

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

PAGE 1

SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

March 2022

Conferences Emphasize Scout Fun

Baden-Powell famously explained that Scouting is a game with a purpose, and Scouts all know that one purpose of a game is to have fun. Among the many conferences at Philmont Training Center this summer are several that specifically have fun in mind.

Cub Scout Extravaganza

Imagine attending the Philmont Training Center (PTC) and being able to interact with Cub Scout Leaders from across the country for a week, AND being able to pick and choose which sessions to attend to improve on your Cub Leader skills.

Attendees will get to plan a PTC program of their choice selecting from an assortment of Cub Leader topics ranging from Outdoor Skills, Training, Administration, Den and Pack Management, Cub Scout Fun, and Scouts BSA transition. There is something for everyone and much more.

The enthusiastic faculty is made up of the National level volunteers and professional experts. It doesn't get any better than this! Ambassadors should encourage all Cub adults - from new ones just starting in Scouting to experienced leaders - to attend this conference.

July 24-30, Fee \$460 plus housing

Scout Fun (Continued on page 8)

Have You Seen This?

Philmont's New Family Adventure Camp Website lists all the PTC adventures and housing options available as well as local attractions and activities in one convenient spot.

Click [here](#) for the link.



Conferences like *Let's Play Games* get leaders out of the classroom to have fun and learn about activities to energize meetings and events. (Photo by Tom Baltutis)

PTC Choices Now Require Two-Step Registration Process

Philmont Training Center (PTC) has become so much more than classrooms and the Tent City "canvas condos". Guests can still choose from numerous great conferences, but they also can opt for Family Adventure Camp and have a range of housing accommodations.

Family Adventure Camp offers both full and half week options, and there are some additional activities like horse rides and the Tooth of Time hike that incur extra expenses.

Conferences themselves are also no longer one-size-fits-all. While many still follow the traditional classroom seminar model, others venture into the backcountry, offer outdoor activities, require extra materials, or need specialized equipment,

instructors, and venues which all add to the cost of holding them. Others are now only a half-week

All these choices make registering for conferences and programs on the "other side of the road" not as simple as it once was.

To sign up on-line for a conference or family camp from the PTC site, guests are first taken to the BSA Event Management Site. If they already have a *Scouting.org* account, they can use their login and password so that the form is populated with their personal information. Next, they choose their activity such as their PTC conference or family camp. Special activities

Registration (Continued on page 7)

From the PTC Director

Here's My Personal Invitation To Attend Ambassador Seminar

By Danny Tucker, Philmont Training Center Director

Since 1950, the Philmont Training Center (PTC) has been delivering learning adventures that have changed the course of Scouting through the years.



The hallmark of training conferences has always been the interaction between Scouters and the ability to learn from subject matter experts. This free flow of ideas, innovation, and camaraderie continues to shape Scouting and strengthens communication between National committees all the way through to unit programs. The Training Center not only serves as a valuable resource to globally change Scouting, but it creates opportunities for individuals to grow and prosper. Philmont gets into your soul, and that is a positive outcome for Scouting.

This summer marks a historic achievement because we have conferences that are not focused on just Scouting. Introducing more people to the values of Scouting through the magic of Philmont creates opportunities for individuals and their families to participate in unique programs not available in local councils. Philmont changes lives, and through our conferences we can strengthen Scouting and help individuals grow in a fun and safe environment. Philmont is a powerful place for change.

I would like to personally invite all Ambassadors to a Philmont Ambassador course. Ambassador I is designed to give Scouters an introduction to Philmont and explore ways to appropriately promote Philmont in their local councils. Ambassador II is designed to give a more in depth look at Philmont operations and be able to strengthen your ability to communicate all things Philmont to even more people. As an Ambassador, we know you have "been"

to Philmont, but though our Ambassadors courses, you will get a chance to discover the who, what, why and how the magic of Philmont is created. **As an added bonus and a way for Philmont to say thank you for your service, Ambassadors receive a significant discounted Seminar fee of \$265 to attend plus housing.**

And don't forget to bring your family for the ultimate vacation. Returning for 2022 is the Silverado program for spouses. We are also introducing our new *Kids and Kin* program which is a renewal of the PTC Family Program. The Training Center is expanding many other programs including all new evening activities. As long as you are here for a Seminar, Ambassadors can choose to stay a second week, participate in Family Adventure Camp and take advantage of the new *Itineraries* adventures described below.

