

PHILNEWS

July 3, 2021

Mid-Summer Issue



Traditions return as COVID-19 restrictions ease

Monica Dunn | MPS Manager

Its no secret that Philmont is a tradition rich place backed by the legacy of thousands of staff members and over 1 million participants. These Scouting customs have been passed down from generation to generation and are what connects the past to the present and the present to the

future. Virtually everyone who has stepped foot into the backcountry has a shared common experience such as mountaintop victory, campfire connection or sunrise vista.

In 2021, some of these traditions have had to change to help mitigate the risk brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some were put on pause all together. However, after a successful first half of the 2021 season, some of the adaptations are being lifted and others are coming back in full.

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Peter Certo of crew 620-N from Indianapolis, Indiana kneels during the Catholic Mass Service at Philmont Scout Ranch on July 1, 2021 before heading home. Certo attends Mass every Sunday. "I think that going to Mass anywhere, you can get a sense of home. I think it's really great that I can go to Mass at Philmont." Photo by Nicolas Castelli.

Conservation Department Founder returns on trek

Jarod Contreras | MPS Writer

Over the lands of Philmont lies a reverence for nature most everyone who visits here feels on a near-daily basis. That reverence may first be ignited in one's life by a trek through the ranch as a teenager and may continue to

burn throughout the remainder of one's life.

For those lucky enough to visit Philmont, a crew advisor plays a vital role as a guiding voice, mediator and encouraging presence. Those advisors who have had the privilege of trekking through these lands before provide a unique perspective to their crew on what Philmont can mean and be to those who move through its forests and plains. Robert Birkby is one such advisor.

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Robert Birkby smiles at Beaubien on June 30, 2021. Photo by Jarod Contreras.

KU students conduct medical research

Jarod Contreras | MPS Writer

While Philmont's many challenges give participants a deeper understanding of themselves, those same challenges also provide an opportunity to the scientific community to learn more about how those challenges affect the participants.

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) and Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota partnered this year to conduct an altitude sickness study at Philmont for the first time. KUMC student researchers, Hayley Ditmars and



Student researcher Hayley Ditmars administers the altitude sickness questionnaire to scouts at Baldy Town. Photo by Jarod Contreras.

Courtney Sharp, are conducting the research here at Philmont. The study investigates the rate of altitude sickness in adolescents, an understudied group when it comes to altitude sickness, Sharp said.

The study takes place at two primary locations: base camp and the staff camp of Baldy Town. Ditmars and Sharp, who just completed their first year as medical students at KUMC, switch off operating the desk at each location.

Scouts first encounter the study when checking in at the Infirmary, at about 6,700 feet. One of the student researchers enroll scouts who meet the requirements: their trek's itinerary takes them through Baldy Town and they are 19-years-old or younger. Ditmars or Sharp also collect background information on the participants to establish their risk factors for altitude sickness. The researchers note where the participants are coming from (to establish what altitude the participant is accustomed to), preexisting conditions (such as asthma), whether or not the participant has had altitude sickness before, and so on.

"It is definitely not a one-person job," Ditmars said about enrolling scouts at base camp. She



Crew 618-Y congratulate each other at the top of Baldy Mountain on Friday, June 25, 2021 at Philmont Scout Ranch. Photo by Jarod Contreras.

estimates that she and Sharp enroll about 60 scouts per day.

The researchers call to get parental consent for scouts who are not over 18 or with their parents. The study is also completely anonymous. The researchers do not collect names or identifying information. Instead, they get a tag at base camp to place on their packs. That tag identifies them as part of the study when the participants arrive at Baldy Town. However, Ditmars said, probably around 30% of the study's participants lose their tags before they reach Baldy Town, so they



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Student researcher Hayley Ditmars takes a scout's heart rate before the scout fills out the altitude sickness questionnaire at Baldy Town on Sunday, June 27, 2021. Photo by Jarod Contreras.

cannot participate in the study.

For those Scouts who do not lose their tags, when they reach Baldy Town, at about 9,800 feet, they will report to the study's desk at the camp and will be given a form to fill out. This form contains a series of questions where scouts can rate the severity of any symptoms they may have at that time. They also note if they have summited Baldy Mountain already or not. The possible answers provided on the form, which rank severity of symptoms, are each given a number rating. The sum of that rating, called the Lake Louise Score, indicates to the researchers the severity the scout might be

suffering from altitude sickness.

A major incentive for scouts to participate in the study is once they have completed the form at Baldy Town, they receive a patch depicting the Tooth of Time and the University of Kansas' mascot, the Jayhawk. A Jayhawk is a fictional red, blue and yellow bird with a large beak. After receiving their patch, scouts are sent on their way to continue their trek.

