



# SCOUTING TIMES

A Newsletter of BSA Memories

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## Scouting's history continues during pandemic

By HAROLD WHITE

For the National Scouting Museum

Closed to the public from March 17 to June 19 and for about 15 days in November. 105 days of no visitors to the National Scouting Museum. The exhibit hall sat empty. No Scouts or Scouters making the annual pilgrimage to Philmont. No parents dropping off staff members. No conferences at the Training Center. No Family Adventure Campers. It was eerily quiet for most of 2020 and yet we still greeted almost 2,500 visitors when we were allowed to have guests this year.

During the mandatory closure, NSM Director Dave Werhane developed plans to safely reopen the Museum when we were given the okay. He reached out to museums around New Mexico and to the NM Department of Cultural Affairs and quickly learned everyone was scrambling with what to do. "It became apparent that no one had plans for how to deal with this situation, let alone reopen," Werhane said. "I started reading as much as I could and focused on what we could do as opposed to what we couldn't do." Our goal was to be ready to reopen and provide the best and safest experience we could to our visitors.

NSM Gift Shop Manager Dee Dee Montoya, arranged for the entire staff, permanent and seasonal, to take the State of New Mexico provided COVID-19 Safe Practices training.



NSM staff installed a new rank display showcasing the various designs from Scout to Eagle Scout.

"The training was free, and I knew we would have to have something if we were going to be allowed to reopen," Montoya said. "We were very proactive and easily among the first in the area to become 'COVID Safe Certified' by the

State." The NSM Gift Shop also hosted several virtual sales events, a live cash mob event, and launched the NSM Gift Shop category of the

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



Learn about the American Bison at the Philmont Scout Ranch as the January 15, 2021 Artifact of the Week on the National Scouting Museum's Facebook page.

Take a peek inside the collection of the National Scouting Museum. Every Friday, the NSM staff features an artifact or other interesting tidbit from, or about, the National Scouting Museum, Philmont Scout Ranch, or Northeastern New Mexico. Join Daisy Allen, Dave Werhane, and maybe an occasional guest presenter to learn more about all of the history featured here at the National Scouting Museum – Philmont Scout Ranch. Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nationalscoutingmuseumbsa> and make sure you like, share or comment each week. If you have an idea for an artifact of the week topic, email it to [Philmont.museums@scouting.org](mailto:Philmont.museums@scouting.org), make sure you put "I've Got an Idea!" in the subject line. We'll see you on Facebook.

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

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings,

As your museum committee chair, I have the great opportunity to visit our collections two to four times per year and see anything that's there. The National Scouting Museum has a fabulous, impressive and important collection of artifacts and we are trying to share them with you through the artifact of the week program on Facebook on Fridays.

But that's all about us. How about you? We want you to share with us. What is the most meaningful, important or valuable item in your Scouting collection (museum)? Why is it significant to you? Can you describe it in 50 words or less? Do you have or could you take and upload a photo?

Get on the National Scouting Museum's Facebook page on Monday and become a part of my museum Monday - M3. Only one submission per Monday, please. I can't wait to see what you find most significant.

RICK BRAGGA, Chairman  
National Scouting Museum Committee



## Scouting Memories Project Update

What started as a dream of a few National Scouting Museum Committee Members in 2016 is becoming a reality in 2021. Throughout 2020, the Scouting Memories Project (SMP) Team finalized aspects of the new interactive [www.scoutingmemories.org](http://www.scoutingmemories.org) website. Beginning this year, the Scouting Memories hub will provide a repository for council, camp, and lodge history. Sponsored by the National Scouting Museum, SMP is a partnership with the Order of the Arrow and the BSA Alumni programs to tell the history and stories of the BSA movement.



In 2020, a handful of councils provided important feedback on website functionalities, visual aesthetics, and the overall user experience. These items were addressed in fall 2020 and a number of training aids to get council historians up and running were prepared. Additionally, throughout the year, the SMP Team began building out an oral history initiative to capture local stories for the BSA archives.

As the Scouting Memories Project launches in spring 2021, all local historians will have an opportunity to begin building out their council, camp, or lodge page to showcase the places and people important to the local story of Scouting.