Experience a whole new Philmont this summer. Thank you for your service and we hope you will join us for an unforgettable adventure.

P2

Many Housing Options Available at PTC

Housing Type	Sleeps	Per Night
Terrace Tent	2	\$25
Terrace Tent (H.A.)	2	\$25
Luxury Deluxe Tent	6	\$60
Bungalow A	3	\$100
Bungalow B (H.A.)	6	\$125
Lodge Room A	2	\$75
Lodge Room B (H.A.)	3	\$75
Lodge Room C	4	\$100
Villa Guest Room	2	\$125
Cottage	4	\$175
Villa Apartment	2	\$150

H.A. = Handicapped Accessible

New Family Camp Adventures Introduced

This summer, Philmont is introducing family *Itineraries* that lets participants choose adventures unique to their own interests. Each itinerary provides opportunities to experience Philmont in new and exciting ways without the hassle of having to create a schedule on arrival. Itineraries come in full and half week options. The new *Itineraries* include:

Philhistorical Adventure – Explore the history of Philmont through tours, hikes, and sight-seeing.

Welcome HOMe Adventure – This adventure gives first-time visitors an introduction to the magic of Philmont. For those that are returning, we say "Welcome back to Heaven On Earth."

Mini Bear Adventure – Perfect for younger children ages 5-10. This adventure will give families a wide range of activities and an introduction to Philmont's magical backcountry.

Adventure Seekers – Perfect for older youth ages 11-18. This adventure will give families a wide range of activities and an introduction to Philmont's magical backcountry.

Happy Hiker Adventure – This ultimate backcountry hiking adventure will give families the opportunity to see the beauty of the ranch from vista points to valleys.

Angler Adventure – This adventure will give families the unique opportunity to fish the magical backcountry areas of the Philmont ranch. Great fun for all ages both new and experienced anglers.

You can review the Itineraries by clicking [here](#).

Celebrity Ventriloquist Credits Success to Scouting

Ronn Lucas to perform for PTC Audience and Ambassadors on June 22.

Philmont instructors are known experts in their fields and provide knowledgeable insights into the best ways to deliver the Promise of Scouting to youth. Occasionally, though, a dummy will step in to do them one better. Ventriloquist Ronn Lucas with his cast of characters including cowboy Buffalo Billy and punk rocker Chuck Roast will be entertaining a Philmont Training Center (PTC) audience during the week of June 19 to 25 which is the same week as the Ambassador Seminars.

Lucas has entertained people around the world and has headlined shows in Las Vegas, performed on Broadway and appeared before several U.S. Presidents and the Queen of England. He will be making his third appearance at Philmont thanks to his special connection with Scouting and with Jim Ellis, the National Ambassador Program Coordinator.

A Life Scout from El Paso, Texas, Lucas credits Scouting for much of his success. "Scouting was where I developed the foundation for my self-reliance," he said. "Today, if I am called upon to be a leader, I can do so because years ago I had Scouting to help me understand and practice what leadership was. Likewise, I've also learned, thanks to Scouting, what it means to be to be a good and useful follower."

Scouting also helped Lucas develop



Ronn Lucas, who has delighted audiences everywhere with his cast of characters, will be doing a special show for PTC attendees in June. (Photo by Jim Ellis)

many of the skills he uses on stage. He credits activities like completing rank requirements with building confidence that he could undertake difficult tasks.

"In doing my archery merit badge, I learned I could shape and varnish wood to make a bow, something I never considered I could do," explains Ronn. "I think a good ventriloquist is a combination of comedian, writer, director, producer, builder, artist, costumer, and of course, performer. All of those skills—all of those skills—I began practicing and developing while growing up

in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts."

He went on to add, "In Cub Scouts, puppetry was a big thing. I grew up as a Cub scout in the 60's, and it gave me an opportunity to have a theater of my peers. I also did some pack meeting and Blue and Gold banquets. It was in Cub Scouts where I learned what a skit was, and I translated that into puppetry."

