

PHILNEWS

JULY 31TH, 2015



ISSUE EIGHT



Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Philmont's Western legacy: The Ranch Department

Caleb Wong
PhilNews

As a condition of transferring Philmont to the Boy Scouts of America, Scouting benefactor Waite Phillips stipulated that the land remain a working cattle ranch. The Ranch Department fulfills Philips' legacy by maintaining herds of livestock. They also offer unique programs that allow participants to experience Philmont on horseback.

The Ranch Department also manages the Motor Pool, repairs roads, sows and harvests alfalfa,

oversees the security office, manages the bear researchers, and takes care of livestock.

The work doesn't stop after the summer season. In the fall, the ranch staff takes care of all the livestock, including the cows, horses, burros, and buffalo.

"We preg-test them [the cows], make sure they've got a baby for next year, give them the shots they need and worm them," Ranch Superintendent Bob Ricklefs said. "Throughout the winter, they get some extra protein feed and start

calving in January. From January until March, we're busy as heck making sure we can get a live baby on the ground. The buffalo don't take a whole lot of work from us. We feed them some extra protein just like the cowherd. We do the slaughtering, which goes to food service. The horses and burros are turned out; they're just a grazing animal for eight-and-a-half to nine months of the year."

Every summer Cavalcade and Ranch Hands participants, accompanied by their wranglers and

horsemen, can be glimpsed six-feet high on horseback as they ride across the backcountry. Twenty-eight Cavalcade crews and one Ranch Hands crew are scheduled for the 2015 summer season.

Though both treks offer participants the opportunity to ride horses through the backcountry for eight days, Ranch Hands participants care for the horses for eight days before spending the next eight days riding them on the trail. Horseman James Miazza said participants in these programs must wake up be-

fore dawn and saddle their horses just like cowboys did in the 1940's.

"They see Philmont the way it was meant to be seen: from horseback," Miazza said. "Horses have always been an important part of Philmont and the Western culture that we portray here and that we share with the participants."

Anybody can feel the impact of the Ranch Department at horse camps where program counselors pass on the legacy of the ranch to visiting crews.

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Making memories at the Philmont Training Center

Marie Reynolds
PhilNews

If you stop by the Philmont Training Center (PTC) in the morning you may find children, families, and staff playing games on the back greensward of the Villa, but this is far from the extent of what the PTC accomplishes each day. Each year, families from around the world come to the Philmont Training Center to learn Scouting techniques, spend time in Philmont's 137,493 acres of backcountry, and be together as a family. Little do they know the impact their experience will

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Holli Hochberger (left) of Dubuque, Iowa, and Betni Reed (right) of Durango, Colorado, pick their horses. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Behind the scenes: Administration

Marie Reynolds
PhilNews

"Good afternoon, Philmont Scout Ranch. How can I direct your call?"

If you have ever dialed the Philmont switchboard number, this is likely what you heard on the other end of the line. Barbara Garcia, whose many titles include Switchboard/Associate, Office Assistant/Sportsman, and Adventure Hunt Clerk, is the voice of Philmont. She answers and directs each call that comes to the switchboard at Philmont's Administration office.

For those who are not actively

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July 31-August 6

Friday, 31	Saturday, 1	Sunday, 2	Monday, 3	Tuesday, 4	Wednesday, 5	Thursday, 6
8 a.m. Daily Hike - Indian Writings (meet in front of SSSAC) 3 p.m. Author David Mullings book signing - Seton Museum 6 p.m. Philmont history seminar - Baldy Pavilion 6:30 p.m. PIYO/Zumba - SSSAC TV rooms	6:30 a.m. Insanity - SSSAC TV rooms 8 a.m. Daily Hike - Abreu (meet in front of SSSAC) 5:30 p.m. Philmont 5K - SSSAC 6 p.m. Forestry on the John Muir Trail with visiting forester Paul Sheppard - Baldy Pavilion	6:30 a.m. Yoga 1 - SSSAC TV rooms 8 a.m. Daily Hike - Miners Park (meet in front of SSSAC) 6 p.m. Live Q&A with Sarah Burgess aboard the Nautilus research vessel - Baldy Pavilion 9 p.m. Bible study at Protestant Chapel porch	6:30 a.m. Yoga 2 - SSSAC TV rooms 8 a.m. Daily Hike - Urraca (meet in front of SSSAC) 6 p.m. Sustainability seminar - Baldy Pavilion 8 p.m. Tortilla making workshop - SSSAC kitchen	8 a.m. Daily Hike - Cito (meet in front of SSSAC) 4 p.m. Self defense class - Yoga room 5:45 p.m. Western night - PTC 6 p.m. Environmental seminar - Baldy Pavilion	8 a.m. Daily Hike - Clarks Fork (meet in front of SSSAC) 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Haircuts by Ruben - SSSAC 6:30 p.m. PIYO - SSSAC TV rooms 6 p.m. Sustainability seminar - Baldy Pavilion	8 a.m. Daily Hike - Carson Meadows (meet in front of SSSAC) 5:15 p.m. P90X - SSSAC TV room 6 p.m. Environmental philosophy - Baldy Pavilion 9 p.m. Bible study at Protestant Chapel porch

Resupplying at Ute Gulch

Kate Johnson
PhilNews

A staff member calls, “716-J-01, food’s up!” The sign above the commissary porch reads “Over one million served.”

Ute Gulch distributes food and supplies to approximately 30 crews daily. Ute Gulch has six staff members who handle this crew load. Crews can pick up shelf-stable milk, fruit, tortillas, salt, pepper, hand sanitizer, fuel, toilet paper, Campsuds, Micropur and other necessities at the Ute Gulch commissary, in addition to

their assigned trail meals.

In the trading post, Scouts and advisors browse merchandise. Trading Post Manager Ella Rausch said that Toblerone, Honey Stingers, beef jerky, and postcards are popular. One Scout steps inside and immediately asks, “Where are the candy bars at?”

“Kids are super funny; you get to interact with them in a different way than when you’re doing program. Kids will sometimes make statements such as: ‘I have a question; there’s a cat over there.’ or ‘I have a question; the Gatorade is

empty.’” said Rausch with amusement.

Eradicating the rodent population is a priority at a commissary camp like Ute Gulch. Rat traps are effective, but one that annoyed a skunk gave the commissary an unpleasant aroma for a few days, while there is presumably one vexed skunk wandering the nearby woods with a rat trap in tow.

Program Counselor Benjamin Boline is enjoying his summer experience at Ute Gulch. He said that some of the best parts of the job are the atmosphere and the amount



An array of Philmont goods hang on the wall of Ute Gulch Commissary's trading post on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. Doyle Maurer/PhilNews

of people.
“It’s open; it’s out in the middle of nowhere...you are doing something that you’ll never experience again.”

Essentials for hiking: Bug and sun protection

Kate Johnson
PhilNews

Sunglasses, wide-brimmed hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, long sleeves and pants-- all these items have something in common: they reside on the list of Essentials for Hiking at Philmont.

Reddened, blistering, peeling sunburns and swollen, itchy insect bites create a risk for infection and generally make for a miserable trek. Hats and sunglasses are a definite must-have item to provide shade and facial protection. Wearing long sleeves and pants is one option to keep the sun and insects away from your skin, but such clothing may be uncomfortable in Philmont’s summer temperatures. Sunscreen and insect repellent are solutions to this conundrum, but if used sunscreen, insect repellent, and other



Tyler Sanders/PhilNews

smellables should be applied before 5p.m. to prevent attracting curious

bears or other wildlife while asleep.

