

PAGE 1

SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

May 2022

Enhanced Programs Await New Season of Philmont Trekkers

The 2022 Trek season will soon be upon Philmont Scout Ranch, and preparations have been taking place ever since the 25,001th hiker stepped off the trail last fall. Last season's record number of backcountry visits had challenged both staff and facilities. "Only" 18,500 crew members are expected in the coming season, which will be an easier number to support in the backcountry.

Several camps will be rested in 2022 to allow nature to restore some of the wear and tear on the facilities. The Garcia Cow Camp on the UU Bar ranch property will be given a break as will the Seeley Canyon site in Valle Vidal. It is anticipated that these camps will return to use once they have recovered sufficiently.

Zastro camp was also scheduled to be rested, but the recent Cooks Peak fire destroyed so much that it must be rebuilt. Family Adventure Camp had made plans to use it for overnight outings, but alternative locations are being planned.

The program at Baldy Town will be enhanced this year by the addition of miners actually looking for gold as the camp becomes an interpretative living history

Programs (Continued on page 6)

Cooks Peak Fire Updates

Updates on wildfires affecting Philmont are posted on <u>www.philmontscoutranch.org</u> and on the New Mexico fire information page <u>https://nmfireinfo.com/.</u>



Scouts will get new insights into gold mining techniques through the new interpretive living history program at Baldy Camp. (Philmont Photo)

New Ambassador Goals Include Promotions, Continuing Training

Started in 2013, the Ambassador program is rapidly approaching its tenth anniversary. Just as Philmont evolves and improves every season, so does the Ambassador program. Starting with just one Ambassador seminar in 2014, there are now the Ambassador I and II sessions. The newsletter which initially came out infrequently became quarterly and is now a bi-monthly publication. Expectations for Ambassadors have also recently been upgraded as well.

Doing promotions have changed from being *aspirational* to *expected* meaning that Ambassadors now need to be doing at least four each year to be an active member of the Ambassador team. Just about every Scout who comes to Philmont goes back home and tells others about the magic of "God's Country" is promoting the ranch. What now distinguishes Ambassadors is that they actively go out and promote Philmont to groups of Scouters (five or more) at least four times each year at Roundtables, Council events, Unit meetings and other such gatherings.

Philmont is already well known for Treks. Ambassadors' main focus doing promotions should be on Philmont Training Center Conferences, including NAYLE and PLC, Individual Opportunities at Philmont Scout Ranch, i.e., STEM, Rayado, OA Trail Crew, etc., Family Adventure Camp, and Philmont's Second Season, i.e., Autumn and Winter Adventures. Promoting these opportunities is how Ambassadors most help the success of Philmont Scout Ranch.

Expectations (Continued on page 8)

Page 2 Pr

Ambassadors Can Help Restore Phillips' Portraits

Waite and Genevieve Phillips were humble in their generosity. Visitors to Villa Philmonte are hard pressed to find portraits of

Philmont's benefactors until looking into a closet where the couple's pictures are surreptitiously hanging in accordance with their wishes to stay relatively anonymous.

Guests at Philmont Training Center (PTC) are somewhat luckier to see portraits of Waite and Genevieve hanging on either side of the dining hall picture windows providing a vista toward the Tooth of Time. Unfortunately, the bright sun of the southwest has taken its toll on them,



and they have faded to almost obscurity. Diners hardly notice them at all or wonder who may be in those ghostly images looking down on them in the dining hall.

Philmont Ambassadors have an opportunity to help restore these portraits so that PTC guests can be reminded of their benevolence in creating Philmont Scout Ranch. A collection for the \$600 needed to reprint and reframe the pictures is being now being collected. Ambassadors can contact Amanda at the PTC office (575-376-2281) to make their contribution. **P2**

PTC Adopts New Blueprint for Success

The Philmont Ranch Committee in partnership with the Training Center Task Force adopted a new Mission and Vision Statement. This new strategy will help provide continuity and create a path forward for the training center for years to come.

Mission Statement

Be the leader in presenting ageappropriate programs that connect Scouting's core values and unleashes the imagination through exceptional learning opportunities and outdoor activities.

Vision Statement

The Philmont Training Center provides the premier environment for learning, playing, relaxing, and creating lifetime friendships and unforgettable memories. Because of our world class learning environment, subject matter experts, resources of Philmont Scout Ranch, and exceptional customer service, participants will return home with improved skills and a sense of adventure that positively impacts the world.