Lucas grew up in a military family whose frequent moves were a challenge. "Every ventriloquist I know kinda has the same story - you feel like you're not fitting in but wanting to make a connection. In my case, it was beyond just therapy. Moving around a lot was very awkward for me, so I started using ventriloquism and puppetry as just a simple way of saying, 'Well, here I am.' I wasn't trying to show off. I used it whenever I went to a new school as an opportunity that wasn't too intrusive like in a church or a school talent show. It helped me make friends a lot faster."

As successful as his ventriloquism career has been, it might well have taken a different turn, he says. "When I was in junior high, me and a buddy who like to do film were going to enter this 8mm film competition with this sci-fi piece we had written

All Conference Attendees, Families, and Family Adventure Camp Participants are Invited

**A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT PTC
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022**

**RONN LUCAS &
BUFFALO BILLY**

"The worlds best ventriloquist."
The New York Times

Ventriloquist (Continued on page 8)

Who's Who at Philmont

Jack Rogers - Marketing Manager

Duties at Philmont: I oversee the Marketing and Photography Services Department, video production, photography, print projects, branding, social media platforms, email campaigns, Philmont website and more!



How did you come to work at Philmont? I had the opportunity to come on two treks as a participant - once in 2014 with my Dad and again in 2016 with both my Dad and my little brothers. It was a challenging but rewarding experience both times! I felt a call after my second trek to apply for the following summer.

Number of years at Philmont: 5

Prior Positions at Philmont: Ranger 2017 and 2018, Ranger Trainer in 2019

Prior Scouting positions outside Philmont: I am an Eagle scout with a scouting background beginning in Cub Scouts!

Most memorable experience at Philmont: It's nearly impossible to pick just one memorable moment at Philmont, but many have been on the summit of the Tooth of Time. In 2016, my crew decided to watch the sunrise from the top, and we got to see a mountain lion as we were hiking along the ridge. At the top my brother was in disbelief of the view and could only ex-

claim, "This is just...oh my gosh." Following that ascent I've gotten to be up there in every season, both alone and with some of my closest friends.

Most humorous experience at Philmont: Again, it was on the Tooth of Time at sunrise. On Halloween morning, a group of 7 of us groggily pulled ourselves up the stockade trail to the top. The catch: we were all in costume. I had then had the opportunity to make pancakes for this brave crew with the backdrop of one of the most beautiful sunrises I've seen at Philmont. We were all dressed as Mr. Rogers of course. It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

What do you like most about working at Philmont? The combination of the Philmont community and our ability to impact others is unparalleled. There is a real sense of camaraderie that results in working towards a shared goal to improve the lives of others. In addition, my role as Marketing Manager offers the privilege of being able to present how people see Philmont and interact with it in their daily lives even when they are half a country away. Philmont stories are powerful and lasting and that is at the core of what my team and I do.

What's your favorite off-duty activity? Living in Northeastern New Mexico presents the opportunity to go off and explore plenty of beautiful and rugged landscapes. A huge part of the way I like to interact with this land is through rock climbing. There are some world class climbing areas within a two hour drive of Philmont. Roy has some of the best bouldering in the southwest. Tres Piedras is an amazing slab climbing crag, and Utopian Vista in the Rio Grande Gorge has amazing views.

P2

Click here for Seasonal Staff brochure.



Help Needed Recruiting Seasonal Staff

How many Philmont staff are required to change a life? Sometimes, it's only one, but at Philmont that adds up to over 1,100 summer personnel needed to make the magic happen every season. Not only is the pay pretty good, but the comradeship and scenery are as life changing for the staff as it is for the participants.

Philmont Ambassadors are in a good position to promote job opportunities whenever they are promoting Philmont.

Think beyond Scouting contacts when it comes to recruiting staff. Applicants do not have a scouting background when they are hired. Putting up a poster or leaving brochures at a local college, community center, sports facility or employment office are great ways to spread the word that Philmont is hiring.

P2

Click here for Seasonal Staff poster.

Ambassador Profile

Teddi McQueen-El Promotes Philmont in the Big Apple

Theodore (Teddi) McQueen-El knows it's a long way from the canyons of Manhattan to the canyons of Philmont. Being a Philmont Ambassador has not been easy in the area hardest hit during the early Covid stages.

Teddi is an Ambassador in the Greater New York Councils which itself is made up of the five councils making up the city: the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island Councils. Each operates as a separate local council.