Ditmars and Sharp are, "guinea pigs" according to Ditmars because, while this may be the study's first year, the Mayo Clinic wants to hopefully run this study multiple times over succeeding summers.

"I feel like the first three weeks setting up went so slow, and then, scouts got here, and then boom!" Ditmars said.

However, both said they feel the study, for which they are receiving school credit, is an amazing opportunity.

Ditmars said the study was her, "ticket out of Kansas." She is excited because, as student researchers on the project, she said she and Sharp will likely be credited as co-authors on it.

That enthusiasm will carry the two researchers through the rest of the summer to complete their goal of between 1,500-2,000 study participants as they each split their time between overlooking the

flanks of Baldy Mountain and the plains of northern New Mexico. ♦



Above, two scouts who have completed the altitude sickness questionnaire, discuss the patch they have received for it at Baldy Town on Sunday, June 27, 2021. The patch has the University of Kansas' mascot, the Jayhawk, and the Tooth of Time. Below, a crew approaches the Summit of Baldy Mountain. Photos by Jarod Contreras and Nicolas Castelli.



Open Wed - Mon
10 am - 2 pm

Beginning June 6th
10 am - 6 pm

Climbing out of the pandemic: the Miners Park experience

Caitlyn Kviz | Graphic Designer

I'm working my first summer here at Philmont as a graphic designer. I first heard about Philmont from my younger brother, who finished a trek here in 2016. After that, words like 'bear bag,' 'yum-yum bag,' and 'just sump it!' became typical dinner conversation, much to the rest of the family's chagrin. We knew we were going to come back here eventually, and an open summer



Miner's Park staff member Ev Moorea unhooks herself from a rappel line at Philmont Scout Ranch on Tuesday, June 01, 2021. Photo by Steel Brooks.

between school years, vaguely in the midst of a pandemic where I couldn't find much other work, provided the perfect opportunity for me to come see what my brother was talking about.

During my first few weeks here as a graphic designer, I found it to be roughly the same experience as I had in other jobs, like the work I had done for my university. With bonus mountains, an important perk coming from an Illinois kid. A lot of times in the Marketing Department, you have to represent other people's experiences through things like social media posts and articles without necessarily having the chance to do those things for yourself, which sometimes makes it harder to relate to what other people are going through.

Take a shot of someone throwing their boots over the Welcome Back sign, for example. Without completing a trek myself, it can be hard to capture the genuine happiness and excitement a participant feels in a short social media caption. This is what set Philmont apart from other summer jobs for me: the chance to take side hikes on time off and see the camp for myself.

After a bit of a rough training trek earlier on, in which I got pretty bad altitude sickness on the Tooth



Andrew Jacob, a staff member at Miner's Park climbing camp, climbs a route as he trains new staff members at the Miner's Park climbing area at Philmont Scout Ranch on Tuesday, June 01, 2021. The staff worked on building anchors, rappelling, belaying and learning the routes scouts will climb this summer. Photo by Steel Brooks.

of Time, I got my next chance to escape from base camp earlier this week. The mission was simple: spend a night at Miners Park, experience it, find something to write about and come back.

And with that, I loaded my stuff into a backpack that felt like it weighed more than me and gently yeeted it into the back of our beloved 'Burban. We decided the best way to do it was to drive me pretty much the whole way

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there, given my terrible sense of direction. After a bumpy ride that scrambled a couple of my brain cells, we arrived at the main cabin.

Due to some weather concerns, I was told to start hiking right away to get to the climbing area if I wanted to go. It was a 30–40-minute hike, lengthened by me going in the wrong direction right off the bat. Luckily, I met a crew in the woods that turned me around. Back on the trail, I kept walking for a while. Again, probably because I'm from the Midwest, I have a bad habit in which I consistently underestimate the size of mountains and the time it will take to get where I'm going. I'm used to climbing in places like Taylor's Falls in Minnesota, where you park the car 5 minutes away from where you're climbing because the land is so flat.

After a couple of breaks both for water and for my weakling lungs to catch their breath, I reached the climbing area. I met two crews up there, one from Georgia and one from Texas. I remember one guy, Kiran, whose friends called him the Rock Slayer. We cheered each other on as he passed through the hardest part of the route. I tried the same one after him, struggling to find tiny dips in the rock to put my fingers in and using the crack behind it to keep my balance. The kids made it look easy! On another route, I rappelled off the top of the cliff back down to the ground. The

views were incredible. Despite the fog slowly rolling in, I could see for miles around at the top of the mountain.

