

# PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

Spring 2021

## Enroll Scouters Now for Summer at Philmont

Spring is the time for Ambassadors to remind Scouters that they can still sign up for summer programs at Philmont. Many people have felt cooped up all winter and want to get away. Philmont offers an idyllic, safe and economical destination.

Family Adventure Camp, available as half- and full- week options, still has openings for a perfect vacation. Philmont's world-class counsellors will keep everyone busy and happy with programs that they design for themselves. All family ages are accommodated - from 2 months to young adults.

They can enjoy hikes to scenic overlooks or to the rare T-Rex footprint on Philmont property. Popular activities include shooting sports, climbing, riding, fly fishing, and crafting. For a gentle break from the action, they can enjoy the calmness at Genevieve's Tea on the Villa's front porch.

To get the best selection of activities, families should sign up early and then schedule their activities on-line before arriving.



Time together at Philmont brings a lifetime of memories for parents and children. (Philmont Photo)

The program has successfully employed a number of COVID protocols such as keeping families in 'pods' to minimize contact and increasing sanitation procedures.

Families can opt for traditional "Canvas Condos" - spacious wall tents with beds and electricity. For an upgrade fee

they can select the Deluxe Family Tents that sleep four to six while providing ample space for relaxing together. For full-week attendees, roofed housing is also available, also for an extra fee. Whatever housing option, all meals are included, so it really is a vacation for everyone. Philmont provides a delicious

and varied menu including vegetarian options and ubiquitous peanut butter and jelly for picky eaters. An ice cream social and

buffalo barbecue round out a fantastic meal selection.

All kinds of registered Scouts can enjoy Adventure Camp. Scouting grandparents with grandkids, couples without children and individuals can all come and share the experience. No longer restricted to summer, Adventure Camp has even been extended into spring and fall sessions.

For the full-scouting experience, Scouters can sign up for a multitude of conferences at the Training Center that cover almost all aspects of the program. While attending their conference, their families will be enjoying all the activities at Adventure Camp. Ambassadors should remind prospective attendees that all they need to do to attend is sign to up at the Philmont Training Center website.

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### Who's Who at Philmont

## Phillip Ferrier - Associate Director Camping & Base Camp Operations

**Duties at Philmont:** I oversee the recruitment, hiring, and human resources support for all of the seasonal staff who work at Philmont. I give direct leadership to Activities, Custodial Services, Logistics, Mail Room, Outfitting Services, and the Welcome Center while also providing support to all the other departments within Philmont's base camp.

**How did you come to work at Philmont:** I had been working at the Summit Bechtel Reserve for about five years and was ready for a next step when I became aware of some positions which had opened up at Philmont. I jumped on the opportunity and applied.

**Number of Years at Philmont:** 1.5

**Prior Positions at Philmont:** Prior to my current position I had never previously worked or gone on a trek at Philmont, though I have been to two National Outdoor Conferences.

**Prior Scouting Positions Outside Philmont:**

•2015-2019: Director, James C. Justice National Scout Camp, Summit Bechtel Reserve

•2014: Climbing Manager (Seasonal), Paul R. Christen National High Adventure Base, Summit Bechtel Reserve

•2012-2015: Various season-



al sailing positions, Florida Sea Base

•2002-2012: Various seasonal positions (Program Director, Climbing, COPE, Commissioner, Aquatics), Camp Tapico, Michigan Crossroads Council

•2008: Pathfinder Director, Camp Turrell, Northern New Jersey Council

**Most Memorable Experience at Philmont:** I love climbing and mountaineering so, like many of our participants, summiting the peaks are my most memorable experiences. On my first set of days off in the summer of 2019, my partner Sherry and I hiked up the Tooth of Time from base camp. Since then I've made a habit of running up the  
*Ferrier (Continued on page 2)*

## Ambassador Seminars, Autumn Adventures Are Awaiting You Now

COVID vaccines are rapidly making a huge difference in the world around us. As more and more people are vaccinated, opportunities for travel and adventure are opening up. This especially applies to Ambassadors contemplating a trip to Philmont either for an Ambassador Seminar or Autumn Adventure or both!

Ambassador only seminars from June 20 - 26 have been in the planning stages for months. A well-experienced faculty has put together sessions that are

both informative and experiential.

