

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

Winter 2021

Philmont Adapting Treks for COVID Summer

Philmont staff have been working diligently to prepare for the 2021 season so that everyone can have a memorable experience in God's Country. As ever, safety is always the Number One concern. Steve Nelson, Director of Camping, covered some of the plans in the Ambassador Webinar on November 12.

"We will be dealing with COVID, and we are working to put a plan together that will allow us to bring Scouts here and overcome the challenges of living in a COVID world – one that we are all living in at this point," said Nelson. Philmont is drawing guidance from the New Mexico Department of Health as well as the American Camping Association to develop ways to protect staff and attendees.

Observed Nelson, "Our plans are fluid and may change. By the time we open in the summer, things

could be more like our traditional program."

One idea is that crews arriving at Philmont would form their own "pod" staying together rather than mingling with others. Traditional 2-to-a-tent assignments will continue, but changes are in the works to avoid close contact with others. For example, the Ranch may purchasing large canopies so crews can eat in shifts, avoiding crowding in the dining hall.

Another option being explored is to provide crews with trail meals while at base camp so they can prepare and eat their food away from others. Check-in procedures could be streamlined such as allowing crews to upload medical forms before arriving so that they do not have to wait in line for Medical re-checks.

Because Philmont set 2021 fees 18 months ago but will have in-



Philmont's stunning scenery is as beautiful as ever and promises to make the 2021 season memorable for all participants.

creased costs because of COVID, there will be a \$50/person surcharge added to this year's fees. The funds are required to pay for additional materials and facilities such as new dining canopies, protective gear for infirm staff, trail meals in base camp, cleaning

staff and supplies. "We found 50 gallon barrels of hand sanitizer at the Summit that we might tap into if needed," said Nelson.

Large gatherings for opening and closing campfires do not comply with health guidelines, but ways to recognize crews within their

"bubbles" are being planned.

Instead of taking crowded buses to starting points, Philmont is developing new camps withing hiking distance of Camping Headquarters that crews can trek to for their first night in the backcountry. Backcountry camps are being expanded to spread out crews, and new trail camps are being developed to distribute campers over wider areas.

Program camps will continue to offer the same activities, but group gatherings will be curtailed. "We can't be having 30 people in a cabin for a Stomp, or 100 on the porch at Pueblano or 100 in the cantina at Ponil," explained Nelson. Planners are working on alternate arrangements.

"Philmont's mountains are still here and are waiting for crews to come

COVID (Continued on page 4)



Know a fishing enthusiast? Encourage them to attend the PTC Fly Fishing Seminar to get them to Philmont this coming summer.

Match Each Scouter to Their Interest at PTC

Selling Philmont Training Center (PTC) is all about finding a Scouter's role in the program and matching it to a Conference that fits their interest. Adult leaders all want to improve the quality of the program they deliver to youth. PTC provides them with the knowledge and tools to make that possible. Besides, attending PTC is an opportunity for their families to have the time of their lives in God's Country.

Having a strong unit with trained leaders is key to a youth's enjoyment. Several conferences directly address how to make leaders and their units even better.

- Starting, Sustaining, & Growing Units
- Serving All Units - Working with Venturing Crews, Sea Scout

Ships, & Explorer Posts

- How to Engage & Support the New Wave of Female Scouters
- Older Youth Programs: An Essential Part of Scouting

Scouters can enhance their knowledge with top-notch Scoutcraft learned from national experts. PTC offers the following courses that will help them to "Deliver the Promise".

- Finding Your Way
- Spice Up Your Life: Learning to Cook with Herbs and Spices
- Wood Carvers Round-Up
- Philmont Fly Fishing Seminar
- Shooting Sports: The NEXT Level
- Wilderness First Aid

PTC (Continued on page 4)

Enroll Now for Ambassador Seminars - June 20 to 26
Ambassador Seminars are by invitation only programs that expand your Philmont promotion abilities like learning Ranch history and improving your sales techniques. Click here for more information and registration.

PTC Adventures Now Open To More Than Families

Philmont Training Center (PTC) is now much more than just "the other side of the road". Under the leadership of its Director, Nick Hutchinson, PTC is developing into a primo destination for all Scouters, their families, scout organizations, and even corporate events.

In 2018, an opportunity opened when two weeks of LDS conferences moved to facilities elsewhere. PTC staff got busy and crafted a new Family Adventure Program. The format allowed people to design their own activities that matched their interests and skill level to opportunities at PTC. It has turned into a huge success and is now offered eight months of the year.