The clouds rolled in, and it started to rain as I finished my last route, so I decided to go back down to base before the weather got any worse. I spent the night talking with the crews and climbing with them in the bouldering gym. We worked on climbing the overhang part that makes a full arch to the other side. We failed pretty miserably but had fun trying. Later on, I watched their crate stacking competition where one guy stood on top of 18 crates, on belay about 15 feet up. We applauded their effort as they all came crashing down at the end. I was very grateful that the Miners Park staff let me sleep on a crash pad in the bouldering gym for the night. It rained almost the whole time, but I was warm and snuggly in my sleeping bag.

As I was making breakfast the next morning, I heard a call come in on the radio from Logistics. All the backcountry roads were closed to cars. The heavy rain overnight had made the roads one giant mud puddle. I would have to walk back to the Lover's Leap Trailhead to be picked up. I looked for a trail, but the rain had also made it harder to figure out what was a trail and what wasn't. I took a jagged path down what I thought was a trail before finally finding the



Program Counselor Evangeline Moore throws down rope from the top of the Miner's Park climbing wall on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Photo by Ryan Ash.

road, which I followed the rest of the way.

Looking back on my experiences, I remember all the fun I had but I was also struck by how normal everything felt, over a year into this pandemic that has changed most other aspects of our lives. Things like mask-wearing were accepted as a social norm by both participants and staff. At the rock wall, we stayed at least six feet apart, including above and below each other. It's through hard work and dedication like this that Philmont is still able to provide life-changing adventures for people, even in the midst of a pandemic. ♦



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Conservation Department Founder returns on trek

Continued from page 1.

Advisor to crew 626-Q from Everett, Washington, Bob, as he is known to many, has had a long history with the Ranch. First encountering Philmont on trek in 1966, the then 16-year-old Birkby could not have known the role Philmont would come to play in his life in the coming years.

Birkby returned to Philmont in 1970 as the instructor of Mexican Cooking at Harlan, but it was not until the next year that his experiences at Philmont changed the course of his life. In 1971, Rodney Replogle, a conservationist from the Taos Ranger District of the Carson National Forest, came to Philmont to help rebuild the Rayado Trail, which had been washed out in a flood. Philmont's leadership asked for help because they recognized the Ranch did not possess the trail-building knowledge to complete the task. Replogle himself trekked Philmont in the 1950s and, Birkby said, the same thing happened to him as happened to Birkby: "he never went home."

That year, Replogle helped train the members of the newly formed Conservation Department of Philmont. That training, and



A scout climbs a pole at Pueblano on Sunday June 13, 2021. Photo by Marielle Scott.

Replogle's infectious, bursting passion for life and the land, ignited a similar love in Birkby.

"What he showed us was a way to act on that love," Birkby said about Replogle.

That love led Birkby to work in the Conservation Department in 1972 and '73, then to become Director of Conservation in 1974 and '76. Birkby explained that early generations of Cons workers had a renegade mentality, a mentality that he still sees today. In his day, Birkby said Cons consisted of 12 workers headed out into the backcountry to tackle all of Philmont, and they were confident they could do it.

"We roamed the backcountry and did well. We thought of ourselves as unique and capable of attempting great things," Birkby said.

Now Birkby sees a department whose responsibilities have extended far beyond trail building, a department that is now large and robust enough to handle the entire Ranch.

"It is remarkable to be hiking on trails that were built either during my time or that I know were built after my time and to see how durable and well-built they are," Birkby said.

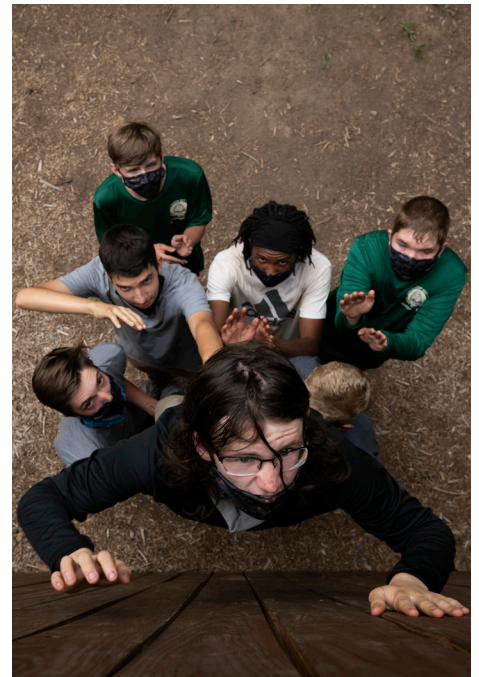
50 years on, Birkby looks at the growth of the Cons Department with a warmhearted smile.