In the Ambassador I seminar, you will learn much about the background and programs at Philmont that will let you better recruit potential attendees. First-time attendees will also be presented with a coveted Philmont picture ID badge which identifies you as an Ambassador at Scouting events.

In the Ambassador II seminar, you'll be able to hone your presentation techniques and displays as well as visit important

Philmont facilities.

Come September, Ambassadors have two opportunities to explore the backcountry first hand. The Autumn Adventure is a 30 mile, 5-day backpacking trip that takes you to several north country camps. The Hub-and-Spoke Walking Workshop will let you explore the Baldy Town area while meeting with staff to enhance your Philmont knowledge. Sign up now for your spot!

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## COVID Surcharge in Effect for 2021

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the BSA is notifying all registrants scheduled to attend one of the national High-Adventure bases of a one-time COVID-19 surcharge fee of \$50 per participant. This fee will offset the additional costs associated with operating High-Adventure Bases in accordance with Center for Disease Control, state and local guidelines and precautionary measures intended to keep all participants safe.

Please note, this surcharge will be waived for youth partici-

pants under the age of 17 in instances of Philmont Family Adventure Camping or Philmont Training Center programs.

This surcharge is necessary because the additional expenses associated with addressing COVID-19 were not accounted for when the 2021 High-Adventure Base fees were set 12-18 months ago. We are notifying participants now so that you have a few months' notice before the charge is applied.

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### K. Nelson, Hutchinson Moving On

Keith Nelson, former Philmont Associate Director of Camping, has taken a new position with the Katahdin Area Council at their Maine High Adventure area.

Nick Hutchinson, former PTC Director, has moved on to the Grand Canyon Council where he will be Assistant Director of Support Services.

Best wishes to them both! **P2**



Ambassador Spotlight

Alvin Crown Meets Challenge During COVID

Like many Ambassadors, Alvin Crown used to do promotions each month at district and council roundtables and set up displays at the University of Scouting, Scout-O-Rama, District and Council Campouts, as well as OA Section and Lodge events. However, once COVID struck, all that changed. “Not being able to meet face to face has been a challenge,” says Alvin.

Still, he has been able to meet the challenge. He has kept busy talking about Philmont at District and Council Zoom Meeting. Things do not always go smoothly, though. “For one University of Scouting, I had put together a PowerPoint presentation. In the middle of showing it, I lost my share screen,” he recalled. “I only found out when someone asked if I was still sharing my screen.”

Alvin became interested in promoting Philmont since his first time there in 2006. He quickly became an Ambassador when the program started in



Alvin Crown (Right) talks with District Chair Richard Flink about Philmont programs at a pre-COVID event.

Welcome New Ambassadors

me	Region	Council
Manual Bagaco	NE	Narragansett
Terry Bell	ST	Longhorn
Ryan Feldhacker	CR	Mid-America
Robert Krehely	NE	Jersey Shore
James McGuire	NE	Jersey Shore
Tim Memry	SR	Longhorn

Ferrier (Continued from page 1)

stockade ridge trail on a regular basis when the weather permits. The first time I summited Baldy was shortly after the 2019 summer season ended. The views were amazing that time of year though the wind up there that day was insane.

**Most Humorous Experience at Philmont:** When I first arrived at Philmont from the Summit, my supervisor David O'Neill gave me a tour around the ranch and made introductions to various departments. On this particular day, the ranger department was out in the backcountry doing training. When we got to the Ranger Office it was empty. However, written on a small chalkboard it said: "Remember: Be better than the Summit." I think David was a little embarrassed when we stumbled upon it, but I found it pretty funny.

The ranger leadership and I gave each other a hard time throughout the summer. I would be sure to wear my Summit belt buckle whenever I had a meeting with them, but even better was when I won a competition against one of the ACRs. Because of his loss, he had to wear a Summit lapel pin for the rest of the summer on his Philmont uniform.

I think a little bit of friendly rivalry between the bases can

2013 because he liked letting other Scouters and Scouts know what Philmont offers them.

He attended the very first Ambassador Seminar back in 2014. One of the most enjoyable experiences he recalls is getting the real “back behind the scenes” tour, especially the warehouse and supply areas “Yonder”, “Over Yonder” and “Behind Yonder”.