The program has also evolved so it's not just for families anymore. Couples without children, older Scouters with their grandchildren, and even Scouters on their own can come out for the Adventure program.

Hutchinson says, "You can come and share the great facilities, adventures, and learning opportunities that we offer with your family, your fellow volunteers, council staff, board members or maybe even you own company. We can host your event and accomplish your goals with your council or other organization with help from our excellently trained Philmont Staff."

The Adventure program now offers options for half-weeks and full weeks along with a variety of housing choices. "You can come and stay in a traditional tent if you would like, or you can come and

stay in one of our fancy deluxe tents as well. You can even stay in roofed housing options including the villa bungalows or the lodge rooms, the duplex or the multi-plex - whatever fits for your group," says Hutchinson.

He added, "We are working on options that allow you to come on whatever day you choose and stay for as long as you'd like."

Aside from the traditional activities like horseback rides, crafts, and shooting sports, PTC now offers enhanced experiences. Explains Hutchinson, "You can enjoy an early morning hike to Lover's leap with coffee service at the top while you watch the sunrise with a breathtaking view. If you want to sleep in, you can just enjoy a morning cup of coffee on the Greensward - that's OK too.

Adventures (Continued on page 2)

Click here for more on Family Adventure Camp.

Focus on the Backcountry

Dan Beard Camp Challenges Scouts to Form Strong Teams

Staff Camp
Elevation - 7910 feet
Purified Water

the Valle Vidal. It is the location of a large fire that burned many parts of the Carson National Forest in 2002. Crews can see what post-fire restoration looks like.

Programs: Conservation, Chal-



Teamwork is important in getting from Point A to Point B on the Dan Beard challenge course.

allenge Course

The camp consists of a large meadow and a main cabin with a smaller cabin to the side. In the heart of the meadow is the challenge course wall. To the west of the camp is a road that is very steep, and crews often take several breaks on the way up to the challenge course. The road has been nicknamed "The Calf Blaster" by rangers. The views are breathtaking from the top.

Dan Beard Camp also hosts many rangers each summer because it is the beginning point of the well-known "Ranger Challenge". The Challenge is a non-stop hike from the northernmost point of Philmont to the southernmost point on the ranch. Philmont staff see it as an opportunity to prove their backcountry mettle and endurance.

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Sneak Peaks, Webinars Help Get Crews Ready to Trek

A Philmont Trek is not summer camp. That can be a rude awakening for Crews who do not realize the rigors of backpacking in the mountains. Philmont staff have observed that many groups are not as well prepared for a wilderness adventure. This puts additional burdens on staff and detracts from a Scout's experience.

Fortunately, Philmont has put together several programs for crews to get ready.

The Backcountry Sneak Peak is a progressive, challenging expedition that provides the opportunity to experience the Philmont backcountry a year before their trek. Crew members should come out a year ahead of their Trek to learn how to prepare.

Ideally, as many crew members as possible should take part in the Sneak Peak, but having one or two Adult Advisors and a Crew Leader attend would go a long way toward knowing how to get their group ready.

Participants learn about trekking basics, gear, teamwork, leadership and skills followed by several days on the trail with experienced Rangers where these practices are ingrained. Registration is on the Philmont Training Center webpage.

For those who can't do a Sneak Peak, Philmont has put together a web page full of important preparation lessons. It has links to information on shakedown and backcountry skills as well as references to past guidebooks and itineraries. Information for 2021 Treks will be posted when it is available.

Philmont has also been doing a series of advisor preparedness seminars. Three have already been held and are available on Philmont site at <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/philmont-prep-seminars>. The January webinar will cover Health and Safety, February will be Food and Cooking, March will be Base Camp Procedures, and April will be a recap and update. A webinar on COVID may also be held. P2



For all your Philmont gear needs and gifts



www.toothoftimetraders.com

Adventures Continued from page 1)

"As an Ambassador, you should talk to your councils about some of the exciting outside events that we can host here at Philmont as well. We are available year-round for anyone to host a retreat, training session, or have your own adventure."

One of the more noteworthy activities is the Annual Fly Fishing Invitational event in September which is open to adult Scouters who are

recommended or accompanied by their local Scout Executive.

This opportunity has been expanded and can be organized for Scout groups, family reunions, or corporate retreats. Hutchinson explains, "We take participants into the back country where they get to fly fish at Fish Camp, Phillips Junction or any number of places. You get to take care of what ever you want to accomplish and let us take care of all the details like food and guides. The fishing and the fish you catch, though, are up to you."