"[Cons is a] wildly different world than mine was. I am nostalgic for mine and impressed by theirs," Birkby said.

Birkby's experiences at Philmont, "opened the world," for him. Coming from a small Iowa town, Philmont was Birkby's first encounter with mountains.

Cons gave him the "freedom of the backcountry and [ability to leave] your mark on the land."

As Cons Director, Birkby was trusted with enormous responsibility. However, he said he



Carson Farmer is up first on the 12 foot wall as the rest of his crew lifts him up on a COPE course at Head of Dean on Monday June 14, 2021. Photo by Marielle Scott.

thrived on the responsibility. The land showed him that he could do more than he ever thought he could.

The passion that developed for the land went hand in hand with his growing knowledge of conservation. According to Birkby, Replogle kickstarted the storehouse of conservation knowledge and ability that now exists at Philmont in the Conservation Department. That storehouse is one of the few remaining, Birkby said, due to budget cuts in organizations like the Forest Service and National Parks.

"It is an oral tradition, trail work," Birkby said.

Birkby's lifelong career as a writer led him to attempt to systematize that oral tradition in *Lightly on the Land* (1996). Through that book, Birkby exercised his devotion to conservation by sharing what he could of that storehouse of knowledge. He wrote a few editions of the BSA Handbook and



Jeb Redwine demonstrates how to properly cut down a tree at camp Cimarroncito in Philmont for All Cons day on June 2, 2021. Photo by Autumn McAllister.

Fieldbook.

Birkby also exercises that storehouse on the trail with his crew. Comprised of scouts from multiple troops in the Everett area, Birkby has used the land to help the crew bond. Birkby said during hike stops on his trek, he often points out how the trails were constructed and unique features about them.

"This place is just luminous," Birkby said.

On one such stop, around lunchtime, the crew's ranger circled them to talk about what Philmont means. As a first-year ranger on her fourth crew, she described the magic of the Ranch. Birkby said that he saw in her smiles and in her eyes the same magic that he's experienced for so many years. He reflected on the friends he has found through Philmont and the friends that he has lost to the march of time in the years since.

"It was an amazingly powerful experience and if nothing else happens in this trek, it was wonderful to get out here again," Birkby said. "It is remarkable to be hiking on trails that were built either during my time or that I know were built after my time and to see how durable and well-built

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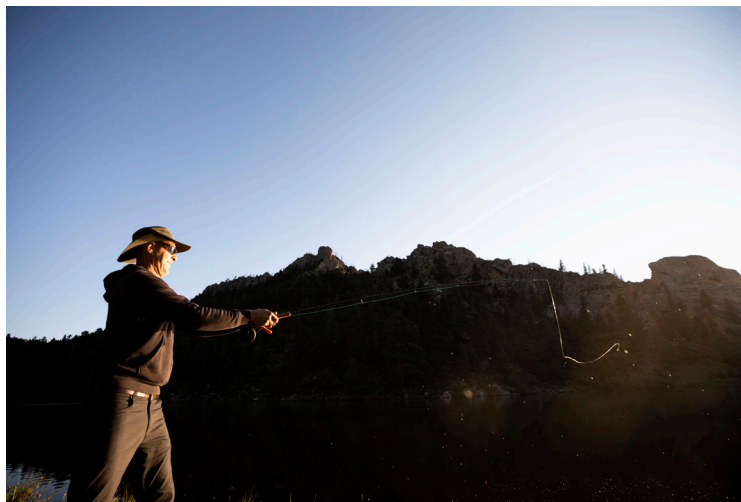


Jane Fitkin swings a pick axe while carving a trail at Cimarroncito on Wednesday, June 2, 2021. The Philmont Conservation Department was training its staff members on how to trail build during its All Cons training before participants arrived. Photo by Marielle Scott.

BSA Family Adventure Camp re-launches at the Philmont Training Center

In 2018, the Boy Scouts of America introduced a new program at the Philmont Training Center called "Family Adventure Camp." Despite setbacks brought on by the Ute Park Fire, many families were still able to experience the magic of Philmont. In 2021, the BSA expanded the program to both the Summit Bechtel Reserve and Florida Sea Base, two of Philmont's High Adventure Base counterparts. The program incorporates a number of activities previous participants are used to including horseback riding, shooting sports and popular hikes such as Lover's Leap and the Tooth of Time.