PS

From the PTC Director A Magic Pile of Rocks

By Danny Tucker, PTC Director

Philmont holds a special place in the hearts of many. Whether it's your first time or you are a seasoned veteran of the ranch, Philmont



has enriched over a million lives through its land, its people, and its story. This past April, the ranch was again threatened by wildfire. But through grace and the work of staff and emergency personnel, our land was spared once again. The magic of Philmont remains strong and we stand ready for another summer of making unforgettable memories.

As an Ambassador, you understand best how important the ranch is to strengthening Scouting. From crews on a trek to guests attending conferences, Philmont sends people home inspired, engaged, and equipped to make Scouting stronger and more effective in changing lives.

As we begin the summer season, I hope you will continue every effort to invite guests to the ranch. There are still spots open for crews, conferences, and family adventure camp. If anyone needs assistance to get to Philmont, we strongly encourage guests to apply for scholarships. The training center recently identified a sizable gift to help individuals attend a conference or adventure camp. Please share this link for guests to apply; https://

www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/rates/. Everyone should be given a chance to attend Philmont. Scholarships make it a little easier to get here.

We all love Philmont. Please help encourage more guests to experience our beautiful pile of rocks and join us this year for a place to learn, play, relax, and create lifetime friendships. Thank you, Ambassadors, for all the work you doing to help bring more people to the ranch this year.

PS

Ambassador Seminars Sign Up

If you have not been on a Trek or attended a PTC Conference recently, then now is the time to sign up for the <u>Ambassador Seminars</u>, June 19 to 25. There is a reduced fee - only \$265 plus housing. You'll receives updates on Philmont directly from Ranch management, visit backcountry sights and get valuable insights on better ways to encourage Scouts and Scouters to come to Heaven On Earth. Special events this year are a performance by Ronn Lucas, world famous ventriloquist, and a reception at Casa De Corazon, an exclusive Philmont property for special guests like Ambassadors.

Ambassador Profile Jim Whitehead Stays Young Trekking Philmont

Amidst the forests and fauna Jim and Sonya Whitehead have found the real fountain of youth at Philmont. Jim got his first taste in 1980 as an adult advisor for a crew while serving as a District Executive. When he showed Sonya his photos, she said, "Well that's very nice, but you're not going back unless I can go, too." So, they started an Explorer Post and took their first coed crew in 1982. At age 70 this year, Jim is still Trekking on. spectives and things to try," notes Jim.

Jim is in the Erie Shores Council in Toledo, Ohio, which serves 170 units in four counties in northwestern Ohio. His primary position is Chartered Organization Representative for Providence Lutheran Church in Holland, Ohio. The Church is home to a Cub Pack, Scouts BSA Troop and Venturing Crew.

He also works with his district and is on Erie Council's camping committee, out-



Jim Whitehead and his wife Sonya with their granddaughter and grandson scaled Baldy on a trek together in 2017. (Jim Whitehead Photo)

In total, the two have completed 13 treks together, with their 14th coming up in June when they will be celebrating their wedding anniversary again on the trail for the eighth time. One of the highlights of their Treks was in 2017 when they got to stand on top of Baldy with two of their grandchildren. Another two grandkids will be with them this coming summer.

Not only has Jim trekked over much of the backcountry, but he has also attended Philmont Training Center as course director for the National Lutheran Association on Scouting. "I treasure having the opportunity to meet and share with amazing Scouters from all over the country, those in our conference and those in other conferences, faculty and participants. The ideas, suggestions, solutions and just plain conversations help me go home refreshed with new perdoor adventure committee, and advisory board. His devotion to scouting also led him to be a member of the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee.

Jim became an Ambassador when the program started in 2013, although like many he had been promoting Philmont ever since his first Trek. He explains, "I try to get time yearly at the roundtables for each of our districts and also at our annual University of Scouting. In addition, I get several individual units that ask for presentations each year. I usually end up with 5 or 6 formal presentations and have many conversations as well promoting Philmont."

Jim uses whatever approach works depending on the group he is working with. This can be pictures from his crew's treks, static displays, "How-to" classes, and the occasional direct e-mail. One of his challenges is convincing "crusty old male leaders" that girls can do Treks, so he occasionally brings a few female Scouts along for his presentations. With his own granddaughter as an example, Jim knows women "can sometimes do a Trek better than the guys."

It's a myriad of things that keeps Jim coming back. "Having experienced firsthand my own benefit from treks, seeing the amazing growth in youth and seeing the "magic" happen at PTC, I want to make sure the word was spread far and wide in our council and beyond!" That's his real secret to staying young at Philmont.