He was recruited to be an Ambassador 2019, and he was able to attend an Ambassador Seminar. "I found the classroom to be very informative and liked the opportunity to venture around the camp," he remarked.

When he was the Big Apple District Roundtable Commissioner, he could regularly include a mention of Philmont in every meeting. He also promoted Philmont as an active member of the OA Kintecoying Lodge and at district merit badge events.

However, when Covid struck New York hard in early 2020, most churches had to severely restrict activities. Teddi recalls, "Units were not active much during the pandemic. Churches were closed and had to shut down unit meetings. One of the packs in my district is history now."

Fortunately, he was still able to keep people informed about Philmont. He explained, "Since the pandemic began, I use the Facebook account called *Manhattan Scouting Group – Big Apple District* to promote Philmont." When there was something posted on the Ambassador page or by National, he could re-post it there.

In tough situations, Scouts know they need to do what they can with what they got. That's how things work whether in New York or New Mexico. As Terri knows, "Life is a challenge!"

Welcome New Ambassadors

Kevin Miller
Alyssa Hightower
Don Winn
Daniel Yee

Three Fires Council
Sam Houston Council
Alamo Area Council
Atlanta Area Council

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ALL OF THE PROFITS
FROM THE TOOTH OF
TIME TRADERS HELP
SUPPORT PHILMONT
AND THE BSA.

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Focus on the Backcountry

Ancients Left Their Mark at Indian Writings

Elevation 6,600 Ft.

Water: Potable spigot

Program: Archeology, petroglyph tours, atlatl throwing

As history lessons about Philmont go, it's fitting that Indian Writing is often the first staffed camp encountered by treks going through the north country. The camp features the remains of some of the first peoples who inhabited the area and started the history of Philmont.

The program teaches about these natives and their way of life. Also located at the camp is an excavated Anasazi pit house and slab house, both remnants of previous inhabitants.

Petroglyphs are rock carvings made by scratching directly on the rock surface using a stone chisel and hammer. When the weathered patina on the surface of the rock was chipped off, it exposed the lighter rock underneath, making the petroglyph.

It is believed that many petroglyphs were created by the predecessors of today's pueblo people. Puebloans have lived in the New Mexico area since before 500

A.D. Some New Mexican petroglyphs pre-date the Puebloan time period, perhaps reaching as far back as 2000 B.C.

New villages formed after a population increase around 1300 A.D., possibly due to a favorable climate change.

The arrival of Spanish in 1540 had a dramatic impact on the lifestyle of the pueblo people. In 1680 the pueblo tribes revolted against Spanish rule, and forced the settlers out of the area. In 1692 the Spanish reconquered the area. As a result of their return, there was a renewed influence of the Catholic religion.

The Spanish discouraged the Pueblo peoples from practicing their traditional ceremonies. As a consequence, many of their rituals took place in secret while image making in the rocks decreased.

There were many reasons for creating the petroglyphs, most of which are not well understood today. Petroglyphs are more than just art, picture writing, or an imitation of the natural world.

The carvings should not be mistaken for hieroglyphs, which are symbols used to represent words, nor should they be considered as just fancy designs. Petroglyphs



Symbols carved into the rock face at Indian Writings show that the area has been inhabited for thousands of years. (Philmont Photo)



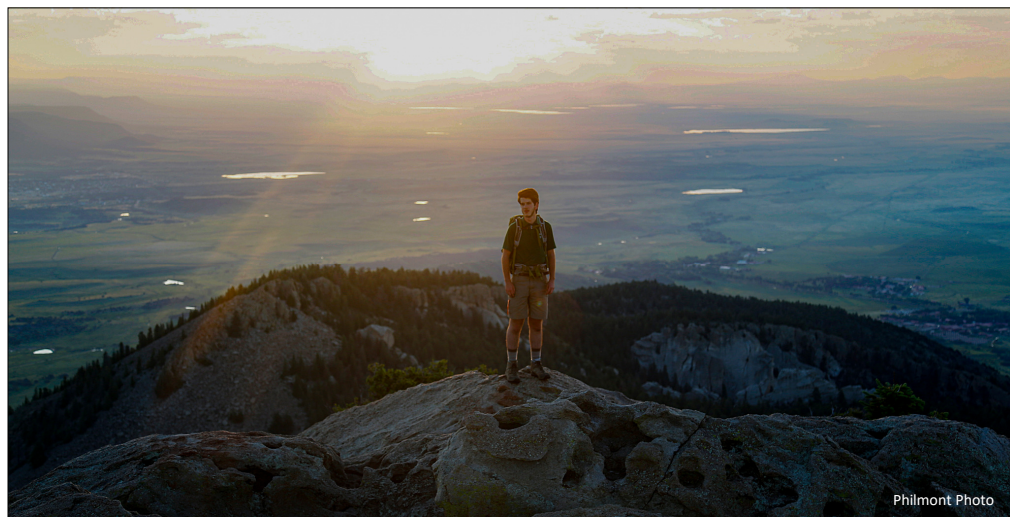
Although Scouts can't carve the rocks at Philmont, they can practice using an atlatl, an ancient device for throwing spears which greatly improved the ability of early peoples to hunt big game. (Philmont photo)