While there are many different options available for preventing sunburn and insect bites, the most important thin is to utilize them-- according to skincancer.org, just one blistering sunburn can double a person’s chance for skin cancer later in life. Many varieties of sunscreen, insect repellent, and hats are available at the Tooth of Time Traders or at backcountry trading posts.

In the words of Kurt Vonnegut (author of *Slaughterhouse Five* and *Cat’s Cradle*) at an MIT commencement address, “Wear sunscreen. If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists, whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience....trust me on the sunscreen.”

Roving Outdoor Conservation ROCS

Marie Reynolds

PhilNews

As Aldo Leopold once said, “There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.”

Bringing awareness to environmental impacts and realities of our Earth today is the Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS).

ROCS has become a premiere environmental education program at Philmont, consisting of 21 days of adventure learning or experiential education.

In the last 15 years, ROCS has taken off as an individual trek – offered for both men and women ages 16-20.

Kevin O’Brien, coordinator of environmental education, said, “the main goal is to be conscious of the space around you. We teach les-

sons along the trail and have guest speakers from various environmental backgrounds. We get to see the participants have more of an understanding of the world around them and a more engaged citizenry. It opens up that next level of questioning, so Philmont can be a portal for learning that you take back to your community.”

For environmental educators, being able to lead a ROCS trek is something to look forward to.

“The smaller portion of their summer is leading a ROCS trek, but it’s definitely the highlight,” said O’Brien. “You spend 20 days on the trail and lead kids who are already kind of geared towards learning about the environment, which is awesome. The real challenge for the environmental educators is bringing awareness to the rest of the ranch too.”

By the end of this summer, each backcountry staff camp should have an environmental education related activity.

“What we are doing out in the backcountry is already environmental education with rangers teaching

Leave No Trace and such, it’s just not stated as so. ROCS is specifically focusing in on the environment. The more lenses that you have, the more holistic of a picture you can get and then you can have a better understanding of what your individual environmental impacts are. The more we can get the staff camps to put in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) and environmental education activities, the easier it is to get participants to think about their impact,” said O’Brien.

Averaging about six miles per day, ROCS is set up to provide time for lessons and guest speakers. There are approximately 20 core lessons or subjects, ranging from geology and ecology to meteorology and astronomy. During the application process, each participant fills out an interest survey in order to give the environmental educators leading the trek an idea of what to cover.

“The lessons are pseudo-structured. For example: if you’re on the trail and you see some cool rocks, we’re doing a geology lesson right here. Or if you see clouds rolling in,

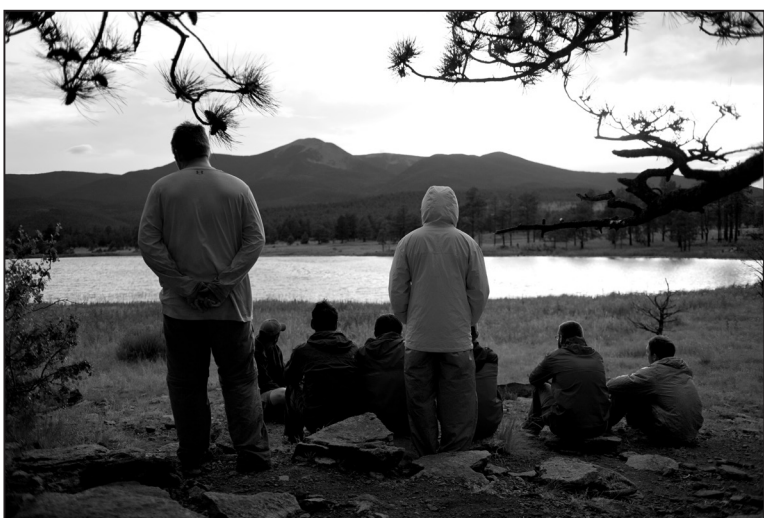
we’ll study what kind they are and what they mean,” said O’Brien. It’s more active and engaging because just looking around prompts the questions. Everything we do ties into the landscape and things that are already there, which normal crews might glance over.”

There is only one Earth, and it is important that we are active in showing our appreciation for it.

“There is a pay-it-forward aspect of doing ROCS, bringing newly acquired knowledge home, and then getting more people to come and participate. ROCS helps kindle lifelong learning and finding what you’re interested in,” O’Brien said.

Because ROCS participants do at least 16 hours of conservation work, the ROCS trek is at a discounted rate from the 12-day treks. Scholarships are available from the Philmont Staff Association (PSA) every year.

“The world is your classroom if you’re doing it right. Lifelong learning is something we pride ourselves on, and the curious people are the ones who can change the world.”



ROCS crew 707 takes their Wilderness Pledge during sunset on Wilson Mesa.
Josh Galemore/PhilNews

Climbing around Cimarroncito

Kate Johnson

PhilNews

Scouts are literally climbing the walls and hanging from the ceilings in Cimarroncito’s bouldering gym.

Music blares and staffers dance while diligently observing the Scouts to make sure every boulderer has two spotters. “Never stop spooning!” said Program Counselor Ryan Eggemeyer reminding the spotters to keep their hands cupped fingers together to break their crew-mate’s fall.

Displays about the physics of climbing gear – pulleys, working load limits, knots, and so on – garner some attention from the Scouts before they proceed to the bouldering area.

Eggemeyer said, “It’s like this every night: just a bunch of kids, a few of us, and a huge party. It’s so much fun that our conservationist comes in and helps out.”

Pillars, slanted walls, the areas around doors and windows are all covered in hand and footholds. Courses are marked out in colored tape and rated by difficulty.



Fellow crew members spot for Ryan Mantell, a member of Troop 109 from Randolph, New Jersey, as he attempts a route in Cimarroncito’s bouldering gym. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

Staffers encourage the Scouts by providing advice and instruction

for finding handholds, crossing the ceiling, and choosing routes.

“You’ve got this man; one, two, three, go!” yells Eggemeyer.

Cimarroncito offers rock climbing as well as bouldering. Calls of “Climbing!” and “Climb on!” resound off the rock faces as crews scramble to the top of some of Cimarroncito’s different climbing routes.