PTC's primary mission, though, remains as Waite Phillips intended, says Hutchinson. "We still host Council and National level training as always." P2



Dan Beard (right), Robert Baden-Powell (sitting) and Ernest Thomas Seton (left) met in 1910 to discuss the Scouting movement.

Beard Led the Way in Youth Outdoor Programs

Although Robert Baden-Powell is credited with founding the Scouting movement with his 1908 publication Scouting for Boys, Dan Beard actually established a similar concept three years earlier in the United States. Beard's The American Boys Handy Book was published in 1905, and formed the basis of the Sons of Daniel Boone in the United States.

Beard was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, into a family of artists. As a youth, he explored the woods and made sketches of nature. His father was the artist James Henry Beard and his mother was Mary Caroline (Carter) Beard. His uncle was the artist William Holbrook Beard. He lived at 322 East Third Street in Covington, Kentucky near the Licking River where he learned the stories Kentucky pioneer life.

He attended art school in New York City, and he started an early career as an engineer and surveyor. He wrote a series of articles for St. Nicholas Magazine that later formed the basis for The American Boy's Handy Book. He was a member of the Student Art League, where he met and befriended Ernest Thompson Seton in 1883. Beard illustrated a number of books for Mark Twain and for authors such as Ernest Crosby.

Beard became the editor of "Recreation" magazine and wrote a monthly column for youth. He founded the Sons of Daniel Boone in 1905, basing it on American frontier traditions. He later moved his column to "Woman's Home Companion". After conflicts with a new editor, he moved to the "Pictorial Review". Since "Women's Home Companion" retained the rights to the Sons of Daniel Boone name, he simply renamed the organization to Boy Pioneers of America. Beard helped his sisters Mary Caroline and Adelia Belle who wrote the American Girls Handy Book, organize the Camp Fire Girls.

Beard merged his organization into the Boy Scouts of America when it was founded in 1910. He became its first National Scout Commissioners and served for 30 years. He later became the editor of "Boys' Life" magazine, the BSA official magazine, and wrote a monthly column for youth. The work of both Beard and Ernest Thompson Seton are in large part the basis of the Traditional Scouting movement.

Beard died on June 11, 1941. An estimated 2,000 people lined the funeral route to the cemetery in Monsey, New York, where 127 Boy Scouts formed an honor guard and assisted with traffic control.

Wikipedia contributors, "Daniel Carter Beard," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Daniel_Carter_Beard&oldid=993144547

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Help Needed Recruiting Summer Staff

In order to make all the magic of Philmont happen, it takes over seasonal 1,000 staff.

Says Steve Nelson, Director of Camping, "We could use additional applications for youth or older people to come and spend their summer at Philmont. It's life-changing, and we could use the help. We need solid people to help change lives in 2021.

"No matter how good your Ambassador presentation is, it is only as good as the invitation at the end. Every Ambassador should ask 'Hey, would you like to come to Philmont? Or what can I do to help you get to Philmont?' That would be really beneficial to us."

Find employment information at <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/jobs/> P2



Philipp Durocher' has both an indoor and outdoor display arrangement so that he can adapt it for whatever type of event he is attending.

Ambassador Profile

Phil Durocher Adapts Displays, Outreach To Reach Everywhere

Phil Durocher is no stranger to flying solo, whether it be as a former Air Force pilot or going it alone in the Istrouma Area Council where he is the only Philmont Ambassador. The Council serves 6,000 Scouts living in 13 Parishes in Louisiana and Wilkenson County, Mississippi.

Phill first attended the Cub Scout Adventure Program conference at Philmont Training Center (PTC) in the summer of 2015 as part of his Wood Badge ticket. Together with wife Amy, sons "AJ" and Reagan, they all fell in love with the Ranch.

He recalls, "Upon my return, I was the only person in my council that knew any details about the new program. I also realized almost no one in my area knew of resources of the Philmont Training Center. Besides the knowledge gained in the conference, a love of Philmont was instilled in every single member of my family. I, along with my

family, returned for another Cub Scout Conference the following Summer, and I started my journey to become a Philmont Ambassador."

Being the only Ambassador in the Council is a big challenge, especially when there are multiple events happening several hours apart from each other. "I made it a point to schedule displays during events with participation throughout the council such as University of Scouting, Wood Badge Courses, Merit Badge Days, Scouting Recruiting Events, and Council Camp O Rees," said Phil.