Additionally, housing has seen improvements in the form of all new "Deluxe" tents which offers those less comfortable with camping a way to ease into the experience. Training Center numbers have now climbed to more than 2,500 participants this summer many of which are involved in Family Adventure Camp. The BSA hopes to use this program as a way to introduce families not previously involved in Scouting by offering them a taste of the best the High Adventure Bases have to offer. ♦



Images from a recent Family Adventure Camp promotional shoot by Steel Brooks and Ryan Ash.



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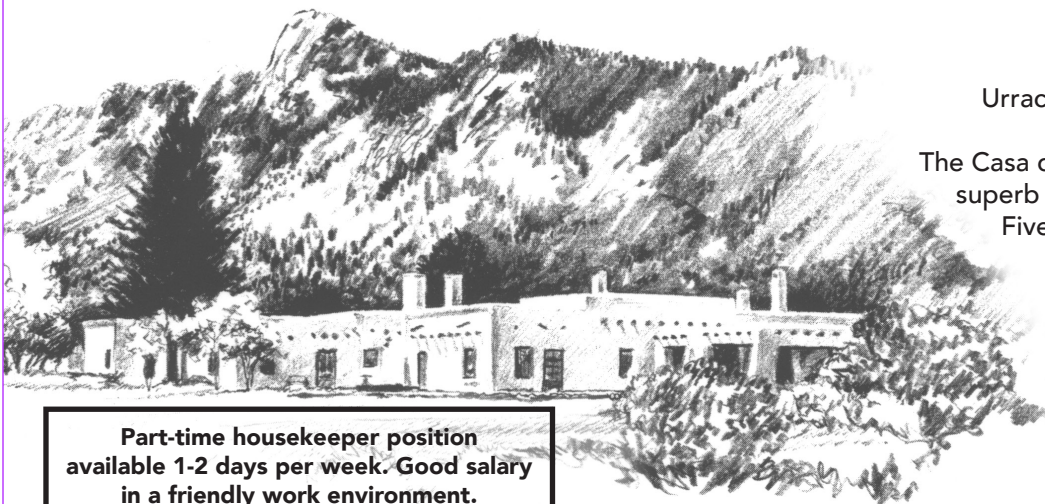


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Philmont traditions return as COVID-19 restrictions ease

Continued from page 1.

Return of the Ranger Bell

The start of July signified a new chapter for the summer. At 11:30 a.m. about 50 rangers gathered around the dining hall bell with smiles underneath their masks. Four rangers climbed to the top of the bell. One of those four, Connor McNeil shared his story on when he realized he wanted to come back to Philmont this year as a Ranger Trainer.

"I was honored to have the privilege of giving the first bell story of the season," McNeil said. "I felt that it represented the resilience of our staff and our mission, that even in an unusual summer: Philmont can thrive."

After McNeil shared his story, the rangers chanted the Ranger Song as has been done since the 1960s.

*I want to go back to Philmont
Where the old Rayado flows,
Where the rain comes a seepin'
In the tent where you're a sleepin'
And the waters say hello...*



Rangers prepare to catch the rangers on top of the dining hall bell during the Ranger Bell Chant on Thursday, July 1, 2021. In the middle of the chant, the rangers fall from the bell. Photo by Jack Rodgers.



Ranger Trainer Connor McNeil rings the Ranger Bell for the first time of the 2021 summer season. This tradition happens before every lunch and dinner. Photo by Jack Rodgers.

The four rangers on top of the bell fell back into the arms of their fellow rangers and finishing the chant before ringing the bell for lunch.

"The ranger bell was one of the first things I ever saw as a participant when I came here on my first trek, and the enthusiasm and comradery I saw amongst the rangers was one of the reasons I wanted to come back and be on staff," Associate Chief Ranger Danny Marshall said.

Attending the Chapel Service of Your Choosing

Another change comes with the chapel services at Philmont. There is now only one service time at 7 p.m. instead of two. Participants are also now able to attend the service of their personal choosing, instead of having to decide as an entire crew which service to attend.

The head chaplain Chip Turner said the chaplains are very happy about the update. He said it is something they advocated for as long as it would stay within the guidelines.

Peter Certo of crew 620-N from Indianapolis, Indiana attended the Catholic service on

July 1st after completing his 54 miles, 12-day trek.

"When I was on the trail, I was looking forward to Mass and enjoyed reflections with my Chaplain's Aid," Certo said.

"When there are no distractions, it's easy to connect with God, especially in the backcountry."