We invite anyone that wants to contribute to telling their local scouting story, to reach out to the SMP Team at [scoutingmemories@scouting.org](mailto:scoutingmemories@scouting.org) or visit [www.scoutingmemories.org](http://www.scoutingmemories.org) to learn more.

## Virtual museum app being developed

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Tooth of Time Traders virtual storefront.

But it wasn't just these actions that kept the NSM engaged, some of the staff worked from home. NSM Collections Curator Daisy Allen, continued to inventory the collection and clean-up the Past Perfect database. She also reached out to the Mountain Plains Museum Association and the NSM was selected as one of only four museums to be featured during their virtual annual conference in September. The NSM would prepare a video to showcase what we were doing to remain engaged despite being closed to the public. Daisy's video talked about our planning and training. She also featured four items from the collection and showed one of our weekly Artifact of the Week Facebook videos. "The video was well received by the attendees," Allen said. "The feedback we received shows that our proactive approach was ahead of other museums in the region."

Museum outreach became very important as we handled nearly 1,000 mail and email requests in response to Scouts working on the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge. We also delivered virtual tours and presentations about the Museum to nearly 20 groups from individual troops to Council camps and virtual merit badge fairs. These events reached an additional 200+ Scouts and Scouters across the nation.

Our plans for 2021 are equally forward focused. By May we are scheduled to have a new NSM website up and operational. We are also developing an app to enhance the visitor experience both in person as well as virtually. Both of these tools will access an immersive and interactive 3D model of the Museum for virtual visitors. The App will also provide our in-person guests with a more curated and content rich experience. And we plan to continue the very popular Artifact of the Week Facebook video series each Friday.

In terms of exhibits and displays, plans are underway for a celebration of the first class of female Eagle Scouts and an exhibit on Green Bar Bill centered around a small statue being commissioned as the centerpiece of the exhibit. The summer and fall will see a focus on displays, programming, and presentations around the 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail.



Shown at the 1960 museum opening.  
Left to right: Dr. Chambliss R. Johnston, Norfleet "Fleet" R. Johnston, Sr., Gale F. Johnston, Sr., and Gale F. Johnston, Jr. admiring Norman Rockwell's 1910-1960 oil painting.



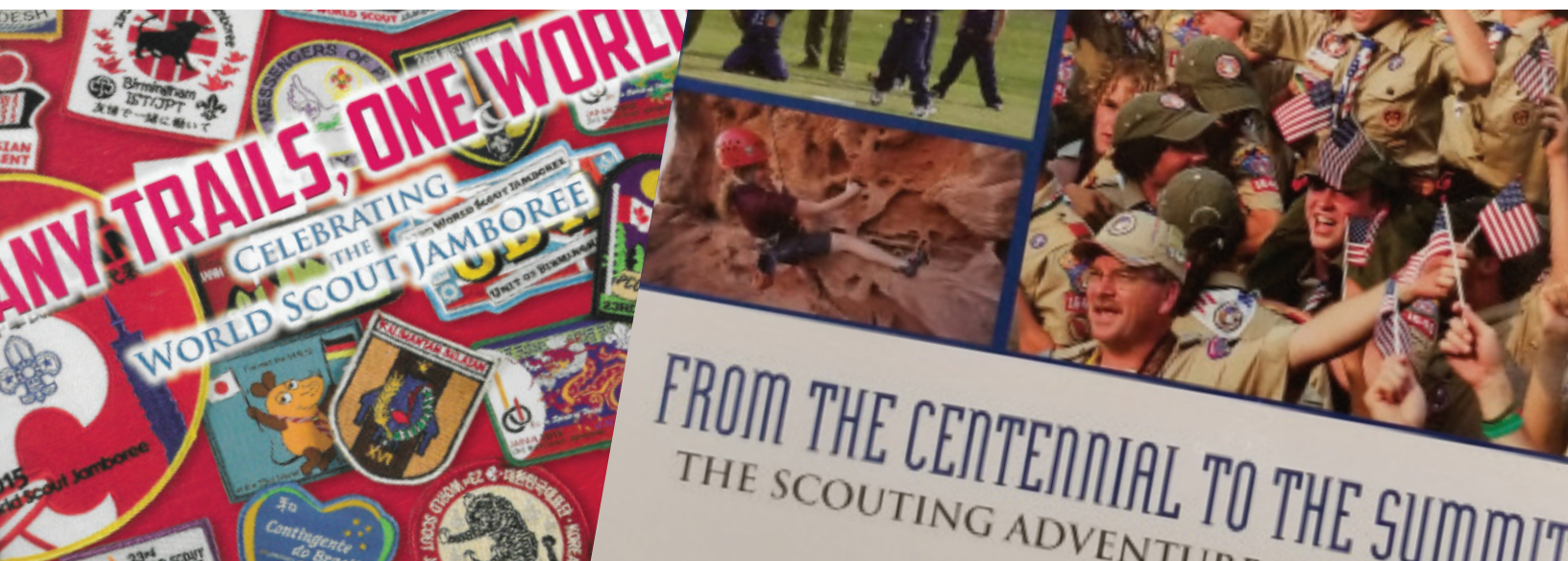
## Honoring NSM Co-Founder Fleet Johnston