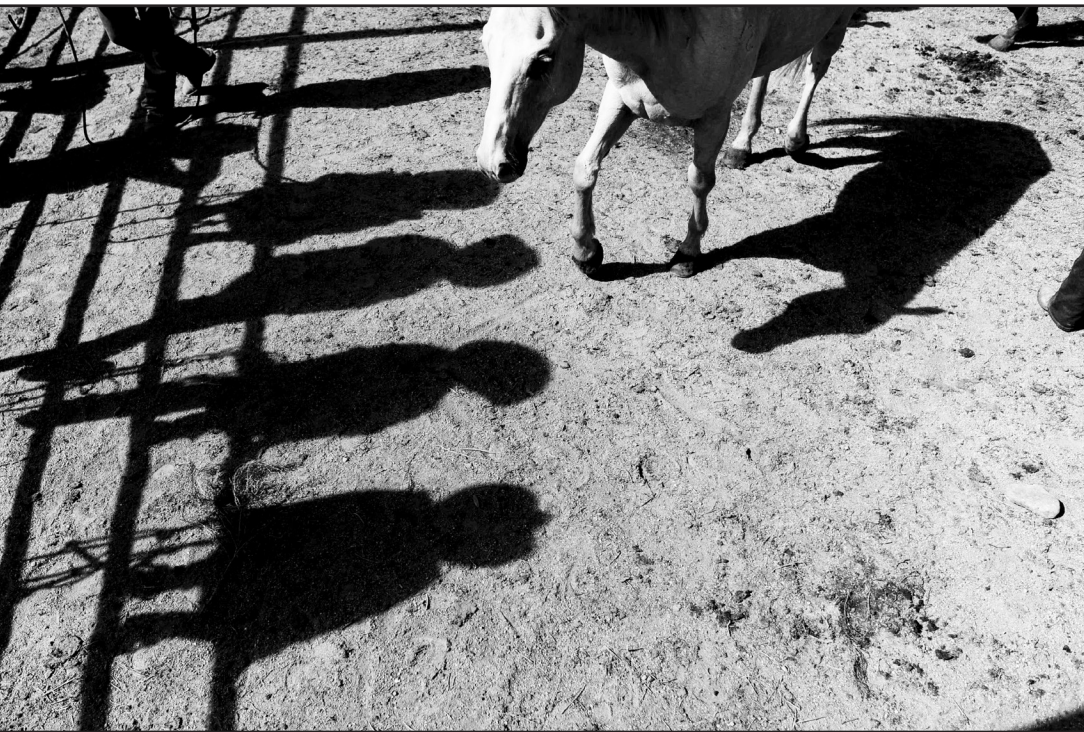
Robert Kosteck, from Crew 719-K said, “It was awesome! That was my first time on real rock walls, seeing the real thing.” Itinerary 15, the climbing trek, gets to spend extra time on Cito’s natural climbing course, learning to belay themselves.

Cimarroncito has other attractions besides its bouldering gym and rock climbing. One is showers. One participant said, “After nine days without showers, this is my favorite camp so far.”

Some crews complete their conservation projects here, helping to move existing trail out of a meadow and up onto a ridge.

The camp is busy and constantly full of Scouts, something that the staff enjoys.

Program Counselor Quintin Combrink said, “I think it’s cool just meeting so many different people. They’re always surprised by what they can do.”



Above: A horse meanders through its pen as wranglers sit on the top rail of the fence.
Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

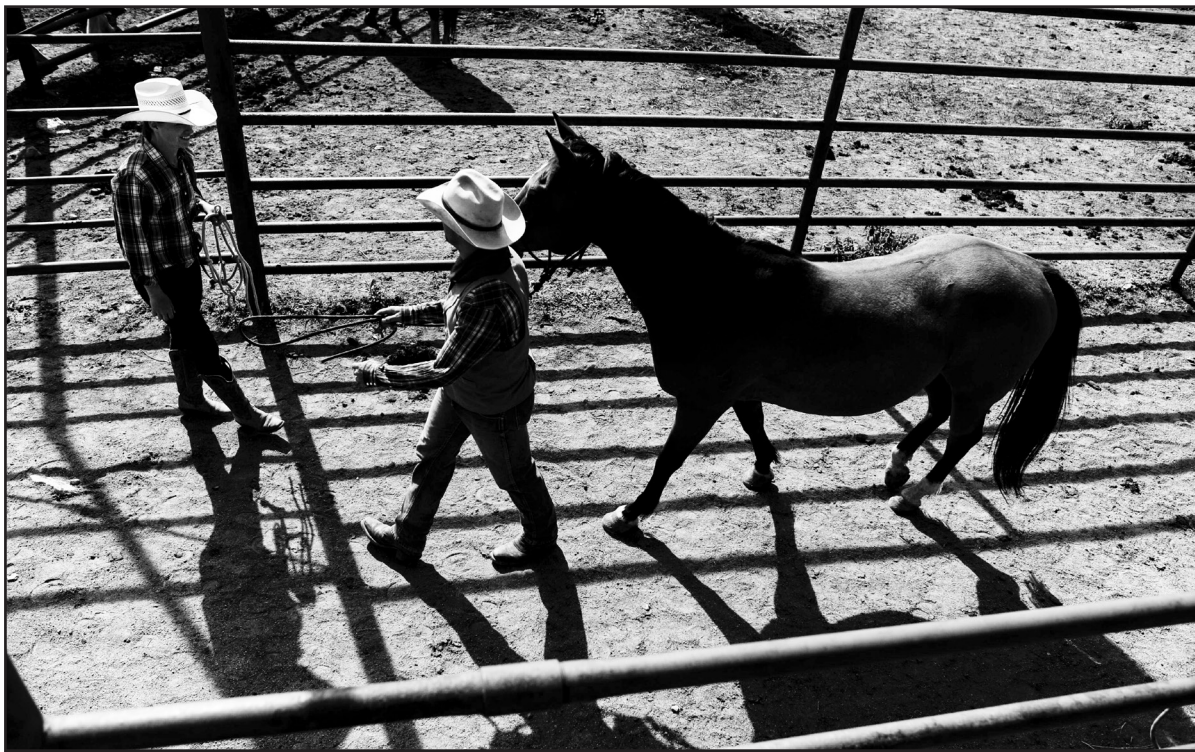


Right: Horseman Sam Agnew, of Hillsboro, Texas, sits at the top of the fence as horses run between pens.
Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Below: Yvonne Skrzypczak, of Rockford, Illinois, (left) and Melissa Monroe, of Glenolden, Pennsylvania, (right) ride to Ponil in front of a herd of horses.
Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Horsemen and wranglers drive horses from Cattle Headquarters to Ponil. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Wranglers lead horses from pen to pen at Cattle Headquarters in preparation for their horse drive to Ponil. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

From page one: Ranch Department

"We teach them a little bit of the history of this place. We want them to be involved and show that it is a ranch, so the horse camps—Ponil, Clarks Fork, and Beaubien—all have branding, which is done to this day. We do it here at Philmont, all our neighbors do it—everybody does it," said Ricklefs.

Ricklefs said many Cavalcade and Ranch Hands participants return to work for the Ranch Department.

"That's one of the primary goals of the Ranch Hands program—to identify future staff. Cavalcade is the same way. They get to camp; they get to climb the walls, they get to do everything that everyone else does. In addition, they get to learn how to pack a horse, they get to learn how to saddle a horse."

The ranch seeks seasonal wranglers and horsemen with prior equestrian experience.

"They've got to have horse experience," Ranch Superintendent Ricklefs said. "There's no way in



Wranglers and horsemen drive horses north to Ponil through Cimarron. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

the world we can teach everybody what needs to be learned in about a three-week period."

Current staffers who want to become wranglers for the next summer season can work with the staff at Cattle Headquarters and Ponil to learn horsemanship.

"We want to see some desire,"

said Ricklefs.

Ranchers work long hours are rewarded with opportunities to work with colts. For example, the Ranch Department cares for 5-13 young horses every year.

"If it wasn't for Philmont, I would never have the opportunity to work with yearling fowls, two



Lane Witt, of Katy, Texas, collects blankets to bring to Ponil before driving the horses north. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

year olds, or ride a colt," Horseman Miazza said. "We're lucky Philmont has a breeding program."

There is a connection between a horse and a rider. Program participants learn that their horses can be both working animals and companions.

"The horse is your teammate," Miazza said. "If you do something, you do it together with your horse. In the morning before breakfast, the horses eat before you do. I think that's one of the things we try to impart on the participants: to put something else before themselves."

From page one: Administration

looking for it, Administration can many times go unnoticed.

Located down the road from CHQ, just beyond the Philmont Training Center, the Administration Department goes above and beyond to make sure the entirety of the ranch is working efficiently. The Administration building houses the offices of General Manager Kevin Dowling, Comptroller Steve Nelson, Facilities and Maintenance Manager Dave Kenneke, and Ranch Superintendent Bob Ricklefs.