Sd

Ambassador Treks in Fall Await You

Ambassadors have two opportunities to experience a backcountry Autumn Adventure from September 11 to 18, 2022.

A short trek will travel through the scenic south country. Participants will earn the distinctive Autumn Adventure Arrowhead Patch.

A Hub-and-Spoke trip will be based at the Hunting Lodge Camp. Participants will have opportunities to do day hikes to scenic vistas and meet with Philmont staff to learn more about the history and working of the Ranch.

Each trip is limited to 12 participants, so it is important to sign up early to guarantee yourself a spot. Like all other backcountry trips you must meet all of Philmont's requirements to participate including weight restrictions.

Going on either of these Autumn Adventures will qualify toward the Ambassador performance goals.

Sign up at <u>https://</u> registerphilmont.org/entry/ program/PA

Focus on the Backcountry Scouts Travel Back In Time at Metcalf Station

Elevation 7,400 ft. Water: Potable spigot

Metcalf Station started out in 2014 to recreate the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway operations of the 1900's that hauled lumber from logging operations in the area to the sawmill in Cimarron. Scouts arriving at Metcalf experience life as a track laying gang of the period. Authenticity is enhanced by the reuse of actual 1900 steel rails that have been gleaned from old tracks in the area.

When they arrive at camp, Scouts are treated as a track-laying crew freshly arriving at their new job site. They are provided an orientation to the camp and history of the railroad. Camp staff all act the part as they would at an early-century railroad operation. Crews are instructed on tracklaying terminology, tools and techniques.

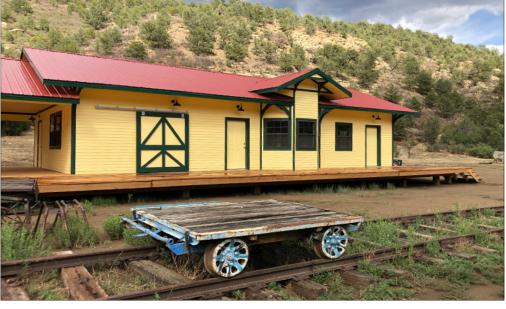
A hand cart allows them to actually ride the rails laid over the years by other scout crews. Scouts also get to experience blacksmithing and practice their telegraph skills by sending messages down the line from the station.

The first Philmont Metcalf station buildings were wood framed canvas walled structures. One served as station and telegraph office. A small equipment building next to it held the tools and equipment for the railroading program. This year these will become a railroad office and company store.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation, a new station was built in 2019 which is modeled after a typical 1910 Santa Fe rail depot. It is a combined passenger station, freight house, waiting area and covered platform. The building houses historic railroad equipment and artifacts that help visitors understand the importance of railroads in building the country.

During the evenings, camp staff host a campfire from the station porch where Scouts join them in singing many old rail-road songs and Philmont favorites. In inclement weather, the porch provides protection from summer storms.

There's no passenger rail service, though. Scouts have to hike to their next camp.



The new Metcalf Station building, an authentic replica of a Santa Fe depot, is the centerpiece of the railroading program the camp. (BNSF Photo)

Railroad Had Short Life But a Big Impact on the Ponil Valley

Although the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway Company was incorporated for a period of 50 years, it lasted only as long as the timber that could be cut from the Ponil area.

The company was chartered on January 21, 1907. The principal stockholder was T. A. Schomburg, president of the Continental Tie and Lumber Company, which purchased the standing timber on lands of the Maxwell Land Grant Company. The general offices of both companies were at Cimarron, though the articles of incorporation named Raton, NM, as the principal place of business of the railroad.

The railroad company built 22 miles of road, from Cimarron to Ponil Park. From Ponil, it also operated on about 5 miles of spur tracks owned by the Continental Tie and Lumber Company to support its logging operations.

Grading was commenced by contractor W. Whitescarver about March 1907, and the line was completed on January 1, 1908, ready for operation. Over the course of the line, the elevation climbed 1400 feet and crossed 51 bridges. It was a singletrack standard-gauge steam railroad. Rolling stock consisted of five boxcars, thirty nine flatcars, and one caboose along with the single engine.

The locomotive, nicknamed "Sallie", was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works. It was a 2-8-0 Consolidation design locomotive built in 1890. The 2-8-0 refers to the arrangement of two leading wheels on one axle, eight powered and coupled driving wheels on four axles, and no trailing wheels. Known as a consolidation design, it allowed for more tractive effort with the two additional driving axles and a larger boiler. Because of this the wheel arrangement, the engine could haul much heavier trains.

