learn about the founders of the Scouting movement, the origins of the BSA, tools for documenting history, and why it is important to tell the Scouting story in the 21st Century.

Requirement 4 is often considered one of the more difficult requirements to complete, but because of BSA Merit Badge adjustments in response to COVID-19, the

requirement might be a bit more accessible now than ever. If doing option B, participants will need to either email or snail mail the National Scouting Museum to find out more about a specific collection or aspect of the BSA's history. NSM staff will be glad to respond to your inquiry and will even mail you a free patch! Remember that the letter or email is the first step of requirement 4B. The second is to provide a short report [to your Merit Badge counselor or unit] on what you think the role of this museum is in the Scouting program.

Another option is C. Virtual museum participation is now temporarily included in the COVID-19 modification. For ideas on unique museums to visit virtually, check out the recent blog post from Bryan on Scouting: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/07/13/these-8-museums-offer-virtual-visits-and-fulfill-a-merit-badge-requirement>.



View of the Ingram Foundation Gallery and Order of the Arrow exhibit at the National Scouting Museum.

LEADERSHIP

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National Scouting Museum Committee

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National Scouting Museum Committee

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ROGER HOYT, *Director*
Philmont Scout Ranch

DAVID WERHANE, *Director*
National Scouting Museum

DAISY ALLEN, *NSM Collection Curator*
National Scouting Museum

JEFFREY ST. CYR, *Layout Editor*
Scouting Times

SCOUTING TIMES is the official newsletter of the Boy Scouts of America's National Scouting Museum. Published twice a year, it tells the story of Scouting through artifacts, archives, and art. To learn more about the National Scouting Museum, visit www.philmontscout ranch.org/museums.



NSM now located at Philmont Scout Ranch

In December of 2016, the Boy Scouts of America announced the decision to relocate the National Scouting Museum to Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico. Supported by generous donors, the National Scouting Museum – Philmont Scout Ranch was built to allow the organization to share the rich history of Scouting with more visitors, including the tens of thousands of campers, volunteers and alumni that visit Philmont each year. This new building holds a library with reading and research rooms, a gift shop with jewelry, books and mementos, two large exhibit halls and an 88-person conference room.

For decades, the National Scouting Museum has played an important role in preserving and telling the rich story of the Boy Scouts of America and the positive impact Scouting continues to have on youth and families.

The museum is committed to preserving the rich, 100-plus-year history of the Scouting movement by collecting, organizing, preserving and displaying some of Scouting's greatest treasures, including 600,000 artifacts.

This collection not only documents Scouting's unique influence on American culture, but also tells the story of a movement that has positively affected the lives of more than 110 million young people. The museum's move to Philmont—where 32,000 people visit every year—will introduce even more people to Scouting's story and introduce unique opportunities to showcase parts of the collection throughout the country.

The National Scouting Museum's Philmont home will be the primary place to see Scouting memorabilia, but the BSA's expansive collection of Scouting collectibles will be spread far and wide. Additionally,



The National Scouting Museum opened its doors to the public in May 2018. Pictured are the 2018 Philmont summer seasonal staff in front of the completed facility.

this transition allows the BSA to reinforce its commitment to making many parts of the collection and archives digitally accessible. It allows the BSA to share some items for showcase at local councils and at the three other national high adventure bases: the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, the Florida Sea Base, and the Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases in Minnesota and Canada. In other words, this new chapter for the

National Scouting Museum will mean more Scouts get a glimpse into the BSA's powerful past.

Camping gear, uniforms, service projects and more tell the story of Scouting in Exhibit Hall A. The history of Philmont Scout Ranch and the Great Southwest fill Exhibit Hall B. Study the ranch's trails on an over-sized topographical map, watch an old mud wagon undergo on-site restoration and view priceless pieces of pottery and art work of Ernest Thompson Seton.



Waite Phillips built the VILLA PHILMONTE as the summer home for his family on the Philmont Ranch. It was completed in 1927 and was designed in Spanish Mediterranean style. Restored to the period when Phillips owned the ranch, it now serves as a memorial to him and his generosity to the Boy Scouts of America.



The SETON MEMORIAL LIBRARY is home to the personal art, library, and natural history collections of the founder and first Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of America, Ernest Thompson Seton, due to the generous donation of Julia Seton in 1967. To learn more about the collection, visit www.philmontscoutranch.org/museums.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:

Philmont Scout Ranch
17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714

MAILING ADDRESS:

Philmont Scout Ranch
Attn: National Scouting Museum
17 Deer Run Road
Cimarron, NM 87714

PHONE:

575.376.1136

EMAIL:

philmont.museum@scouting.org

ONLINE:

www.philmontscoutranch.org/museums

The **NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM** is located at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M., which is home to the Boy Scouts of America's premier High Adventure™ base, that challenges Scouts and Venturers with more than 214 square miles of rugged northern New Mexico wilderness.