"Administration is really the main hub of Philmont because everything comes through here first.

A lot of people will not understand the importance and amount of work that goes on here until they visit. I used to work at CHQ before coming here, so it is amazing to see the difference and the details of what goes on in this building," Garcia said.

According to Garcia, anywhere from 350 to 500 calls come through the switchboard a day. In Administration, phones are strategically placed throughout the building to allow for efficient answering in order to get people the help they need.

"A lot of the calls are the same:

asking for the ToTT or something. But sometimes it is a crew calling because of an emergency. I am able to direct them to who they need. You can tell the growth of Philmont just by the amount of calls that come in. There were not nearly as many phone calls or purchase orders when I first started," Garcia said.

Administration serves everyone on the ranch from Base Camp to the backcountry, meaning that they are also the direct line to the National BSA office. From the National office, everything trickles down to the Administration Department and then to all other aspects of the ranch.

"We make sure that we support the other departments so that they can do what they need to do in order to reach the Scouts in the way Philmont does each summer," Garcia said.

Across the ranch, people are working to fulfill Philmont's mission of presenting wilderness experiences that last a lifetime. Though Administration is behind the scenes, they are the people who give everything the go-ahead.

Marilyn Vargas is the Administration team leader in her 30th year at Philmont. "Our goal is to

be able to serve everyone on the ranch. Without this office, the others could not run. We process the mail, we receive all of the money and then send it out, take all the phone calls, and the emergency calls in the off-season. We are the first contact for anyone trying to reach Philmont," Vargas said.

For Vargas, Philmont has been her family, her home, and her history since she moved to Cimarron as a freshman in high school. Her husband has worked at Philmont for 45 years, and his Grandfather worked for Waite Phillips. Vargas and her husband raised their children here, and their daughter worked at Philmont, making her connection to Philmont and her job in Administration that much more meaningful.

"Everybody here has a very big job in making Philmont work. The challenge comes in keeping up with everything, especially in the fall. There are always new people coming in and out because of the PTC programs and fall adventures, and we have to keep track of that. It's not always easy, but it all works," Vargas said.

Vargas is the assistant to the General Manager, handles all insurance that goes through Philmont,



Administration accounting clerks Tina Archuleta and Mona Romero count money inside the vault in the Administration building on July 23, 2015. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

ont, and manages Philmont's housekeeping department, among many other tasks.

"I've worked with a lot of different people, and we all get along. We don't take many breaks because we are always so busy, but we have different parties, like our open houses or annual Halloween party," Vargas said.

Upon walking into the Administration building, a completely different atmosphere presents itself. The environment is calm, clean, and free of young Scouts running around, creating a quiet

workspace conducive to the jobs they do everyday. Every person in Administration plays a critical role in the growth and improvement of Philmont, adding to the experience offered to Scouts across the world.

Garcia said, "I have found that they [Administration staffers] are some of the nicest people and most supportive team. Most things would not be possible at Philmont if it wasn't for the people here; working in Administration has made me realize what it really means to work as a team."

From page one: Philmont Training Center

impart life-long memories.

Located across the road from Camping Headquarters (CHQ), the PTC has served as the National Training Center for the Boy Scouts of America for 65 years. In those years, the PTC has become a premiere destination for Scouting volunteers, professionals, and their families to learn about the latest and greatest of the BSA.

According to *The Other Side of the Road*, a story of the PTC written by Mark Griffin, more than 300,000 people have attended a conference or participated in a family program at the PTC since 1950. Led by knowledgeable and experienced Scouters, seven to nine conferences are held each week for unit, district, and council volunteers and professionals.

Associate Director of PTC Program Andrea Watson said, "Our mission is to help strengthen local councils by providing relevant Scouting training that helps them go back and do what they do better. In an effort to accomplish that mission, we offer family program alongside that."

From June to September, the PTC offers more than 80 week-long training conferences that discuss anything from Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting to Venturing, professional Scouting development and outdoor skills.

Watson said, "The classes are tremendously varied. The people who come here are training to do their job in Scouting better, whether they are a Cub Scout leader or serving in a district. The faculty who teach these classes are volunteers who change out every six days, and they are all recruited from around the country by the various departments and national committees who are responsible for the topic of the class."

According to Sibyl Cox, PTC logistics program support, the challenge at PTC comes in keeping up with all of the new Scouting materials and techniques.

Cox said, "We are always asked 'What's new at the PTC

this year?' The people here have become pioneers. We are always getting better at getting better. We are figuring out how to do things in new ways and, in turn, how Scouters and their families can bring it home."

Many Scouters who come to the PTC to train will bring their families with them, turning their stay into more of a Philmont-oriented vacation. Activities are planned for each day of the week; for each age group there is a fitting activity that works in preparing them for future Philmont experiences.

"What's fun about PTC is that you have these windows of time throughout the week that you get to do things with your age group, but then you also get to have that family time. We are always trying to blend family time and program time," said Watson.

Whether you are two or 22, there is an experience to be had at the PTC. According to PTC Group Leader Coordinator Justin Vergara, this emphasis on family is what makes the PTC what it is today.

Vergara said, "What I love most about the family program is that we introduce the backcountry and high-adventure at Philmont to all the kids, just at different levels. We provide them with learning opportunities, introducing them to outdoor cooking and all-day hikes, leading up to overnights and then by the time they are 14 or 15, the goal is to have them participate in a trek. We start them off, and then help to build their passion for Philmont while cultivating that family atmosphere."

Family facilities at the PTC include the Craft Center, Small Fry building, and the Pony Ring, but a majority of the time they spend at Philmont will be in the outdoors. Children and their families learn the Leave No Trace guidelines, visit the Villa Philmonte and the Seton Museum, learn about search and rescue and the Infirmary, take trips to Cimarron and learn about the local businesses, as well as visit various camps and landmarks in



Angie Winterton helps assign tents and programs to the Haxton family after they arrive on Sunday, July 12, 2015, at the Philmont Training Center.
Tyler Sanders/PhilNews

the backcountry. A new learning activity at PTC this year is their Pilot Program, which is a state-of-the-art shooting sports program for Cub Scouts.

Spending a week at the PTC is truly a growing experience. For each person that visits, they go home with a newfound knowledge and understanding of not only how to better themselves in Scouting, but the history and uniqueness of Philmont.

According to Watson, many of the kids that go through PTC will return to Philmont to participate in 12-day treks, individual treks, and come back as Philmont staff.

Watson said, "The PTC is another way of accomplishing Philmont's mission: delivering wilderness adventures that last a life time. The experience I had at PTC when I was seven has never left, and here I am 28 years later. I have a vivid memory of my sister and I camping in PTC tent city, and we were told stories about Urraca Mesa. I remember sleeping in the bathroom that night because we were so scared," Watson laughed. "It stays with you for a long time, just like other programs at Philmont."



In a small fenced-in circle, the Trail Blazers and Rope Winders play Gaga ball. The goal of the game is to get all other players out by hitting them in the knee.
Tyler Sanders/PhilNews



Don Winn shows his class how the contouring of mountains on maps are created by demonstrating on the knuckles of a student.
Tyler Sanders/PhilNews



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Essentials for hiking: Extra food

Marie Reynolds

PhilNews

In the BBC article *Who, What, Why: How long can someone survive without food?* Authors Lauren Everitt and Chi Chi Izundu discuss the finding of a Swedish man in a car buried under snow who says he survived for two months without food by eating handfuls of snow. Though there have been numerous examples of humans surviving without food for long periods of time and experts say it is possible for humans to survive for up to two months without it, it is certainly not a good idea while you are physically exerting yourself.