have deep cultural meanings that were important to the societies and their spiritual practices throughout the area.

The location of petroglyphs were also symbolic within the native's sacred landscape where traditional ceremonies still take place. The context of each image is extremely important and integral to its meaning.

Each petroglyph's orientation to the horizon and surrounding images, as well as the landscape in which it sits, is important. Making an image was not a casual or random decision. Some petroglyphs have meanings that are only known to the individuals who made them. Others represent tribal, clan, kiva or society markers.

Some are religious entities, and others show who came to the area and where they went. Petroglyphs may still have contemporary meaning, while the ancient meanings of their creators is no longer known. All of them are respected for belonging to "those who came before."



Individual Opportunity Registration Open for 2022

Encouraging Scouts to sign up for an Individual Opportunity is a great way for Ambassadors to encourage more participation in Philmont programs. You can help make a Scout's dream come true for youth who have missed out on a trek by showing them these programs. Scholarships are also available for deserving youth. Registration is open now and is filled on a first-come-first served basis. Click [here](#) for more details.

Individual Opportunity	Dates	Type	Ages*	Days	Fee
Trail Crew	June 12 - 26	Co-ed	16 - 21	14	\$450
	July 3 - 17	Co-ed	16 - 21	14	\$450
	July 24 - August 7	Co-ed	16 - 21	14	\$450
OA Trail Crew	June 6 - 20	Co-ed	16 - 21	14	\$425
	June 13 - 27	Male	16 - 21	14	\$425
	June 20 - July 4	Male	16 - 21	14	\$425
	June 27 - July 11	Co-ed	16 - 21	14	\$425
	July 4 - July 18	Male	16 - 21	14	\$425
	July 8 - July 22	Male	16 - 21	14	\$425
	August 3 - 17	Co-ed	16 - 21	14	\$425
Ranch Hands	July 7 - 23	Co-ed	16 - 21	16	\$450
Rayado	June 20 - July 10	Male	15 - 21	21	\$1,075
	June 20 - July 10	Female	15 - 21	21	\$1,075
	July 20 - August 9	Male	15 - 21	21	\$1,075
	July 20 - August 9	Female	15 - 21	21	\$1,075
Roving Outdoor Conservation School (R.O.C.S.)	June 15 - July 6	Co-ed	16 - 21	21	\$785
	June 23 - July 14	Co-ed	16 - 21	21	\$785
	July 12 - August 2	Co-ed	16 - 21	21	\$785
STEM	June 13 - 25	Co-ed	14 - 18	12	\$1,295
	July 15 - 27	Co-ed	14 - 18	12	\$1,295
	July 23 - August 4	Co-ed	14 - 18	12	\$1,295

* Must be at least the minimum age but not yet reached the maximum age.

PTC Now Has Two-Step Sign- Up Process

Registration *(Continued from page 1)*

like the Tooth of Time hike can be added next. They then provide some additional information like emergency contact, preferred name and dietary preferences.

If their spouse or children are joining, they can easily add them to their registration. Upon providing payment information, the activity portion of the registration is complete.

A few minutes after finishing their activity registration, the Scouter will get an email with their registration number and a link to CampSpot. The CampSpot site will let them choose their housing options, be it the traditional large canvas wall tent, the deluxe family tent, or roofed housing. As to be expected, there is a different cost associated with each of these options. See the table on Page 2 for the choices and costs.