Alvin now serves the Crossroads of the West Council, which was formed from the merger of the Utah National Parks, Great Salt Lake and Trapper Trails Councils in April 2020. The council serves nearly all of Utah, southeastern Idaho, and southwestern Wyoming as well as parts of northwestern Arizona and western Nevada. Because the area is so new and so large, he has not yet been able to inter-act with the Ambassadors from the other councils.

Another challenge is that the LDS Church used to be a big part of Scouting in his area. One difference is that “we now have people who want to be in Scouting rather than being assigned to Scouting,” observed Alvin.

The best way to promote Philmont, he advises is “Be sin-cere about your feeling for HOMe.”

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Authenticity Drives Staff’s Historic Interpretation

By Sherry Hamilton, PhilNews Writer.

For Conor Timoney, history is nothing without attention to detail. As Philmont’s Backcountry Wardrobe Specialist he analyzes endless amounts of Civil War forage camps, infantry fatigue jackets, canteens, clothing and ensemble.

His appreciation for history started when he was a child living just outside of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Timoney was surrounded by his family’s rich Irish heritage and appreciation for history. His father started reenacting before he was born, his mother and sister participated in competitive Irish dancing.

Timoney’s grandmother would make handmade traditional Irish dance dresses for all four of the dance schools his family owned. Between the ages of 12 and 13, Timoney started making historical clothing as well. “I remember watching my grandmother make these dresses in the basement and thinking, ‘if she can do that, then I can create my own things too,’” Timoney said.

In college, Timoney became the youngest mass producer of exact replicas of Civil War forage hats in the U.S., owning multiple originals. He has coordinated with reputable museums and examined original ensembles to ensure his replicas are exact.

Apart from contacting museums, Timoney consults numerous books and period tailoring manuals which provide correct fits and weights of material.

Philmont posters adapted for video presentations are available on the Philmont Ambassador Facebook page under the “Files” tab or from newsletter editor Tom Baltutis at tfbaltutis@gmail.com.

Zoom Meetings Succeed

Technology has stepped in when COVID restrictions prevented face-to-face Philmont promotions.

Dustin Taylor held a Zoom meeting with a local Crew to help them with itinerary selection for 2021. Because a crew leader had not yet been chosen, Dustin ran the meeting. Afterwards, Dustin did a separate presentation on equipment selection.

Although participants are all in different places, Zoom still allowed active participation. “I always like to answer questions as they appear, rather than wait until the end. I keep an eye on the chat comments, as people will also ask questions that way as well,” explained Dustin.

In addition to the crew, other Scouts and Scouters were able to join the webinar so they could learn more about Trek preparation and planning for future Expeditions.

“I have had success with using videos and pictures in my webinars/video conferences. This keeps participants interested and engaged. I have also had excellent feedback when I go through a Trek Itinerary day by day, trying to create that mental image of the scout or adult actually on the trail enjoying themselves and having fun. You can use the Family Adventure Guidebook, talking about all the activities, while showing them videos to create the same feeling,” suggested Dustin. P2



The Rayado museum ends itself well for Eric Smallwood to portray what a frontier provisioner would stock. (Photo by Tom Baltutis)

His research ensures that the replicas are exact, which is of utmost importance to Timoney. “If it can be right, it should be right,” he said.

Timoney has worked closely with Lionheart Filmworks for several notable productions and Artistry in Motion to outfit museums. Timoney found himself at Philmont Scout Ranch after obtaining a degree in American history from York College of Pennsylvania. During the 2018 fire, he received a material budget to construct costumes from scratch but also has to use recycled materials. Sometimes he will use old canvas tents to make coal miner’s hats for Staff at Cyphers Mine and French Henry.

Regardless of whether his costumes are made from scratch or recycled materials

Timoney’s ultimate goal is to ensure that they are accurate. “It’s like being given a painting to repaint,” he said. “You have to follow the artist’s style instead of what you know to be true.” He has outfitted about sixteen back-country camps with historical actors portraying years from 1831 to 1941. Timoney has worked with as many as 13 camps in one day, recreating the appropriate era with each camp on the fly.