Another challenge he faces is the financial situation in the Council's rural area. "A trip to Philmont for many is a budget breaker," he observes. [Editor's note: Philmont does offer scholarships for PTC and Treks. <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/rates/>]

Because of the variety of opportunities, Phil put together effective displays for both indoor and outdoor events. He makes prominent use of Philmont banners, hand-on articles, and a variety of brochures to grab people's attention.

"In a normal non-COVID year, I would average approximately six full Philmont Ambassador displays, with several less formal discussions during Roundtables and individual meetings with Packs & Troops." However, he has had to adapt to COVID health restrictions. Phil says, "2020 has ended the displays, but I still feed my council a steady stream of Philmont through our District Facebook Pages and monthly virtual Roundtables. I think the individual impact of talking one on one has more impact, but social media does generate a much larger audience."

Phil attended an Ambassador I Conference in 2018 when the backcountry was closed to Treks. He recalls, "It was eerie to stand in the middle of the Camping Headquarters in the middle of the sum-

mer, look out, and not see a single person. Nonetheless, the conference was very informative."

Phil hopes to attend an Ambassador II conference soon, but each year there has been conflicts with his sons' Summer Camps. "I wouldn't hear the end of it if I attended PTC without my family," says Phil. "Still, I see the need to keep my knowledge about Philmont fresh and my love of Philmont even fresher.

"I want to go back HOmE."

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Ambassador Autumn Adventure Registration Open

This fall Ambassadors can take one of two adventures designed just for them. These are great opportunities for those who have yearned for a chance to get back into God's Country or who have never experienced the backcountry. Not only will you enjoy the solitude of Philmont in the fall, you'll be dazzled by the autumn colors as well.

One is a Six Day Mini-Trek that will visit the Indian Writings, Metcalf Station, Ponil, Pueblano and Santa Claus camps covering about 30 miles in six days. Participants can earn the unique Philmont Autumn Adventure Arrowhead Patch.

The other is a less strenuous Hub-And-Spoke Walking Workshop out of Baldy Town. Days will be spent hiking nearby trails and exploring the Baldy Town area. Evening presentations by Philmont staff will enhance your knowledge and make you a more effective ambassador.

Activities for this trip will include day hikes to French Henry, Black Horse Mine, and Miranda. The highlight will be an ascent of Mt. Baldy itself, Philmont's highest peak at 12,441 feet.

Participants must have a Philmont medical evaluation Parts A, B and C and meet Philmont's height, weight, and blood pressure requirements.

Cost of the adventures is \$425 plus the \$50 COVID fee. Register through the Ambassador Resources web page at this [link](#).



Kodiak Program Challenges Older Scouts and Venturers

Looking to add a dose of leadership training to your next big Scouting adventure?

Integrate Kodiak Challenge into the plan and you'll double the impact the trip has on Scouts and Venturers.

[Kodiak Challenge](#) invites young people to step outside their comfort zones to experience hands-on leadership training. Previously a Venturing-only course, it is now also open to Scouts BSA, Varsity Scouts and Venturing.

PTC Kodiak Course is July 11- 17

The six-day course can be a separate training experience, but many troops and crews have success weaving Kodiak into an expedition, road trip, adventure, visit to another country, white-water rafting trip, cross-state bicycle trek or anything else that helps push participants to their limits.

Think of it as a chance to test the leadership skills learned in Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops or Crews, National Youth Leader Training (NYLT),



Older Scouts benefit from overcoming the challenges and improving their leadership skills at Philmont's Kodiak Challenge.

and/or the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE).

The course is special in Scouting because it can be run at the unit, district or council level — provided you get the OK from your council training chair (or his or her designee) first.

Peter Self, who served as national staff advisor when the Kodiak syllabus was created, remembers a Kodiak course held on the San Juan Islands in Washington.

"Kodiak Challenge is a weeklong course, and you cover what are called commissions. There are seven different commissions, and each commission is a leadership

opportunity or a leadership skill that you develop in the course," he says.

"On the San Juan Islands, the group spent two days sailing, two days sea kayaking and two days biking around the island. That sounds like the greatest leadership course ever."

"Isn't that great?" Self said. "The fun part about that is, almost in every case, the training that you experience on this course is used on the course."

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Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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The backcountry will be a lot more peaceful without all the hammering this coming summer. **P2**

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