The line was a dedicated operation for the transportation of the lumber mill products of the Continental Tie and Lumber Company. When the timber was gone, the Continental Tie and Lumber Company, had no interest in the cut-over lands. It saw no use for other purposes, so It closed the operation and took up the rails in the 1920's.

Who's Who at Philmont Harold White - Museum Program Specialist

Duties at Philmont: I am responsible for marketing, development, educational outreach, and the docent program for the National Scouting Museum.

How did you come to work at Philmont? My first season at Philmont was 2018. I was hired to work in Logistics for the summer. After the fire closed the Ranch for the season I moved over to the Dining Hall. I was there until October 2018. On April 8, 2019 I started as a seasonal Museum Specialist. I continued in that role until September 1, 2021, when I accepted my current Full-time position here in the Museum.

Number of Years at Philmont: 4

Prior positions at Philmont: Seasonal 2018 Summer - Logistics, Dining Hall. 2018 Fall -Dining Hall. 2019 Spring/Summer/Fall/ Winter - National Scouting Museum, 2020 Spring/Summer/Fall/Winter - National Scouting Museum. 2021 Spring/Summer/ Fall - National Scouting Museum.

Prior Scouting oositions outside

Philmont: Long-time volunteer in North Florida Council.

Most memorable experience at Philmont: I think my most memorable experience at Philmont was serving as the Session 2 NAYLE Course Director in 2018. The only program being delivered that summer was through PTC and the staff of that NAYLE course had to figure out how to deliver the program with all of the challenges and limitations placed on us because of the Ute Park fire. I am very proud of the work that staff put in to make sure the NAYLE participants got a great experience and training opportunity.

The second most memorable experience was observing four bears near the Lovers Leap Turnaround for about 20 minutes. It was amazing to see them do their thing with no regard to us being in the neighborhood the whole time.

Most humorous experience at Philmont: Because my wife and I live in an RV, when



we had to evacuate the staff to the Fair Grounds in Springer due to the Ute Park Fire, we took our home with us. Once we arrived at the Fair Grounds we were parked with all of the school buses and set up a charging station for phones and other devices using our generator for power. We also hosted one staff member who slept on our couch in the living area. We told him, "When the lights are on, it's the living room. When the lights are off, it's your bedroom."

What do you like most about working at Philmont? I love sharing the stories of the Boy Scouts of America with our visitors, both in-person as well as virtually. I get a great deal of satisfaction helping a Scout or Scouter tie their Scouting experiences to the past and help them see how the past leads directly to their current and future experiences.

What's your favorite off-duty activity? My wife and I love to hike, camp, and travel. Since we have been at Philmont we have taken camping trips to the Grand Canyon, White Sands, Carlsbad, and even hiked up Pikes Peak. For the record, we both think hiking up the stockade trail to the Tooth of Time was much harder than the trip along the Barr Trail to the top of Pikes Peak.

SA

Camping Gateway

The Philmont Camping Gateway www.philmontscoutranch.org/

register/gateway is a critical part of communication between crews and Philmont regarding upcoming Treks. It's a more than just a useful tool for planning a successful Philmont Adventure.

Advisors need to ensure that their crew roster is complete and that all medical forms are uploaded so that their check in procedures go smoothly upon arrival at Philmont this season.

Crews should already have selected their itinerary, coordinated with sister crews, and provided arrival and departure information. Access to the Gateway was provided to Lead Advisors last August for 2022 crews.

PS

Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

Editor: Tom Baltutis tfbaltutis@gmail.com

National Ambassador Coordinator:

Jim Ellis PhilmontAmbassadors@gmail.com

Deputy National Coordinators:

Pat Wrath (NST 1, 2,3, 4) patwrath@hawaii.rr.com

Rob Welander (NST 5, 6, 9, 14) hoacphilmontambassador@gmail.com

GW Bell (NST 7, 8, 15, 16) mobeans@me.com

Dave Lyons (NST 10, 11, 12, 13) Davethecommish@gmail.com

This newsletter is published bi-monthly for the benefit of Philmont Ambassadors in the spirit of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Every effort is made to provide complete and accurate information. However, the newsletter publisher does not guarantee that there will be no errors, nor does it make claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the contents of the newsletter and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this newsletter.