One thing that has not changed is that Scouters do not need a special invitation to attend PTC except in some specialized instances such as the Ambassador Seminars which are reserved for Ambassadors only. Some courses do have prerequisites like attending Wood Badge for the Philmont Leadership Challenge or Introduction to Leadership Skills for National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience. For all the others, they just need to go to the PTC web site to sign up.

Another Philmont offering that has not changed is that all meals are provided in the Philmont cafeteria, and the cost for these is included in the program and conference fees. There is a variety of food including vegetarian options, a hearty salad bar, and always available peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for picky eaters.

PTC offers a wide variety of activities, classes, and opportunities for everyone from new Scout families wanting an ideal vacation to veteran Scouters polishing up their organizational skills. It's to be expected that the whole registration process for the right activity and accommodation for this range of selections had to become more than clicking on one button. PTC now has a great system for meeting this need.

Ventriloquist Ronn Lucas To Entertain PTC Audience

Ventriloquist (Continued from page 3)

using model rockets and such, but we never completed the project. I asked somebody who won it, and they said it was a Scout from Phoenix - who turned out to be Steven Spielberg. If our movie had turned out, I might have the Oscar, not him - though my film might have been called "Close Encounters of the Dummy Kind".

Scouting is still very important to Lu-

cas. While being a featured performer in Las Vegas, he was a volunteer with its International Scouting Museum where he got to know Jim Ellis. He has also done benefit performances for Scout causes around the country. Some of his shows even helped Scouts earn enough to go on a Philmont Trek.

Watching him perform this summer at Philmont, Scouters may wonder what it takes to be comfortable being up in front of such a large group of people. Ambassadors may be nervous about doing a presen-

tation to others trying to persuade them to go to Philmont Training Center. Lucas has learned the secret is in the Scout Law: Helping Other People.

"Some performers are afraid audiences won't like them. Others want to make the audience like them. But the real secret is showing the audience how much you like THEM and bring a smile to their face by entertaining them - which is just another way of helping others."

Showing Scouters the great time they will have at Philmont is all part of what Ambassadors do to help others. That is one smart lesson from a guy who hangs around with dummies all day.

Have Fun At PTC Conferences

Scout Fun (Continued from page 1)

Let's Play Games

Scouters at this conference get to play games and learn how to harness the power of games. Games help develop skills in Scouts and in Scout families, reinforce the mission and aims of Scouting, and can promote core family values.

Games make it possible to create strategies that can be applied to other areas of our lives. We play games to improve communication, planning, teamwork, trust, leadership, decision making, problem solving, and self esteem.

Participants will discover the importance of challenge by choosing, sequencing and processing. They'll experience fun ways to reflect on what game players learn without a lecture. By discovering the dynamics of games — competition, rewards, earning badges, prizes, etc. — it is easier for Scouts and Scouters to acquire and retain knowledge all while having fun. Playing games is serious business though, so Scouters who are really serious about having fun while teaching should sign up for this conference.

July 3 – 9, \$450 plus housing

Making Scouting Unforgettably Fun!

This conference focuses on how to plan, prepare, and present programs for troops and crews that are challenging, engaging, and fun through a host of easy-to-use Scouting resources. Participants will take part in a variety of patrol challenges featuring an array of Scout skills including pioneering, fire making, cooking, and

geocaching. This informative session is beneficial for all leaders who want to see how to bring excitement and fun to their unit's program that's sure to boost attendance and retention.

July 17 - 23, \$450 plus housing

The ABCs of Patch Designing: The Simple, The Advanced, and The Outrageous

During the Middle Ages, men of art spent years on tapestries to capture a significant event in the history of a king or kingdom. Today, as with modern tapestries, Scouting has commemorated events, activities and milestones with patch designs. Not everyone realizes, though, that they can add to our history by designing a patch themselves. After this patch design course, every participant will be able to design the simplest 3-inch patch on up to the most intricate design patterns of a 4 to 5-inch diameter piece.

The course will be covering all manner patch design, interacting with a patch manufacturer, and even embedding "your signature" or "mark" within the design. Everyone will participate in a patch design to commemorate the PTC patch design course that will be created, selected, produced and mailed to participants. Each participant will receive a patch binder with valuable collector patches.

Half Week July 17 – 20; \$329 plus housing

Check out the other great PTC Conferences [here](#).

P2

Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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