Capacity Restrictions Lifted

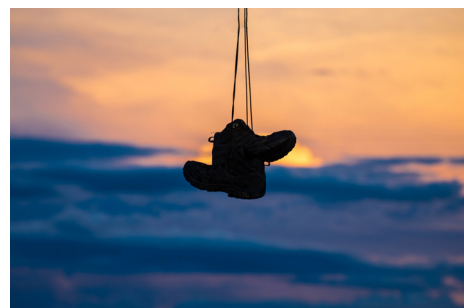
There are no longer capacity limits at the Tooth of Time Traders or the National Scouting Museum.

Hours of operation:

Tooth of Time Traders
7:30 a.m.- 6:45 p.m.

Snack Bar
10 a.m.- 5 p.m., 8-10 p.m.

National Scouting Museum



A pair of boots hang off the Philmont sign into the sunset on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Photo by Adam McCoid.



Chloe Moshrefi, from left, Kate Walker, and Madeline Milan sing along to "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver during closing campfire after their trek at Philmont Scout Ranch on Thursday, July 01, 2021. "I thought it was really pretty," Walker said, who celebrated her 16th birthday at Philmont on Thursday. "When you're going through a hard time (on the trail) it will always get better," Walker said. "We could think about ourselves," Milan said. "Think about how we act in our normal communities versus out here." Photo by Steel Brooks.

8 a.m.- 7:30 p.m.
Kit Carson at Rayado
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Chase Ranch Main House
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Villa Philmonte Tours
8 a.m.-5 p.m. by reservation

Opening/Closing Campfires

The first of July also brought the first evening opening campfire at the opening campfire bowl. At the beginning of the summer, there were a few different opening campfires and they were at the closing campfire bowl.

The Activities staff were excited to be able to actually have a campfire again. "Having

the fire at night will create a bit of ambiance," Andrew said. "I think it's a great thing to do right before people go to sleep right before they hit the trail."

Opening campfire is a way to inspire the crews ahead of their trek for the task at hand. Staff members also introduce some of Philmont's history that crews will discover more about throughout the backcountry.

Kyle Magennis of Crew 701-DD at Opening Campfire says, "This is the start to a great Scouting adventure."

Opening campfire is a tradition that advisor Collin Magennis of Crew 701-DD got to share with his son for the first time. This year is Magennis' first time back at Philmont in 34 years.

"Being here again, and being here with my son, means everything to me."

Meanwhile, the closing campfire will be returning to one campfire as well.

Matt Walker is part of a contingent with eight crews from Los Angeles. This is Walker's third trek at Philmont. He has been on two with his sons, but this trek was with his daughter who is part of two all-eagle scout female

crews. Walker reflected on treks at Philmont.

"It's easy to want to go home immediately. I do feel like at the end of the campfire it's a great sense of closure; It puts a bow on it," Walker said. "I'm actually a big advocate of staying for the campfire. And it's really fun to get to do it with this many people from our crew."

Chloe Moshrefi from crew 620-T-07 finished her trek at the closing campfire service on July 1.

"It's a fantastic end to a memorable adventure of a lifetime," Moshrefi said. ♦



Elizabeth Blankley shouts, "I came here for gold!" as she performs a sketch about Cyphers Mine during the Opening Campfire at base camp on Thursday, July 1, 2021. This was the first campfire at the opening campfire bowl of the summer. Photo by Jacob Geboski.



Scouts pass the "we all made it award" sign as they leave closing campfire on Thursday, July 1, 2021. Participants receive their arrowhead patch during the closing campfire ceremony after successfully completing their trek. Photo by Steel Brooks.

Philmont ranger places in the U.S. Olympic Trials

Rachael Stankiewicz
Marketing Manager

On June 26th, Philmont ranger Carson Johnson had the opportunity to compete in the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials for the Men's 20K Racewalk. Johnson is a sophomore at the University of the Cumberland.

Johnson qualified for the trials with a time of 1:40.03 in the 20k racewalk in May. The qualification was preceded by a

largely successful college season earning NAIA All-American honors for indoor and outdoor racewalking.

Johnson placed 11th at the U.S. Olympic trials with a time of 1:43.49, just 10 minutes shy of making it to the Olympics.

Johnson looks forward to training and improving his times to hopefully qualify for 2024.

"Dream big, work at it, and see where it takes you," Carson said.

Carson is now back at Philmont to finish this summer as a ranger! ♦



Live Music at Colfax Tavern & Diner @ Cold Beer NM

Saturday, July 3

Live Music Event
"Second Hand"
7-11 p.m.

Saturday, July 17

Live Music Event
"Jonathan Castillo Y Profundo"
6-10 p.m.

Saturday, July 17

1st Annual Cold Beer NM Cornhole
Tournament
"The Kevin Deal Band"
7-11 p.m.