Timoney aspires to help Philmont become the most sought-after destination for living history. “I promote mild anxiety to always be doing something more,” he said. “I choose the word anxiety with purpose and emphasize it because everyone should have the attitude to strive to be better.” P2





A Volunteer Vacation crew gathers for a group picture with Tooth Ridge forming the backdrop. (Philmont photo)

## Vacationing Scouters Building Trails

Travel restrictions may have put the damper on a lot of vacation plans for the summer. However, there is one place where Philmont Staff Association (PSA) members as well as current Scouters can go to enjoy the company of like-minded people while giving back to the Philmont community.

The summer 2021 Volunteer Vacation is a special session honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conservation Department. In September, there are two sessions for those interested in helping with Philmont’s trail system. The first (September 11-18, 2021) is only for PSA members. The second session (September 23-30) is open to general registrants with current BSA registration. Crew size is capped at 24 participants, and there is only one crew per session.

Volunteers will spend one week working and living in the Philmont backcountry constructing trail. In prior years, crews have worked on variety of trail rehabilitation projects around the camp. Both sessions in 2021 will focus on trails to Cito Peak – either the on-going construction of the new trail from the Sawmill side of the mountain, or the beginning of a new

trail starting from the Webster Parks area. There has never been a trail to Cito Peak and now, hopefully, it can be added to Scout treks in 2022. Volunteer work will be instrumental in making this happen.

Volunteers work with staff from the Philmont Conservation Department to develop trail construction skills and use them to leave a lasting impact for the thousands of participants who will use the trail in the future.

The best part is that on the last day of the program participants will be able to hike the Philmont backcountry and see more of the Ranch.

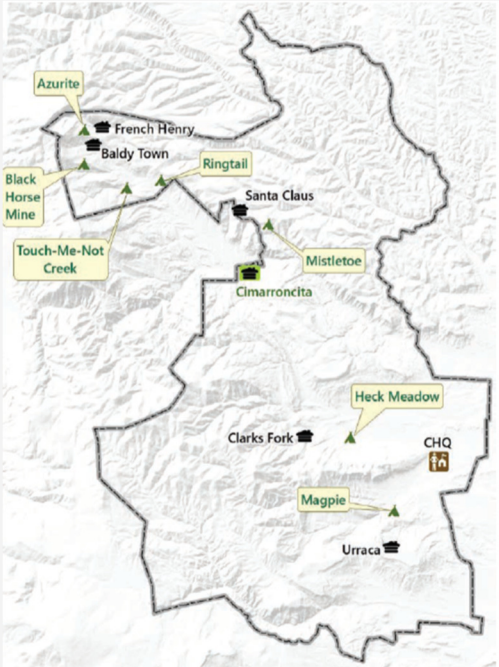
As with most Philmont opportunities, there are several requirements for participation:

- Be at least 18 years old by the date the program begins.
- Be a registered adult member of the Boy Scouts of America, and have completed all required trainings.
- Be in good physical condition, able to hike 3 or more miles with a 20-pound backpack and able to lift and handle materials up to 50 pounds. (Philmont height and weight guidelines will be strictly enforced.)
- Complete a [BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, Parts A, B and C.](#)

Sign up is on the Philmont Staff Association Website. [www.philstaff.org/2021/02/2021-volunteer-vacation/](http://www.philstaff.org/2021/02/2021-volunteer-vacation/)

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## New Camps in 2021



Philmont is opening seven new trail camps and a new staffed camp at Cimarroncita this summer to provide more camping areas in response to COVID to spread crews out in the backcountry.

### Focus on the Backcountry

## Chase Cow Camp Opened as New Climbing Venue

By Mark Cordiero, Philmont Staff

Sud Dhanabalan was clawing his way up a tricky sandstone climbing route when his crew started chanting words of encouragement from below. There was one last obstacle standing between him and the top: a ledge, taller than he was, with only one foothold right at his mid-torso. In order to keep climbing, he would need to take a chance and try reaching the foothold.

“Since I was the first one, there wasn’t really a set path,” Dhanabalan said. “You have to figure it out for yourself because you don’t know which route to take.” Luckily, his foot held and he found the power to continue. With one last heave, Dhanabalan hoisted himself up to the top as his crew cheered.

The victory marked the end of 10 days of hard work for Dhanabalan, who was wrapping up his trek with crew 629-F2 out of John’s Creek, Georgia. In just one day he would be off the trail and heading home. Often, Chase Cow is where Dhanabalan and other participants will start and end their treks. The camp is geared toward challenging Scouts one last time before they return home.