Food equals fuel, especially when you are hiking through Philmont's 137,493 acres of rugged backcountry.

try. Next to water, extra food is one of the easiest "gear" items to make sure you have in tow, while also being one of the most crucial of Philmont's "Essentials for Hikers".

"The trail food diet is, by necessity, a high-carbohydrate, high-calorie diet rich in wheat, milk products, and sugars," according to the Philmont website.

Philmont provides meals that are pre-packaged, accessible, and easy to digest in order to provide crews with the most efficient way of re-fuelin. Packaged in lightweight disposable plastic bags, the trail meals are put together specifically for the use of hikers at Philmont.

This month at Outfitting Services, the infamous "food wall" has had a surplus of items. Staffers can now

choose six items off the wall, with a limit of two per bin. There are no bin limits on squeezable food, trail mix, food in silver bags, drink mix, and other small items. So now, staffers have no reason not to have enough food while hiking!

When you are hiking outside of Philmont, extra food is just as important and requires you to plan ahead for yourself. The Pacific Crest Trail Association website states, "For shorter trips, a one-day supply of extra food is a reasonable emergency stockpile in case of foul weather, faulty navigation, injury or other unexpected events that delay the planned return. The food should require no cooking, and be easily digestible."

Food is the fuel crews need in or-

der to hike on, summit that mountain, and stay warm.

The Wild Backpacker, a website created to "spread the love of backpacking" and provide useful hiking tips, states, "A calorie is the unit of energy used when talking about food. Calories are *literally* energy, and that's *all* they are... The calories in our food come from three sources: carbohydrates (also called sugars), proteins, and fats. Carbohydrates and proteins provide us with four calories per gram. Fats provide us with nine calories per gram. What this means is that fats are much more energy-rich, or energy-dense, than carbohydrates or proteins. This concept of energy density, or "caloric density" is very important. If you are running a marathon, hoof-

ing it up a mountain, or climbing a rock face, your body is primarily concerned with one thing: energy." Finding a balance between the needed food and extra weight in your pack is also important, but having extra food can be a savior no matter what day you are on or weather conditions you are in. You could run into a crew that needs the food, a first-aid situation could arise where someone needs more calories, or you could find yourself needing that little bit of extra energy on a high-mileage day. Just as the Grand Canyon Explorer website states, "If you have food - eat it. If you have extra food - share it. If you do not have food - ask other hikers if they have any extra food that they will share with you."

The spice of life: Cooking with variety in the backcountry

Caleb Wong

PhilNews

In the backcountry, spices can make the difference between a good and a great meal. When people eat three meals a day, spices not only nourish participants and staff for another day of work, but also bring out the flavor in the food.

In the kitchen at Ponil Head Cook Steve Long cooks every day along with his Assistant Cook Erich Schick for program counselors, wranglers, horsemen, and visitors. From cayenne-flavored chicken paired with orange slices and honey to a couscous salad, he cooks gourmet meals with ingredients provided by the commissary.

Spices add unique flavors to a standard set of ingredients.

"For us, spices make the meal," Long said. "It adds a lot of flavor to ingredients we get from the commissary. If we just tried to just cook chicken, there wouldn't be flavor to it."

Eighteen different types of spices, from basil leaves to turmeric, stand on a pantry shelf in the Ponil kitchen, not including spices from friendly well-wishers. Long uses a variety of different spices to add nuance and flavor to make every meal a positive, interesting experience. He never uses the same spice combination more than once.

"It's always new and something different," Long said.

Spices not only belong in the

kitchen, but also on the trail. Long suggested that crews carry a few core spices with them on the trail to bring out flavor in trail meals.

"I would keep it simple, so salt and pepper," Long said. "If you have red chili powder or tabasco sauce, those can add a lot of flavor to almost anything."

Ring Place Program Counselor Paul Lenharth said crews should experiment with spices, but use them in moderation.

"I recommend looking up what spices go well with which foods first, but then experimenting with combinations of those spices," Lenharth said. "Also, do not add too much of any one spice or too much spice in general as it is easy to overwhelm other flavors; aim for a balance between each spice and the rest of the flavors."

Jackson Kleinsmith, a participant from Troop 496 in McKinney, Texas, said he likes to add both familiar spices to traditional meals and experiment with new spice combinations. When his crew ate pasta for dinner on the trail, adding black pepper to the meal brought out other flavors in the food, Kleinsmith said.

Kleinsmith carries six types of spices in his pack.

"It adds flavor to it and other elements you couldn't tell until you put the spices on," Kleinsmith said. "The pasta was cheesy and didn't have much spice to it, so the black pepper brought out a little something you couldn't taste without it."



Above: "The fun part of being a backcountry cook is that we get to make our own menu. We have more freedom here to use our own spices," said Steve Long, the head cook at Ponil from Taos, New Mexico. Long likes to use chili and spices when he cooks like the kind of cooking he grew up with.

Erin Irwin/PhilNews

Left: "If you have cheese or bacon, then they will come," said Steve Long, the head cook at Ponil, as he spreads more and more cheese on top of the nachos he prepares for lunch on Monday, June 20.

Erin Irwin/PhilNews

Welcome to Clarks Fork

Kate Johnson

PhilNews

Staffers sit on the porch practicing their instruments. Cries of "Welcome to Clarks Fork!" ring through the camp as crews arrive and staff launch into the welcome talk. Some Scouts read or play chess on the spacious porch. A few advisors toss horseshoes nearby.

Clarks Fork offers roping, horse rides, branding, chuck wagon dinners, hot showers, and an evening campfire program. The 15 staff provide program for approximately 15 crews passing through each day and roughly eight who spend the night. Most of the itineraries passing through are very close to ending their trek and heading for base camp.

Branding is a popular way for crews to create souvenirs.

"It's something for them to take home and remember their experience at Philmont," said Program Counselor Katie Johns.

So far this summer, staff have branded three ukuleles and one kazoo, as well as phone cases, belts, hats, Nalgene, and other common items.

"I think probably 90 percent of the people are nervous at first, but once they get up there and on the ride for a bit, that kind of turns around. The horse rides give them

a chance to look up and enjoy the scenery rather than worry about where they're putting their feet. It's a nice little break" Horsemom-an Victoria Yale said of the horse ride experience before describing the joy of her work. "Whoa, I can ride horses and have a job at the same time. This is cool!"

Program Counselor Carson McRae said that the chuck wagon dinner always gets a good reaction. Most crews are late in the trek, and they appreciate the beef stew, biscuits, and cobbler as a welcome change from rehydrated trail meals.

A big favorite with staff and participants alike is the evening campfire program, which combines music with audience participation for an evening of fun. The campfire area allows campers to look out on the city lights of Cimarron; many of them look forward to base camp as they near the end of their trek.

Runyan said the most important part of the job for him is, "just being out here and getting to know people from all over the country and working with them."

"Crews come in late and exhausted from long days of hiking. We get an opportunity to turn that day around for them," said Camp Director Scott Hamilton.



Left: The Clarks Fork staff performs as the sun sets during their campfire program on July 22, 2015.
Leanora Benkato/PhilNews



Below: Will West, Tanner Perry, Brian Webb, Zach Connelly, and Will Ryan play chess on the front porch of the Clark's Fork cabin on July 22, 2015.
Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

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Learning proper gun safety at Harlan

Kate Johnson

PhilNews

The camp is calm and peaceful, except for the gunshots that can be heard from the nearby range.

Harlan offers 12-gauge shotgun shooting and reloading, as well as an evening program of burro racing.

Half a dozen crews pass through each day. Crews on Itinerary 11, sometimes known as the shooting-sports trek, are frequent visitors.

In the safety talk, staff members review the three most basic rules of gun safety: always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction, always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot, and always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Next they review the anatomy of the 12-gauge, Ruger Red Label shotguns that the Scouts will be shooting. The safety talk covers range commands and other important information for the participants who will be shooting.

The staff are constantly supervising crews that pay to shoot extra rounds after finishing their included shots

Each participant has the opportunity to reload three shotgun shells. In the reloading cabin, black and red MEC reloading presses are constantly in motion as participants fill empty shells with powder, shot, a primer, and a wad.

During the evening program, crews race the six young burros that live at Harlan. After a brief admonition to crews to avoid bites and kicks, the race begins. The first burro to make it back into the pen wins.

Program Counselor Arthur Dollard said, “the kids think they won, but it’s the burros who win. The kids are the coaches, not the athletes.” After coaching their burro, crews feed the burros.

Harlan is a calm camp, despite the controlled explosions from the shotgun range. Mini-bears are mostly absent, probably due to the rattlesnake presence. Bats take refuge in the outer cabin roof. Miniature, iridescent hummingbirds flock around a feeder hanging from the porch. The camp also offers a picturesque view of Little Costilla.



Above:
Harlan Camp Director Justin Kernes teaches a camper proper shotgun technique before shooting skeet.

Josh Galemore/PhilNews



Left:
Joshua Camaioni, member of Troop 2222 from Santa Clarita, California, reloads shotgun shells at Harlan.

Josh Galemore/PhilNews

Where are the bears? Wildlife management methods

Marco Mascitti & Jordan Rosell

Bear Researchers

Scientific research is an ever-expanding and diversifying field. Engineers and physicists perform controlled studies on structure and motion, medical researchers investigate potential medicines, and sociologists research “human ecology” and behavior of human societies.

As wildlife scientists we are interested in the habits of wildlife and how these habits affect and interact with our lives. While the research we conduct in many ways is similar to those mentioned above, there is a fundamental difference: our subjects do not enter willingly into the study. Humans can simply be asked questions relating to diet, routine,

and lifestyle. In order to collect this information about free-roaming animals we must employ several creative techniques.

The method used depends largely upon the species being studied and the setting and environment in which the research is being conducted. Throughout the 77 years at Philmont, several methods have been used to study bears and these methods are always being evolved and adapted.

In the 1980’s, radio telemetry was sponsored by New Mexico Fish and Game to collect information on the locations of bears. This practice involves placing collars on several bears and using a radio antenna to locate the individuals. Radio telemetry is especially use-

ful for investigating *home range*, or the territory that an individual animal possesses. A recently concluded study at Philmont consisted of placing barbed wire on trees in order to collect hair samples when bears rub against trees. By collecting hair, managers can make population estimates as well as analyze the genetics of Philmont’s bears by extracting DNA from the hair.

To study diet, scat samples are very useful. In our daily work, we are always on the lookout for bear scat to find out what they have been eating. At this point in the summer, berries, seeds and nuts are often present, and by identifying these plants we can find where they grow and predict bear presence in those areas.

Today, there are no radio-collared bears on Philmont and our primary method of collecting data is gathering Bear Reports from staff and participants. While these reports allow us to map bear locations on an annual basis and see where bears are frequenting, it is fundamentally flawed in that it does not tell us anything about where bears are when people are not seeing them. Using this method, the most bear sightings are often where the most people are, likely a result of more sets of human eyes to watch for bears. However, this is also a reflection on the fact that Philmont’s bears tend to sniff out our camps and investigate; their fear of humans is largely diminishing.

There is no perfect method for

studying wildlife. Managers are always in the process of refining their strategies but the fact remains every wildlife study is in some way imperfect. The frustration, and wonder, of wildlife management lies in the fact that it is exceedingly difficult to study animals which often want nothing to do with us. Our appetite for information is further whetted every time an animal balks our attempts at capture, their apparent disinterest with humans fueling our desire to understand them. The true magic of human-wildlife relationships is not our ability to conquer and discover their world, but rather in their unique ability to keep their lives a secret, even in a world where wild lands are disappearing.

Ranger Mile: Black death & super black death

Matt Hart

Associate Chief Ranger

With the final month of our Philmont summer at hand, it's bucket list time for many of you. For the adventurous, that may mean it's time to attempt Black Death or Super Black Death, two of Philmont's hiking challenges. These strenuous routes provide the opportunity for memorable personal achievements, but carry significant risk alongside. Do not undertake one of them alone, and be sure to file a Staff Backcountry Access Permit before departure from Base Camp.

Black Death: Black Mountain Camp to Base Camp via the summits of Black Mountain, Shaefer's Peak, and the Tooth of Time. Three peaks over roughly 12 miles and 3,100 total feet of elevation gain.

Be sure to arrive at Black Mountain Camp the night before you plan to hike the challenge. Get up early, fill up on water (at least five liters), and hump it up the switchbacks to the summit of Black Mountain. There's a reason this peak is regarded as one of Philmont's burliest: it is a steep and relentless climb from the staffed camp, ascending nearly 2,000 vertical feet in roughly a mile. Take a slow, steady pace – you'll need your energy

later in the day.

Once you've topped out on Black, enjoy the view then set off east on a gradual, rolling descent to Shaefer's Pass. From the trail camp, it's a quick but steep climb up to the southern flank of Shaefer's Peak. Turn left off the ridge trail and dash the 200 feet up to the summit of Shaefer's before continuing your eastbound trek along Tooth Ridge.

It's a hot mile and a half between Shaefer's and the base of the Tooth. Keep pumping water and food, then scramble up the 500 feet of rock to the summit. Be careful: footing can be treacherous, and this is no time for a rolled ankle. Once you've made it, soak in the glory of your third summit of the day and the panoramic views it affords. Then take your victory descent to Base.

Super Black Death: Clear Creek to Base Camp via Mt. Phillips, Comanche Peak, Big Red, Bear Mountain, Black Mountain, Shaefer's Peak, and the Tooth of Time. Seven peaks over roughly 20 miles and 6,000 total feet of elevation gain.

You have to like more than a little pain to undertake Super Black Death. Snag a ride from the Backcountry Warehouse or hike out to Clear Creek the afternoon before. If you can get a

friend to drop you off, take the beautiful Tolby Road, an off-Ranch trail which runs south from Highway 64, climbing to the dazzling, aspen-lined Tolby Meadow then up to Clear Creek (the trailhead is on the south side of the highway, just before the hairpin turns as you near Eagle Nest).

From Clear Creek, wake up at first light, load up on water, and climb Mt. Phillips while it's still cool. Stay quiet and you're likely to catch a glimpse of ruffed grouse or other wildlife. Enjoy the summit briefly, then descend through spruce-fir forest to the Phillips-Comanche saddle. After a quick climb up to the 11,303-foot summit of Comanche Peak, continue east to the trail camp of the same name, then take a hard right and head south to another saddle before knocking out your third 11,000-footer of the morning, Big Red. The trail can grow faint between Comanche and Big Red, especially around the intersection with the emergency road to Thunder Ridge, so be sure to check your compass and make sure you're continuing to head south.