Saturday, August 7

Colfax County Appreciation Day
Live music, free pool, buggy rides
All day

August 20-21

Honkytonk Hodgepodge
Friday | 6-11:30 p.m.
Saturday | noon-11:30 p.m.

Live Music at the St. James

Saturday, July 10

Gayanne Bruce & Bob
7-10 p.m.

Friday, July 16

Jim Garling
7-10 p.m.

Friday, July 23

Skip Batchelor
7-10 p.m.

Friday, July 30

Second Hand Acoustic
7-10 p.m.

Friday, August 6

Angela Pope Band
7-10 p.m.

Friday, August 13

Gayanne Bruce & Bob
7-10 p.m.

Friday, August 20

Bill Hearne & Gary Gorrence
7-10 p.m.

Sunday, August 27

Cowboy Poetry
7-10 p.m.

Friday, September 3

Ry Taylor & The Hound Dogs
7-10 p.m.

Friday, September 10

Skip Batchelor
7-10 p.m.

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Advisors' Coffee

Advisors play a make-or-break role in determining a crew's success on the trail. They can provide insight based on diverse life experiences to both participants in their crews as well as staff who are curious enough to listen. Below, five advisors share their advice.



Susan Kerpan is an advisor for crew 615-H-02 from San Antonio, Texas. She encourages crews to, "really pay attention to your COPE course because the lessons that you learn there are not just lessons for Philmont, they're lessons for life. Learning to work together and learn with other people will not only bring you pleasure but will lead to success at Philmont as well as in life." Photo by Jarod Contreras.



Chris Cooper is an advisor for crew 615-H-02 from San Antonio, Texas. He said, "As a third time advisor, it's really been reinforced to me that this place provides an avenue for young people to learn the word grit. To overcome extreme situational hardships but at the same time experience unimaginable joys. We've been talking that grit is something lacking in today's society. If the participant embraces all that Philmont has to offer, the good, the bad, and everything in between, it will allow them to truly understand their own capabilities and it will show them what they're made of. And wake up early!" Photo by Jarod Contreras.



Advisor David Barth from crew 623-L-02 from Stillwater, Oklahoma said, "Be persistent; put one foot in front of the other. Set small goals, and just take your time - have fun!" Photo by Jacob Geboski.



Advisor, Emma Penczek, offers advice as a quote from Robert Fudge: "There's no growth in the comfort zone, and there's no comfort in the growth zone."

Photo by Jacob Geboski.



Mike Barnett from crew 623-L-02 from Stillwater, Oklahoma, said, "Take care of your feet. It's all about taking care of your feet for me!" Photo by Jacob Geboski.



Crew 612-BB rejoices while eating ice cream as they hike back into basecamp after a 10 mile hike on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at Philmont Scout Ranch. The sign welcomes crews hiking back to base from Tooth Ridge Trail. Photo by Adam McCoid.



Marrisa "Brad" Fugitt from 612-BB while eager to cool off with some ice cream manages to get it all over her face. However, she is all smiles as she completes her trek. Photo by Adam McCoid.



Left: Participants collect rain on Saturday, June 19, 2021 outside of the Marketing and Photography Services office at Philmont Scout Ranch. Photo by Adam McCoid.

Right: Crew 619-7B celebrates the first rainfall on Saturday, June 19, 2021 on base camp. Philmont had not seen rain for a few weeks. Photo by Ryan Ash.



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Staff Activities Event Schedule for July

July 3

Cops and Robbers | 9 p.m.

July 4

Forth of July Cookout | Lunch

July 5

Jam Night | 8 p.m.
SSSAC front porch

July 8 & 9

Chess Tournament
Sign up at the Activities Office

July 10

Brat Day | Lunch
Movie Night | 8:30 p.m.

July 14

First Day of Christmas
Elf on a Shelf Hunt

July 15

Second Day of Christmas
Christmas Jam Night | 8 p.m.
SSSAC front porch

July 16

Third Day of Christmas
Movie Night (Elf) | 8:30 p.m.
Baldy Pavilion

July 17

Fourth Day of Christmas
Christmas Card Making | 4 p.m.

July 18

Fifth Day of Christmas
Letters to Santa

July 19

Sixth Day of Christmas
Ornament Making | 4 p.m.

July 20

Seventh Day of Christmas
Bratmas Day | Lunch

July 21

Eighth Day of Christmas
Ugly Sweater Day

July 22

Ninth Day of Christmas
Cookie Decorating | 3-5 p.m.