Philmont Is Working To Support Its Diverse Staff Community

Jarod Contreras - Philmont writer

For much of Philmont's history, the culture of the Boy Scouts America did not allow for the full expression of all individual identities. The focus on the development of traditionally masculine attributes in young men and the lack of acceptance of non-traditional identities in society at large for most of the Boy Scouts' history led to a lesser focus on creating acceptance of those identities at Philmont. As a result. those who identified as nontraditional sexualities and/or genders working at Philmont throughout its history have largely had to remain silent. However, in recent years, tides have been changing, both at Philmont and in society at large.



Beaubien, poses for a portrait. Photo by Jarod Contreras.

This year [written in 2021], many staff members at Philmont feel comfortable and safe enough with Philmont's culture to express themselves openly. Beaubien Program Counselor Dawn Violet Todd said this change has been primarily due to members of the LGBTQ+ community taking it upon themselves to move that shift towards more acceptance that we see in other areas of society into Philmont.

"I am not here to break down barriers, but I am happy to smash some along the way," Todd said. Todd identifies as nonbinary, "somewhere on the gender spectrum," and is, "very comfortable using they/them pronouns." They are bisexual and, "incredibly proud of the fact that [they] are here working how everyone else has done."

However, when arriving for their job at Philmont, Todd said they were nervous. They said they did not know what Philmont's culture would be. But, as they began working here, they said, they were glad to find a culture of open expression. "I am glad that I have a place to be me," Todd said.

Aster Gousie, a Ranger who identifies as nonbinary, "somewhere along the spectrum of bisexual to poly," and is intersex, set out this summer with the goal to represent trans people at a place like Philmont. "So [that scouts can see] someone like them, who's a they/them," Gousie said.

Gousie introduces themselves as they/ them to crews. "Some of the crews have thoughts and feelings about that," Gousie said.

Gousie has had varying reactions from their interactions with crews. "Generally, people assume I am one of two things: either what they are or what they dislike," Gousie said.

Gousie said they realized they were trans on their Philmont trek in 2017. Sitting on Shaefer's Pass thinking about life and what it means, Gousie said many questions were answered that day about who they truly were. Gousie said that they have never felt safer, both in their living conditions and socially. They said that, from their perspective, most of Philmont provides a wonderful space for trans people.

Tori Parsons, a Ranger Trainer, identifies as "he, she, they, it's all okay" and as "basic queer." Parsons, who said that part of the reason that he is so visible is to help first-year rangers feel comfortable, said there was a "big learning curve" this summer.

Parsons said the department shouldn't always believe Advisors nor Rangers but that, at the very least, the department needs "to have our Rangers' backs." One way of doing that, she said, is by having

Diversity (Continued on page 7)

Welcome New Ambassadors

Kellee Menard - Evangeline Area Tom Parker - Los Padres Council Joseph Skop - Alamo Area Council

Enhanced Programs Await Trekkers

Programs (Continued from page 1)

center for the first time since 1964. In its heyday, the area was home to thousands of workers who dug out millions of dollars' worth of gold from the mountains. Scouts will learn from geologists and mining experts about the history and technology of mining for the precious metal.

Miranda will be getting a new shooting range closer to the staff cabin. The relocated range will provide a bigger safety zone from a new trail built through the area.

Miners Park will have a new program center. The old shower house was converted it into a pavilion that will be a showcase for climbing tools and equipment as well as a knot tying area. There will be walls with climbing holds so that scouts can learn more about rock climbing techniques before ascending the cliffs at the camp.

The railroading program at Metcalf station continues to grow. The two original cabins at Metcalf have been remodeled. One will become a company store and the other will be a railroad office to give visitors more of a feel for the early days of railroading in the West. A new gang car will be featured that shows how railroad construction crews lived and worked.

The very dark skies at Ring Place provide an excellent viewing area into the reaches of the universe. This year, a new astronomy dome will house a telescope to peer even further into the clear skies over New Mexico.

Diverse Staff Find a Supportive Environment

Diversity (Continued from page 6)

open and honest conversations because as you get to know someone "it pulls away the layers of society and just leaves a person, not societal expectations."

"I think the doors of openness are a little rusty, and we just need to drop kick them open," Parsons said.

Phillip Ferrier, Associate Director of Camping, said his goal "is that anyone can feel welcome to come to Philmont and feel a sense of belonging here."

"Right now, our primary focuses are on providing mental health support for our staff and taking a hard look at our documentation and training to ensure it is inclusive and provide resources for inclusivity," Ferrier said. through that need to know you can be like me and work here," Miller said.