After reaching the big rock cairn on Red's summit, turn due east and descend to Comanche Pass. Take the high road from the pass and begin your ascent of Black, with a quick detour to summit Bear Mountain about



Hiking above the clouds near the Mt. Phillips summit during an early-morning start to Super Black Death. Photo Courtesy: Chris Lowery

a kilometer up from the pass. There is no marked trail to this peak, but the summit is visible and a quick, steep 400-foot bushwhack from the trail. Be sure to consult your map and compass frequently during this stretch. After your side-trip to Bear, continue on to the Black Mountain summit, then follow the route for Black Death as described above.

Some final tips: don't take any extended breaks (your muscles will not want to get started again afterward), keep pumping the water and the cal-

ories, and do your best to make it to Base before dark! Don't be afraid to bail if weather or fatigue makes you at all nervous. The easiest way is to drop down from Shaefer's Pass then rest up and seek a ride from Clark's Fork or Miner's Park. On Super Black Death, it is also an easy descent from Comanche Pass to Cypher's Mine. Do not attempt any of the peaks if lightning is in the area, and as always, hike with at least one partner.

Happy trails!

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Taking a lichen to Philmont

Ted Hamilton
STEM Educator

Everywhere you hike at Philmont Scout Ranch, you will find an incredible organism called lichen. Several back-country camps have BEEplets talking about them. Lichens grow on almost any surface like rocks, tree bark, and soil. You will even find them protruding from a mat of moss.

Sometimes, like at the first petroglyph at Indian Writings, you can find more than 10 species of lichens on a rock taking up an area less than one square foot.

Yes, they're everywhere, but what are they?

Lichens are a composite organism: a combination of multiple species that create a functional individual. Lichens are a grouping of a photobiont (an organism that photosynthesizes) and a fungus. The photobiont is usually algae but

sometimes bacteria can become "lichenized." The relationship between a fungus and an alga is symbiotic: the fungus provides structural support and an environment for the alga to survive in while the alga photosynthesizes to produce macromolecules. Macromolecules are things like glucose and other large molecules used by the fungus for food. The lichen essentially creates its own micro-environment where nutrients and water are circulated within itself.

What is so special about lichens?

Lichens are incredibly flexible. Not limber, but within an ecosystem they can survive in almost any habitat. For instance, after a massive fire, like the Ponil Complex Fire of 2002, lichens are one of the first organisms to return to the destroyed environment. We call this type of organism a *pioneer*

organism. When an extreme fire comes through it can sterilize the soil, and destroy much, if not all, of the organic material in the area. As a microenvironment, Lichens, can handle the devastation. They only require a small amount of minerals and other nutrients, and water. With this input lichens can thrive in places where larger, hardier organisms like Ponderosa or grasses cannot.

As lichens colonize a devastated environment, they also begin to die. Dead lichen material contains organic matter like nitrogen, carbon, and other larger molecules that help to reinvigorate the soil. In this way lichens help kick-start an ecosystem after catastrophe.

Awesome! But, how do you know you are looking at a lichen?

There are three primary types of lichen, identified by how they grow. There are foliose li-

chens, which are often the easiest to find; they are leafy, and often grow in a radial pattern, creating circles on rocks and other structures. Sometimes, if you look closely at a branch, you can see some darker colored (almost black) foliose lichen covering most of the bark.

Crustose is another type of lichen which we see almost exclusively on rocks. As the name portrays, crustose lichens form a crust over the surface they are growing on. You can find crustose lichens in a variety of colors: orange, yellow, red, black, and even white, often making it tough to differentiate between the rock and the body of the lichen. The third growth type is called fruticose. These grow in branches and rods, and often look like bushes. Old Man's Beard, a common fruticose lichen, can be found all over Philmont on the bark of trees.

If you aren't convinced that

lichens are one of the coolest things ever, hear this. In 2012, a group of scientists got the idea to test the survivability of lichens. They put a lichen in a special box, and sent it up to the International Space Station. Up there, astronauts helped expose the lichen to Mars-like conditions. Without space suits and other incredible technology, humans can not survive on Mars, much less in space.

However, when the samples were brought back to Earth, the lichens were tested for photosynthetic and other metabolic processes indicative of life. The results: they lived – lichens are so tough and durable that they can survive space.

As you go about your adventures at Philmont think of these little astronauts and keep your eyes peeled for the fascinating, resilient, and colorful organisms!

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Reader submissions

9,825 Feet
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The wind's voice is a tiny whisper, echoing between the leaves.
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The silhouetted mountain peak towers over everything.

The birds quiet,
The sun melts away,
and the crickets slowly start to sing.

I sit outside and feel the wind as I stare up at the sky.
The beauty of this enchanted land is even better from up high

The reality of sustainability

Schuyler Schrader & A.J. Cuppucio
Sustainability Specialists

Sustainability is a program that started just five years ago and is still being managed by two staffers.

A program that has saved the ranch thousands of dollars and hundreds of tons in saved waste is under the responsibility of Schuyler Schrader and A.J. Cuppucio.

The sustainability team handles all the recycling here in base camp – meaning we sort, bale, and throw away anything that can't be recycled.

Our main goal in sustainability is to continue the efforts of recycling and better educate the participants and staff here in base and the backcountry.

Currently the Ranch recycles #1, #2, and #4 trail meal bags as well as cardboard, aluminum,

and tin.

All #3-7 plastics are still combined into a bale and taken by our partner, Bio-Pappel, but the ranch will not make profit.

However the plastics taken by Bio-Pappel still save it from being dumped into a landfill, which is what the ranch is trying to avoid. Recently we toured Friedman Recycling's center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and learned how recycling is sorted by machines. Friedman has better equipment and is better built for the Ranch as a whole. However, Friedman sends their cardboard to China, something the Ranch does not support.

Currently we have a deal with Bio-Pappel to take all our recycling, even if they are specifically a paper company. Bio-Pappel takes all our cardboard and

keeps it in the state of New Mexico, supporting jobs and production in the U.S. – something the Ranch highly supports. After talking with both Friedman and Bio-Pappel we decided to keep our deal with Bio-Pappel.

You may be thinking, "How is all of this being done by two staff?"

Thankfully we get help from back country staffers, drivers, and the great efforts being done here in base camp. Base camp has many bins for recyclables to be placed in so that we can pick it up and put it in its proper place.

Two of the biggest are the Alley Cat located in between News and Photo Services and Outfitting Services' lockers and the cardboard trailer behind the CHQ Dining Hall.

The Alley Cat collects paper-board, aluminum, and number #1 and #2 plastics.

The biggest recyclable produced by the Ranch is cardboard. All cardboard is stored in either the PTC trailer, CHQ Dining hall trailer, or the Backcountry trailer.

All backcountry recyclables are taken to the Conex box located by the roll-offs for trash and next to the wet garbage compactor by backcountry staff and drivers.

Once it is there we sort through it all and wait until we have enough of something to make a bale.

Every Tuesday and Friday we have Ranger Workdays where we can more work done than usual to keep the program on top of things. Thankfully with the help


from all of the backcountry and Base camp staff, the sustainability program can get enough help to get by with two employees.

So, we here at the sustainability program thank all of the staff and participants doing their part to keep the ranch recyclable friendly.

We will continue to better educate the Ranch on how recycling works within the Ranch and how everyone can do their part.


If you have any questions please stop by the Conservation office or I-camp us your concerns to Sustainability Unit 97.

We are more than welcome to help the ranch save money and the environment. We will continue our hard efforts to keep the Ranch as sustainable as possible and wish this program much success in the future.