A veteran of Philmont’s climbing camps, Camp Director Vero Salazar was spending his fourth summer there (in 2019) perfecting the program at Chase Cow. “There’s always a lot of enthusiasm with the crews here, and that just makes us more excited to be here,” Camp Director Vero Salazar said.

Chase Cow was built in 2019 to replace Dean Cow, a climbing camp that was lost in the Ute Park Fire. Chase Cow is situated in a dry, grassy meadow a few miles north of the Chase Ranch Headquarters. Salazar spent time on the Chase Ranch property in 2018 looking for potential climbing locations. Now, those locations have turned into the Chase Cow climbing program.

The program is expanding beyond the standard climbing



Scouts watch Chase Cow staff members as they explain proper techniques of climbing and belaying. (Photograph by Alex Fields)

camp to include real rockface bouldering for the first time on Philmont property. Under Salazar’s experienced eye, participants will soon be able to climb shorter rock faces while relying on crash mats for safety instead of ropes.

Chase Cow stands ready to challenge any Scout brave enough to take a crack at scaling

its pale sandstone routes. Hopefully for years to come, participants will follow in Dhanabalan’s footholds and find the strength to keep climbing.

“Keep going, don’t give up,” Dhanabalan said. “It’s the same on the rocks, it’s the same on the trail, too.”

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## Philmont Names New Staff Personnel



Monica Turney,  
Philmont  
Registrar

Monica Turney has accepted the position of Philmont Registrar and began her new role on January 1, 2021.

Monica is from San Angelo, Texas. She received a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Angelo State University. In 1992, she spent a summer at Philmont where worked in Food Service at the Philmont Training Center.

Monica was an independent insurance agent and office manager for seventeen years before coming to Philmont. Monica is married to her husband Robert, who also works full-time at Philmont. They have five children and four grandsons.

For the last 18 months, Monica has been serving as the Senior Secretary at the Camping Headquarters Office. - Steve Nelson

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Maddy Houk,  
Assistant  
Director, PTC

Maddy Houk has joined the Philmont family at the Philmont Training Center as the Assistant Director as of March 1, 2021.

Maddy is from Clinton, Missouri and attended the University of Central Missouri earning a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education.

She has been a second grade teacher in her hometown for the last four years.

Maddy is no stranger to Philmont and had worked at PTC during the summers of 2016-2019. She was serving seasonally as family program director when Family Adventure Camp first began. She loves the outdoors and new experiences.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt welcome to Maddy Houk as she begins her full-time journey at Philmont. - Shelley O’Neill

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### Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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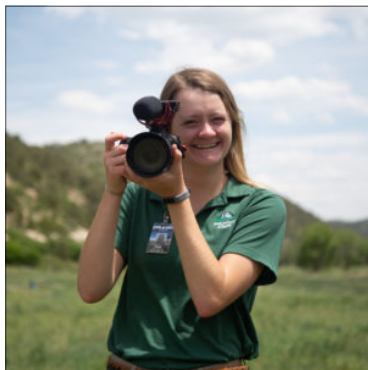
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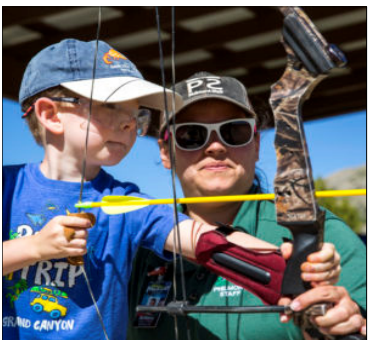
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# Internships Offer Students Pay, Credits, Experience



(Philmont Photos)



College students can work at Philmont AND earn college course credit along with their paycheck. They may be eligible for independent study, practicum, or internship experience depending what their advisor or professor accepts. Many skills that they learn can directly relate to their major and will make them a stronger job candidate in the future.

Students can begin by looking through the internship ideas (listed below) and apply for seasonal employment through the online application. With over

200 positions available during the summer, Philmont has internship opportunities for most career fields.

Once they are hired at Philmont, they can present their position (description, duties, prospective hours, etc.) to their academic adviser for approval. They need to make sure they are aware of the requirements they must complete during their employment. In short, it is their responsibility to initiate and follow through with the internship.

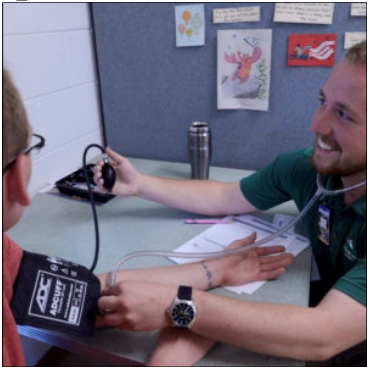
Finally, when they arrive at Philmont, they need to com-

municate with their Philmont supervisor about anything they may need to do to help fulfill their internship requirements.

The assignments below are examples of internship possibilities. These are meant to give students an idea of what they can accomplish through seasonal employment. However, these certainly not the only options available. If they find another position not listed that will also serve as internship credit, they should go for it.

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College Major	Philmont Department	Position
Communications, Public Relations, Environmental Law & Policy, Engineering, Forestry, Natural Resource Management, Education, Environmental Policy, Environmental Science, Wildlife Management, Geographic Information Systems, Biology, etc.	Conservation	Conservation Crew, Environmental Education Team, Field Management Team, Forestry Team, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Team, Sustainability Team
Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management, Nutrition & Food Sciences	Food Service	Prep Cook, Swing Cook, Lead Cook, Baker, Dining Hall Manager & Dining Hall Assistant Manager, Kitchen Manager & Kitchen Assistant Manager
Communication, Operations Management, Supply Chain Management	Logistics	Logistics Staff
English, Graphic Design, Journalism, Marketing, Photography, Videography	Marketing & Photo Services	Graphic Designer, Lead Media Specialist, Photographer, Videographer, Writer, PhilNews Editor
Pre-Medicine, Nursing (RN/BSN), Kinesiology	Medical/Infirmary	Medical Recheck Staff, Medical Services Staff, Infirmary Tent City Staff, Medical Secretary
History	Museum	Museum Specialist, Villa Philmonte Tour Guide, Villa Philmonte Assistant Curator, Chase Ranch Program Counselor
Accounting, Business, Human Resources, Information Systems (IT)	Office Support/Administration	Accounting Clerk, Seasonal Registrar, Personnel Staff, Information Technology Assistant
Child Development, Psychology/Sociology, Education	Philmont Training Center	COPE Staff, Program Counselor, Small Fry Director
Animal & Veterinary Science, Equine Studies, Pre-Veterinary Medicine	Ranch	Wrangler
Recreation Management, Outdoor Education	Ranger	Ranger
Business Operations, Retail Management, Supply Chain Management	Tooth of Time Traders	Backcountry Operations Specialist, Order Fulfillment, Trading Post Clerk, Warehouse Clerk



## Personal Experiences Tell It All

## IWGBTP Videos Share Thoughts on What Makes Philmont Special

Over the past months, the **I Wanna Go Back To Philmont** (IWGBTP) video series on Facebook has featured interviews from former Philmont Staffers about their experience working on the ranch.

David Goldfein, the 21st Chief of Staff of the Air Force and a former Philmont Ranger stated, "What you're going to join is this incredible team of like-minded individuals that'll become friends for life. In addition to the friend-

ships forged, there also exists the opportunity to develop yourself and grow personally in this unique environment."

Corey Mullins, former staff member, reflecting on his experience said, "I developed emotional intelligence, leadership, empathy, passion, how to inspire yourself and inspire others. These are just some of the core attributes that Philmont helped provide me."

Other posted comments

include:

"My summers at Philmont taught me the basics of how to serve others. That continued to develop throughout my air force career." - Tim Gremlin

"One of the best things about working at Philmont is that in addition to having the chance to change the lives of scouts, your own life is also going to be changed for the better." – George Burnet

"Philmont had a huge im-

pact on who I am as a person. Out of the 9 seasons I spent here on staff, I worked in three different departments and each one taught me something just a little bit different about what it means to be a good employee, or a good leader, or even a good friend." -Olivia Starich

"Relationships don't develop overnight and that's also something that I learned at Philmont. Through those closest relationships that I have, best friends I

have across the country. Those people I know are my family." - Katie Nagib

IWGBTP represents more than just wanting to visit the land again. It is the culmination of all one's lessons learned and community developed while spending time on this ranch. You can find the videos by [clicking here](#).

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