Fleet Johnston, Scouting's iconic historian and author, is co-founder and benefactor of all four National Scouting Museums since 1960, with the grand opening of the Johnston National Scout Museum in New Brunswick, N.J.

Fleet Johnston is widely known throughout the Scouting Movement, both nationally and internationally, as foremost guardian and supporter of documenting and displaying the story of Scouting. He has also authored two National Scouting Museum books on the International World Jamborees.

Fleet has supported all four National Scouting Museums, in New Brunswick, N.J., Murray, K.Y., Irving, T.X., and Cimarron, N.M. over the past sixty years. Kudos to founder Fleet and his vision of Scouting's history.

Left: Former New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez and Norfleet "Fleet" Johnston, Sr. at the grand opening of Scouting's fourth national museum at Philmont Scout Ranch in June 2018.



# Join the 2021 NSM volunteer docents team

By HAROLD WHITE

For the National Scouting Museum

Greeting visitors, answering questions, and helping people get the most out of their time at the National Scouting Museum are just some of the important ways Docents contribute to the mission of the NSM during our busy summer season here at Philmont.

NSM Volunteer Docents serve four to ten day blocks depending on their availability and NSM scheduling needs. The earliest Docents begin their service in mid-May and the last Docents depart the NSM in mid to late September, after the Fall Conferences at the Philmont Training Center. "We need 20-25 docents each summer to meet the needs of our visitors," said Dave Werhane, Director of the National Scouting Museum.

While serving as a Docent is a volunteer position, Philmont provides all of your meals and housing during the time you are working at the NSM. "Meals are served in the PTC Dining Hall or the Staff Dining Hall and housing is in a two-person tent at the Training Center," Werhane said.

To apply to be a Docent visit the Philmont Scout Ranch employment page at visit <https://registerphilmont.org/staff/app> and fill out the on-line application. "Even though being a Docent is a volunteer position at Philmont, we process applications and track them in the system just like the rest of the seasonal staff," Werhane said. In the application your start and

end dates are the days you are available to work over the summer. For example, if you want to be considered for the entire season set your start date as the earliest day you can be at Philmont and your end date as the last day you can be here. If you want to only be considered for specific dates, use those dates as your start and end dates. Werhane added, "When you apply, make sure you put 'Museum/Volunteer Docent' in the three position choices."

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the position, please call the NSM at 575-376-1136 or send an email to [Philmont.museums@scouting.org](mailto:Philmont.museums@scouting.org), make sure you put MUSEUM DOCENT in the subject line. "We currently have 15 or so docent applications for the summer season so we are still looking for good applicants. Make sure you get your application in soon," Werhane said.



A Volunteer Docent greets visitors to the NSM during the summer of 2019. More than 31,000 people stopped by the NSM in 2019. Docents are vital to helping us deliver an excellent experience to each individual guest.

## National Scouting Museum gift shop now available online

By HAROLD WHITE

For the National Scouting Museum

Did you know that part of the funding for the National Scouting Museum comes from NSM Gift Shop Sales? Up until recently the only way to make a gift shop purchase was to stop by while you were in the area. Dee Dee Montoya, the NSM Gift Shop Manager changed that and started using technology to increase the gift shop's sales reach. "I'm friends with a lot of people in the Scouting community from my time as the PTC Registrar," Dee Dee said. "When I first started this job, I would call them and let them know when I had something they might like." This plan proved very successful. "Think of it like a proactive personal shopper," Dee Dee added.

Then she ramped up a Facebook group and started connecting with people via the social media platform. "We post sales and introduce new items to our customers," Dee Dee said. "Back in February, at the start of the pandemic,

we did a Facebook Live sale, and it was a big hit. We sold about \$6,000 worth of merchandise to customers all over the country."

In the background, work was being done to give the NSM Gift Shop a true online presence and now the NSM Gift Shop is a category of the Tooth of Time Traders online store. "We have many items from jewelry, to books, to souvenirs and collectables available online, 24-hours a day, seven days a week," Dee Dee said. "We keep adding items to our online inventory and of course we will continue to use our Facebook group for more live sales," she added. "We can also still assist customers on a one-on-one basis via phone, text message, or Facetime."

So here is your chance to take care of Valentine's Day, or Mother's Day, or maybe a spring birthday. Visit the NSM Gift Shop at <https://store.philmontscoutranch.org/museum-gift-shop> browse the selections, and make your payment via the secure payment provider. "You can also combine your NSM purchase with your ToTT purchase and make just one payment," Dee Dee said. Happy shopping!



You don't have to be at the NSM to make a purchase from the gift shop. Browse our selections and make your purchases from the comfort of your home via our new on-line gift shop. Visit us at <https://store.philmontscoutranch.org/museum-gift-shop> and start shopping today.

# Archive Spotlight: Air Explorer Donation

By **DAISY ALLEN**

*National Scouting Museum Collection Curator*

A December 2020 NSM Artifact of the Week video on Facebook helped fill in some missing parts of the NSM collection. Duane Klink, a collector of Senior Scout memorabilia, watched the Facebook video on the Air Scout program and contacted the NSM about making a donation of some Air Scout related items.

"Mr. Klink contacted us and said he had some items he was willing to donate to the collection," said Dave Werhane, NSM Director. "The NSM collection is thin in regard to Air Scouts, so we were happy to work with him to complete the donation," Werhane added.

Just before Christmas a box arrived from Mr. Klink. Included was an Air Scout shirt and pants from the 1940s. The patches on the right sleeve, a city strip and unit numbers, were added later to the shirt, dating to the 1950s and 1990s. There

was also a 1950s Air Explorer Shirt with patches indicating the wearer was the Squadron Leader, the equivalent of a Senior Patrol Leader, for Squadron 34 in Albany, Oregon.

A third uniform, which is now on display in the NSM Main Gallery, is an Air Explorer uniform we were able to date between 1954 – 1958, and includes an official shirt and pants, a merit badge sash, and an Air Explorer garrison cap. The wearer had earned his Apprentice rank and served as Squadron Leader for Squadron 138 in Independence, Kansas.

The donation also includes the box for an Official BSA Air Scout B-24D Liberator spotter model. Interestingly, the B-24D is the same type of plane that crashed on Trail Peak here at Philmont in 1942. "Each plane in the Official Air Scout Spotter Model Series, though designed for use in connection with the Air Scout Program, is available to all Scouts, Cubs, and everyone interested in Aviation," states the purpose of these kits on the front of the box.

This artifact, and a blank rank advancement recognition card are also now on display in the NSM Main Gallery.

The final item in the donation is a book entitled, "Scouts in Aviation." A 1982 publication outlining the history of the BSA and aviation.

"Being able to partner with collectors and others is really the only way to fill-in and even grow the NSM collection," Werhane said. "While we can't accept everything that is offered as a donation, there are many items that we are on the lookout for and if you, or someone you know, would like to help us meet these needs, please let us know," he added.

**Below: Taking its place along with a variety of historical BSA uniforms, this Air Explorer uniform is now on display in the main gallery of the National Scouting Museum thanks to the generosity of a Scouting memorabilia collector.**



## LEADERSHIP

**RICK BRAGGA**, *Chairman*  
National Scouting Museum Committee

**RAY CAPP**, *Vice-Chairman*  
National Scouting Museum Committee

**RUSSELL SMART**, *Vice-Chairman*  
National Scouting Museum Committee

**ROBERT MASON**, *Communications Chairman*  
National Scouting Museum Committee

**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](http://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 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 one 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](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/museums).

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCOUTING MUSEUM

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:**  
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**ONLINE:**  
[www.philmontscoutranch.org/museums](http://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.