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Philmont staffer to serve aboard *Nautilus* exploration vessel

Sarah Burgess from Philmont Scout Ranch has been selected as a 2015 science communication fellow and will sail aboard Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus* during its 2015 expedition. Sarah will join the Corps of Exploration aboard E/V *Nautilus* in late July and early August as they explore the California Borderlands from Long Beach to San Francisco. At Philmont, Sarah gives seasonal leadership to the Environmental Education and STEM programs.

Twenty-eight educators and twenty-six students from around the world have been selected from a competitive pool of applicants by the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) to participate at sea during the 2015 *Nautilus* Exploration Program expedition. OET, a nonprofit founded by Dr. Robert Ballard in 2008, has the mission to explore the ocean, seeking out new discoveries in the fields of geology, biology, maritime history, archaeology, physics, and chemistry while pushing the boundaries of STEM education and technological innovation. The selected educators and students hail from schools, universities, science centers, aquaria, and non-profit organizations in twenty-five states in the US and five countries. They will join the *Nautilus* Corps of Exploration during sea-going expeditions from April through October in the Gulf of Mexico, Galápagos Islands, and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

"I am ecstatic to be part of the Corps of Exploration aboard E/V *Nautilus* this year! I look forward to sharing this experience with all the staff, participants and visitors adven-



Photo Courtesy Sarah Burgess

turing at Philmont this summer. Ocean exploration is a new frontier, with exciting discoveries yet to happen, and I think many of our Scouts and Venturers will be the next generation of explorers in this realm." (Sarah Burgess)

The 2015 Science Communication Fellowship Program, an initiative of OET, will bring twenty-two formal and informal educators together from around the world as a part of the *Nautilus* Corps of Exploration. Fellows are charged with the responsibility of engaging students and the public in the wonders of ocean exploration, sharing discoveries from the 2015 mission, as well as inviting others to learn aspects of daily life aboard a working exploration vessel. Fellows receive four days of intensive training at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, and then spend two to three weeks aboard *Nautilus* between the months of April and October,

as it explores the Gulf of Mexico and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

An equally important aspect of the program is that the Fellows bring the expedition and excitement of ocean exploration back to their home communities after they have returned from sea by incorporating their experience into classroom lesson plans, community presentations, and through informal educational opportunities. The Science Communication Fellowship is made possible with sponsorship from Bechtel, the Office of Naval Research, the Florida Panthers Foundation, and private donations.

As members of the Corps of Exploration, educators and students will stand watch alongside scientists and engineers, as well as participate in live interactions with shore-based audiences via *Nautilus* Live, a 24-hour web portal bringing expeditions from the field to future explorers on shore via telepresence technology at www.nautiluslive.org and via

social media.

OET promotes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education around the world using the excitement of exploration and innovation to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. In 2014, OET began targeting its suite of education and outreach programs to specific communities through an exciting new initiative, the Community STEM Program (CSP). The CSP allows partner communities to engage community members from public audiences to young students, early career professionals to educators in a series of opportunities focused on STEM fields and vocations. Since Sarah represents the Boy Scouts of America, this will be an important relationship of our youth organization with the Community STEM Program.

"One of the major goals of our *Nautilus* Exploration Program is to inspire the next generation of explorers in STEM

fields," said OET Executive Vice President, Dr. Katy Croff Bell, "so we are very excited to provide educators and students with the direct experience of ocean exploration, while allowing them the opportunity to share their experiences far and wide with their peers."

The public, scientists, educators, and students can join Sarah's adventure while she is at sea via streaming video on the *Nautilus* Live website, www.nautiluslive.org, a 24-hour portal bringing expeditions from the field to onshore audiences through telepresence technology. The public can also follow the expedition on social media – on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/EVNautilus) as @EVNautilus and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EVNautilus) or [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/EVNautilus) as NautilusLive – and through in-person live interactions at partner museums, aquaria, and science centers around the world.

On August 2nd at 1:45 PM MDT, Sarah will be hosting a live interaction from the *Nautilus* for all staff, participants and visitors of Philmont Scout Ranch. Come to the Hardesty Casa Central this Sunday afternoon to be apart of an exciting question and answer session with Sarah while she is on the boat. You can also follow her adventure and the rest of the Corps of Exploration through www.nautiluslive.org. It is best to access this site from a wired desktop because it is streaming live feed and does not load very well on the wi-fi connection. You can stop by the Conservation office if you'd like to log on from one of the office computers to check out Sarah's adventure!

Games

Word search

S	B	A	F	M	Q	W	R	L	V
E	O	Y	C	A	U	E	B	E	S
A	N	L	M	R	D	H	E	E	Y
L	N	M	A	N	O	W	A	R	P
I	I	S	U	P	O	T	C	O	I
O	E	O	N	A	R	W	H	A	L
N	L	B	E	L	A	H	W	I	N
F	O	R	S	T	Z	J	I	L	S

Sea Creatures (8)

O	Y	A	A	M	R	X	F	K	A
O	R	K	N	E	Y	A	T	O	R
V	B	S	T	N	L	A	C	R	T
A	D	L	I	K	T	S	Y	N	O
D	N	A	L	T	E	H	S	A	C
B	Z	A	L	X	T	F	D	T	O
Y	N	S	E	R	O	Z	A	I	S
D	J	P	S	P	S	S	Q	L	W

Archipelagos (8)

Sudoku

2		4			1	6		
8	6					2		
					6		5	
			9				1	3
				1				
9	2				4			
	7		1					
		3					6	2
		5	8			1		7

Difficult

3			1				4	
	9				3		7	
4	6			9			8	
8		9		5				
				4				
				6		9		8
	7			3			2	4
	3		6				9	
	2				8			3

Medium

Solutions

1	7	8	3	9	5	2	6	4
4	6	3	7	2	8	1	9	5
5	2	9	6	4	1	7	8	3
8	4	7	5	3	9	6	2	1
3	9	6	4	1	2	8	5	7
2	5	1	8	6	7	4	3	9
6	1	5	9	8	4	3	7	2
9	8	4	2	7	3	5	1	6
7	3	2	1	5	6	9	4	8

Issue Seven medium solution

6	4	9	8	7	1	5	2	3
5	7	8	3	6	2	4	9	1
2	1	3	5	4	9	8	7	6
9	2	6	1	3	4	7	5	8
1	8	7	6	2	5	3	4	9
4	3	5	9	8	7	6	1	2
7	6	4	2	1	3	9	8	5
8	5	1	4	9	6	2	3	7
3	9	2	7	5	8	1	6	4

Issue Seven difficult solution



Above: Ute Gulch program counselors Chloe Jones and Ella Rausch welcome a venture crew to Ute Gulch. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

Left: The W. D. Boyce contingent crew hoists their bikes over their heads for a celebratory photo at Whiteman Vega. Sean McElligott/PhilNews



Harlan program counselor Jacob Phelps talks to a camper about improving their aim while shooting skeet at Harlan. Josh Galemore/PhilNews



After practicing for several minutes, participant Jared Cox successfully ropes a bull facsimile at Clarks Fork on the evening of July 22, 2015. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews



Above: Ian Odonnell, known as Bigfoot at Pueblano, brings his character to life with a sasquatch costume. Odonnell actually gets his nickname not from his shoe size but because he plays an upright base during campfire. Tyler Sanders/PhilNews



Miles Baker of Texas Troop 160 scales the back wall of the climbing gym at Cimarroncito on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. Doyle Maurer/PhilNews



Left: Matthew "Hawkeye" Aycock, member of Troop 160 from Midland, Texas, climbs the route "Don't Touch the Tree" during a morning climb at Cimarroncito. Josh Galemore/PhilNews