July 23

Tenth Day of Christmas
Special Christmas Show | 8:30 p.m.
Baldy Pavilion

July 25

Christmas Day!
Christmas Caroling | 6 p.m.
Around base camp

July 30

Brat Day | Lunch
Baldy Pavilion



Devon Piret practices twirling a rope at Beaubien while with Cavalcade 616-CW on Sunday, June 20, 2021. Photo by Jack Rodgers.



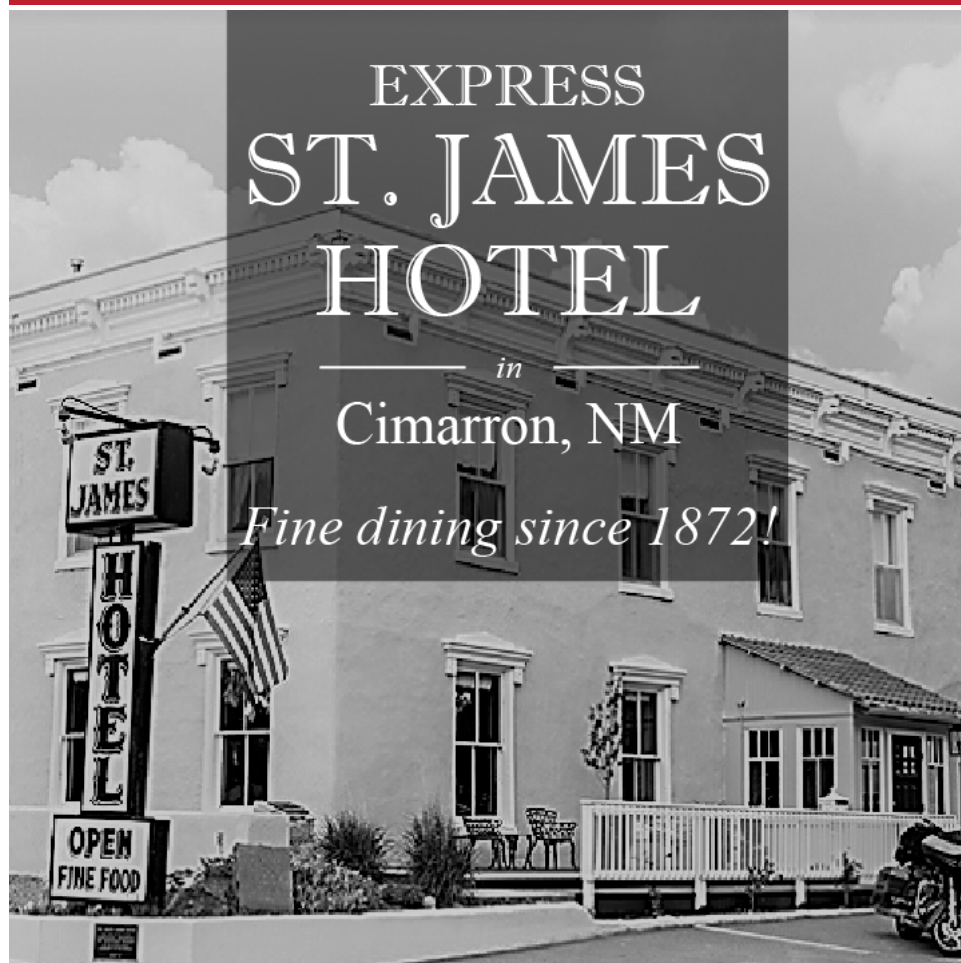
A participant from crew 612-CC-1 boulders on Chase Cow's rocks on Sunday, June 13, 2021. Photo by Ryan Ash.



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Fog rolls off the Cimarroncito Reservoir on Wednesday, June 30.
Photo by Jack Rodgers.



Cypher's Mine Camp Director Jenna Trione poses for a portrait on Tuesday, June 29. Photo by Jack Rodgers.

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Philmont updates hiking policy

Starting July 5th, Philmont Scout Ranch is updating its backcountry hiking rules. Staff members will still need to have a hiking buddy at all times. However, there is no longer a requirement to add a third member to co-ed hiking groups.

"The backcountry hiking policy has been the same at Philmont for a very long time," said Shelley O'Neill, Director of Business Operations, "The health and safety of the Philmont staff is always the top priority. This decision to eliminate the coed clause of three, does not impact the safety of hiking and only offers greater inclusivity. Hike on!" ♦



Fog rolls in as a Cavalcade departs from Beaubien on Monday, June 21. Photo by Matthew Wong.



James Keel of crew 612-O throws a horseshoe at Beaubien on Sunday, June 20. Photo by Jack Rodgers

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