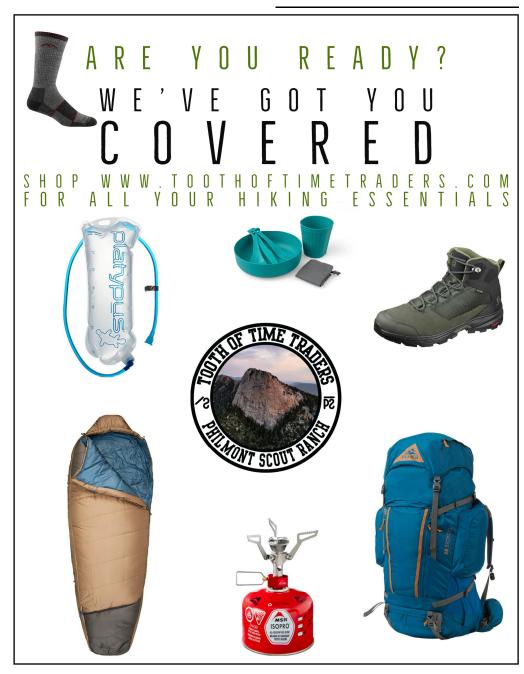
Miller, who wears they/them pins and stickers and LGBTQ+ pride stickers, said they don't wear them for attention. They wear them to remind those kids you can be open and be at Philmont. "I feel much more allowed to exist here," Miller said.

Miller said they are visible to give hope and safety to the kids who pass through the Ranch that they can be open, too. "We have always been here [at Philmont] but the fact that we can come out of the shadows is so nice," Miller said.

Sd



A non-binary flag hangs outside Max Millers staff tent.





As Gousie said, those who are open in other areas of Philmont have very different experiences. Max Miller, who works at the Mail Room, identifies as they/them, pansexual and generally, "queer all around" was also nervous when arriving to work at Philmont. Miller said they already look different, with a green mohawk and makeup most days. However, they were, similar to Todd, glad to find a healthy and open culture.

"There are so many kids passing

Philmont Ambassador Update

May 2022

Ambassador Promotion, Training Goals Upgraded

Expectations (Continued from page 1)

It's also important to keep track by logging promotions into the Ambassador Presentation Report website. This allows Philmont to determine how its outreach efforts are doing at getting information out to councils.

"Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader" is the BSA mantra that encourages all Scouters to do basic training, complete Wood Badge, and keep current through attendance at Roundtable, University of Scouting and similar experiences. Likewise, Ambassadors are expected to have basic knowledge of Philmont and keep current through continuous education about the programs, facilities and experiences at Philmont. Basic knowledge comes from having been on one Trek or attended one conference. Continuous education comes from subsequent treks, conferences, and Ambassador seminars at least once every three years. As an bonus for attending a Seminar, attendees receive an official Philmont Ambassador ID badge.

Scouters are proud to display their achievements as volunteer by wearing a knot on their uniform. The Philmont Master's Track knot does just that through recognizing those who distinguish themselves as exceptional supporters of Philmont. The requirements and application form are available on the Philmont website <u>here.</u>

The Scouting program and Philmont are constantly changing to meet new challenges and serve our nation's youth. The Ambassador program is dedicated to stepping up right alongside.



At Sagamore Hill, Theodore Roosevelt and I used to play a little game together. After an evening of talk, we would go out on the lawn and search the skies until we found the faint spot of light-mist beyond the lower left-hand corner of the Great Square of Pegasus. Then one or the other of us would recite – "That is the Spiral Galaxy in Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of a hundred million galaxies. It consists of one hundred billion suns each larger than our sun." Then Roosevelt would grin at me and say – "Now I think we are small enough! Let's go to bed!" - William Beebe. (Philmont Photo)

CUB SCOUT EXTRAVAGANZA July 24th-30th, 2022

Imagine being able to interact with Cub Scout Leaders from across our country for an entire week while attending this conference at the Philmont Training Center! AND...being able to choose the Cub Scouting sessions that you would like to take to continue to grow your Cub Scout Leader skills!

The Cub Scout Extravaganza provides you with these opportunities!

Plan a schedule of your choice by selecting from an assortment of Cub Leader topics like: Outdoor Skills, Training, Cub Scouting Administration, Den and Pack Management, Cub Scout FUN and Scouts BSA Transition.

SAVE THE DATE ~ REGISTER TOD AY

Philmont Training Center ~ Cimmaron, New Mexico Register Online at: www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc