

# PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

November 2022

## Inspire Scouters to Plan Their PTC Adventures

How often have Ambassadors heard “I’ll make it to PTC someday” from a person who walks by their display booth or who they talk to at a Roundtable? Having the facts about what goes on at Philmont is necessary to pique their interest, but it may not quite enough for them to make a commitment to go. In other words, the “What” is important, but not as much as the “Why”.

All Ambassadors have experienced the magic of Philmont. It’s what’s inspired them to want to encourage others to experience God’s Country first-hand. The key is to make others so fired up about Philmont that they want to experience it for themselves. Dry facts and figures don’t do that, but sharing enthusiasm will.

People love to hear stories, so one of the best ways to inspire others to change “I’d like to go” to “I’m definitely going” is to tell about your Philmont experiences. Sharing the story of your Trek as a youth or adult advisor helps others see themselves as being on the trail and wanting the same



Sit all day in a classroom at Philmont Training Center? Not these Scouters who attended the Fly Fishing conference last summer. (Philmont Photo)

experience. Describe the gorgeous sunsets, the sight of the Milky Way over your campsite, or the challenge of climbing Baldy.

Tell about the fun adventures you had at a conference and the Scouting friends

you made from across the country. Share stories how families have their best vacation ever together at Family Adventure Camp. That’s what will change “someday” to “I’m going this summer!”

**P2**

**Your Time’s  
Running Out**

**Ambassador  
Survey Needs  
Your Input**

The survey should take no more than  
10 minutes to complete.

**You must complete  
the survey by 1/1/23  
to continue being  
an Ambassador.**

**[Click Here](#)**

## 2024 Trek Lottery Entry Is Open, Runs to December 1

Getting a Philmont Trek for individual units has gotten a bit easier lately, although Philmont hasn’t gotten any bigger. The summer season still runs from Mid-June to early August, and the number of crews arriving and departing each day is still around 30.

The fact is that there are fewer crews bidding for treks. After the record numbers in 2021, participation has gone down for a number of reasons. Covid is one big one as units decreased in size because of concerns

about transmission and curtailment of activities.

Nevertheless, Philmont is a life-changing experience for so many youth. Ambassadors are needed now more than ever to promote Philmont adventures and provide guidance on how units can fit a Trek into their future.

Now is the time to get a Philmont trek on a unit’s 2024 calendar. No monetary commitment is needed to enter the lottery, and only an estimate of crew size is needed. **P2**

# First Aid, Trek Advisor Changes Coming

This past summer, 17,461 pairs of boots tromped their cumulative way over thousands of miles of trail, hefted tons of packs, climbed Everest altitudes, and drank oceans of water thanks to all their preparation and Philmont's amazing staff. Philmont may be Scouting Paradise, but it is still a wilderness where there are risks from missteps, strains, altitude, and dehydration. Ensuring all Crews have a successful adventure is key at Philmont.

Currently, Philmont requires that two crew members are trained in Wilderness First Aid (WFA). This has resulted in a decrease of 15 to 20% in medical emergencies on the trail. Expanding on this success, in 2023 Philmont is recommending that four people in each crew are trained in WFA.

**In 2024, four WFA-trained crew members will be a requirement.** These can be youth as well as adult leaders. This ensures that there are sufficiently trained crew

adult advisors. The maximum crew size is still 12.

**Starting in 2024, three advisors per crew will be a requirement.** All advisors must meet BSA requirements of being over 21 and trained in Youth Protection. A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth.

Philmont's health medical requirements are strictly enforced, yet some Advisors think that they will be permitted in the backcountry once they arrive with their crew. They are wrong. They will spend their time at Base Camp while their crew treks. Sometimes an advisor's medical condition like high blood pressure may not manifest itself until they are at Philmont's altitude. Each participant who is 18 years of age or older will have his or her blood pressure checked at Philmont. Those individuals with a blood pressure consistently greater than 150/95 may be kept off the trail until the blood pressure decreases.

"Again, we will provide a Ranger, male or female as needed, as a replacement advisor to get the crew on the trail," said Nelson. "I would guess that we had to deny participation to approximately 25 to 30 adult leaders this past summer."

Even so, merely meeting medical requirements does not mean crews are physically ready for Philmont's backcountry. "We did have two crews that that decided to come off the trail themselves and go home. We probably had four to five others that we significantly changed their itinerary to help keep them on the trail because of lack of preparation of the crew," Nelson recalls.

Making a Philmont Trek is a big investment for everyone in time, preparation, and expense. Philmont is committed to doing all it can so that each participant has the life changing experience that they signed up for. Requiring WFA training and an additional advisor will help crews complete the journey of a lifetime. Crews still need to take heed of all the advice Philmont provides for crew training and preparation.

The new WFA and advisor requirement phase-in during 2023 will give everyone due notice of their implementation for 2024. Special medical concerns must be discussed with Philmont before crews arrive at camp.

**P2**



A crew gets to practice its wilderness first aid on Philmont staff at Carson Meadows.  
(Philmont Photo)

Nothing is so disappointing to a crew as to have someone injured during their trek. Philmont staff has well-established protocols for handling medical issues in the backcountry. Sometimes incidents occur that the crew themselves can handle on the trail if they are well prepared. Good knowledge and training can make the difference between a brief aid stop or an emergency diversion to a staffed camp for medical attention.

members and back-ups to handle most medical situations that may happen. In fact, Philmont encourages everyone to have WFA training.

Unfortunately, sometimes an adult advisor must come off the trail for medical reasons. Philmont and Youth Protection requirements must still be met. "We have several cases a year where a crew ends up without sufficient advisors. However, we are not going to let that impact the crew," said Steve Nelson, Camping Director. "We will send a Ranger to provide that leadership while the advisor is off the trail. We provided over 50 replacement advisors this past summer. No crew went home because of lack of leadership."

However, this does stretch Philmont's staff, cutting into their much-needed rest days. This puts Rangers at risk of injury themselves. Therefore, in 2023, Philmont will recommended all crews have three

**Have you  
reported all your  
Philmont  
presentations?**

**[Click here](#)**

**Ambassador Profile**

# Scott McAllister Shares Trek Experiences with Crews

Wild horses can't drag some people away from Philmont, but an irritated burro did chase Ambassador Scott McAllister off the trail once.

"I went on my first trek as a youth in 1975 with my best friend from Troop 742 from Florissant, Missouri on our council contingent crew. We had a burro for a couple of days. As we were hiking down a trail that was cut through a bunch of trees leading to a meadow, the burro got a bee under his blanket. Someone from behind yelled "get out of the way" so we jumped into the woods to avoid getting run over as the burro came racing down the trail behind us. After that I was not of fan of burros," recalls Scott.

Despite this burro episode and having a bear follow their crew and getting into their food hung in trees (before the days of bear cables), Scott came to love Philmont. He returned on treks as an adult advisor in 2006 and 2013 with his sons, and he didn't use burros or have bear issues. He has great memories of climbing Trail Peak, over Mt. Phillips and hiking into Base Camp over Tooth Ridge. He was further inspired after being a Troop Guide at a council Wood Badge course at Philmont in 2018 and joined the Ambassador Corps.

Scott enjoys both telling others about all the Philmont programs and giving advice about Treks based on his experience. At one Camporee, Scott recalls, "I just started talking to an adult leader about his trek and gave him a lot of tips because they had never been on a trek at Philmont. Later that summer he came up to me at our district Roundtable and thanked me for all the advice I gave him as it made their trek so much better."

Scott is in the Longhorn Council in central Texas which serves over 9,500 youth and 4,800 volunteers. "Our council is spread out over a lot of miles, and it takes a lot of time and planning to get to as many Roundtables as possible. I am trying to recruit a new Ambassador in the southern portion of our council to better cover that area. Some years I do better than other years with getting to more events."

He partners with other Ambassadors to have displays at district Roundtables, merit badge colleges, Wood Badge courses, and camporees. Once, he and fellow Am-

bassador GW Bell had a Philmont display with 18 lineal feet of table space.

He uses a lot of visual aids. "I have a big 4 by 6 foot banner with the Tooth of Time that is a great attention getter and brings people to my exhibit. I have two bifold displays that I built after I saw examples on the Ambassador's Facebook page. Using big pictures and QR Codes are successful, too," he explains. "Some people like to pick up a brochure, and for others the QR codes work well."



Scott McAllister eagerly tells Scouts about all the activities and programs waiting for them.

Scott is a big advocate of attending Philmont Ambassador Seminars where he's learned a lot about Philmont history, doing presentations and making displays. He finds that a big help is comparing notes and talking with other Ambassadors there. Plus, there are a lot of great people you meet.

"During my Ambassador I seminar in 2019, I had the good fortune to meet Julie Phillips Puckett, Waite's granddaughter, and her husband Jim. They were super nice. And this past June while on Faculty for the Ambassador 1 Seminar, I had the good fortune to meet Julie Seton, Ernest Thompson Seton's granddaughter. She was super nice, too. I also keep in touch with the Ambassadors I met from all three conferences, especially Marty Parsons, who is now

Philmont's Forester." Scott is returning to be on faculty in 2023.

"If the Tooth of Time has been chewing on you, and you want to get back to Philmont, come take the Ambassador I Seminar. If you have already taken that one come take the Ambassador II Seminar. You will meet new people and make new friends. You will meet Philmont Camping and Training Center Staff and hear first hand from them on what is happening at Philmont. You will see gorgeous sunrises

and sunsets, sing silly scout songs, have cobbler with ice cream, and walk through history at the Villa Philmonte. And maybe you'll climb the Tooth of Time." Just watch out for stray burros.

P2

**2023 Philmont  
Ambassador  
Seminars are  
June 18 - 24.**

# Scouts Can Ride The Rails To Philmont Trails

Trekking in Philmont's mountains is often the high point of a Scout's experience. Riding the rails to Philmont can rank right up there. The same goes for Scouters and families coming to Philmont Training Center for conferences and Family Adventure Camp.

Philmont is blessed to have the Southwest Chief stop in nearby Raton, New Mex-



Amtrak's Southwest Chief takes you through scenic New Mexico. (Amtrak Photo)

ico, bringing in crews from Los Angeles from the west and Chicago from the east and all points in between. Crews can connect to these two major rail hubs to reach Philmont by train from across the country. Amtrak serves 500 locations in the lower 48 states, and a station is often closer than a major airport for many.

Philmont runs shuttle buses to pick up and drop off people from the Raton station, just 46 miles away. Logistics office staff watches train times to ensure that a bus is waiting for arrivals and leaves in time for departing crews. The Philmont bus will drive right up to the baggage car so that Scouts can load and unload packs easily.

Train travel offers several advantages compared to flying. Crews are spared the extra expense of renting a vehicle at an

airport just to drive to Cimarron and having it sit while on their Trek. Scouts can watch the expanse of the country pass by from the comfort of the observation car as they psyche themselves up for their hike. Amtrak will often add extra cars if it knows that several scout crews are heading to Philmont.

Driving to Philmont can wear out adult advisors even before their expedition begins. Amtrak takes this burden off, allowing them to rest up for the miles of trails ahead. By travelling through the night, it also saves on finding accommodations along the way.

Amtrak coach cars provide quite spacious seats for relaxing. First time riders

**Amtrak** (Continued on page 8)

## Who's Who at Philmont

### Maddy Houk - PTC Assistant Director

**Duties at Philmont:** My duties at Philmont include managing seasonal program staff, organizing and developing itineraries, family program, Family Adventure Camp, and working on or organizing off season events going on at the Training Center. I work closely with PTC Director, the PTC Registrar, and event contacts.

**How did you come to work at Philmont?:** I came out on seasonal staff in 2016 after I heard about the trek my father and brothers went on. I wanted in on the fun and applied the next summer. I worked 4 summers as a seasonal staff member when I was not teaching 2nd grade back home. I later took this full time position in March of 2021.

**Number of Years at Philmont:** 6

**Prior Positions at Philmont:**

- 2016: PTC Craft Center Staff
- 2017: PTC Assistant Program Director
- 2018-2019: PTC Program Director
- 2021-Present: PTC Assistant Director, Program

**Prior Scouting positions outside Philmont:** I was an assistant Scoutmaster in a girls troop that my sister joined in 2019.

**Most Memorable Experience at Philmont:** I think my most memorable moment at Philmont was climbing Baldy Mountain my first summer on staff. I climbed it with all of my new friends I had made that sum-



Philmont Photo

mer. Our group carried up three Watermelons and four packs of soda to share with scouts at the top. They were so excited and couldn't believe their lucky day! In that moment I realized Philmont is not only beautiful, but what makes it special is putting smiles on our participants faces. It's the reason we all keep coming back.

**Most Humorous Experience at Philmont:** My friends and I were hiking in the south country, and a huge storm came through

**Houk** (continued on page 7)

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Ponil's staff show how the West was fun outside the Cantina every evening. (Philmont Photo)

### ***Focus on the Backcountry***

## Ponil Provides Wide Range of Western Lore Programs

**Elevation: 7,128**

**Water: Potable Spigots**

Ponil is located at the intersection of five canyons that head into the north country. It was once known as Five Points base camp during the days of the Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp from 1938 to 1941.

It is one of the larger camps at Philmont. The old west comes alive through the many different programs offered at Ponil.

A special treat is Cowboy Action Shooting with pistols, rifles and shotguns. Scouts play "good guys" who prove their firearm prowess by using a pistol, rifle and shotgun to shoot at a spinning metal, flat-iron, and ground target in succession.

There is a chuckwagon dinner and a morning pancake breakfast. Crews can purchase root beer at a western style cantina. In the evenings, staff put on a show outside the cantina.

Crews doing burro packing will pick up their trail companion at Ponil where they learn the right way to load and care for their burro on their hike to Miranda. Crews with burros coming from Miranda will part with theirs at Ponil.

The western lore program includes horse rides, campfires, and branding. The history of cattle ranching in New Mexico and a demonstration of western skills and tools is an important part of the program.

In addition, there is a stream which offers excellent trout fishing, and rods can be checked out at Ponil.

**P2**



## Cowboy, Cowgirl, Cowpoke, Vaquero or Buckaroo?

The English word *cowboy* has an origin from several earlier terms that referred both to age and to cattle or cattle-tending work. *Cowgirl*, first defined as such in the late 19th century, has a less-well documented historical role, but in the modern world workers at identical tasks have the same considerable respect for their achievements.

The English word *cowboy* was derived from *vaquero*, a Spanish word for an individual who managed cattle while mounted on horseback. *Vaquero* was derived from *vaca*, meaning "cow", which came from the Latin word *vacca*. "Cowboy" was first used in print by Jonathan Swift in 1725, and was used in the British Isles from 1820 to 1850 to describe young boys who tended the family or community cows.

Originally though, the English word "cowherd" was used to describe a cattle herder (similar to "shepherd", a sheep herder), and often referred to a pre-adolescent or early adolescent boy, who usually worked on foot. This word is very old in the English language, originating prior to the year 1000.

By 1849 "cowboy" had developed its modern sense as an adult cattle handler of the American West. Variations on the word appeared later. "Cowhand" appeared in 1852. "Cowpoke" appeared in 1881 and was originally restricted to the individuals who prodded cattle with long poles to load them onto railroad cars for shipping. Names for a cowboy in American English include *buckaroo*, *cowpoke*, *cowhand*, and *cowpuncher*. Another English word for a cowboy, *buckaroo*, is an anglicization of *vaquero* (Spanish pronunciation: *ba'kero*)

Today, "cowboy" is a term common throughout the west and particularly in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains, "buckaroo" is used primarily in the Great Basin and California, and "cowpuncher" mostly in Texas and surrounding states.

**P2**

Extract from "Cowboy," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cowboy&oldid=1104279241> (accessed September 16, 2022).

# Keeping Philmont Affordable For Scouts

Though the Philmont experience is priceless, it is expensive. Fees for a 12-day trek in 2024 are over \$1400.

Being thrifty means that Scouts should be earning their own way to Philmont. Having 18 months to prepare means there is time to conduct popcorn sales, pancake breakfasts, car washes, bake sales and other fund-raising events. Good tips for fund-raising can be found at this "On Scouting" article [here](#). Group fundraising is great for building the teamwork needed for a successful crew.

There is an unfortunate perception that the gear you need for a Trek all has to be state-of-the-art and just as costly. That's not true. Philmont can provide much of the crew equipment needed free. This includes backpacks (rental fee \$35), tents, cooking gear, dining fly, poles, bear bag and rope.

Philmont packs are specifically built by Osprey, one of the premier outdoor equipment suppliers. Philmont uses the La Plata (weight approximately 4 lbs. 5 oz.) and the Escalante (5 lbs. 4 oz.) models. They are similar to other Osprey packs costing almost \$300, so they are well worth the rental fee.

Philmont tents are made by the respected manufacturer MSR and are high-quality issue proven to keep scouts dry in mountain rainstorms. If you use Philmont equipment bring eight stakes per tent and 10 for the dining fly.

Every scout unit should already have much of the other equipment from their camping gear supply such as a collapsible water container, first aid kit, and incidental supplies. There may be a few small specialty items that need to be purchased, like a backpacking trowel or sturdy climbing carabiner for the "oops bag" on the bear rope.

The troop may already have backpacking stoves as well. If not, crews could keep costs low by borrowing these from nearby Scout troops. It should do practice backpacking trips and use any borrowed gear so that everyone is familiar with it on the trail. Philmont is not the place to try out anything new for the first time.

That leaves it to each Scout to pull together their clothing and personal gear. While there is a proliferation of high-tech fabrics out there that promise to be warm,



Fundraising activities like a car wash can help a build teamwork and raise money to pay for a Philmont expedition. Participation by everyone in the Troop, not just Philmont crew, further enhances unit camaraderie. (Photo by Dave Metz)

## Scholarships Available

Every year, Scouts leave free money for Philmont on the table because they just don't know it is available to them. Starting with Waite Phillips and continuing on through the Philmont Staff Association today, donors who appreciate the importance of a Philmont experience have contributed to Philmont scholarship funds. Getting the word out about the availability of these funds is an important role for Ambassadors.

Waite Phillips himself provided a scholarship fund to assist worthy Scouts participating in a Philmont Scout Ranch experience. Each crew attending Philmont Scout Ranch can recommend one youth participant to be considered for a \$400 Waite Phillips Scholarship. The Phillips Scholarship application was sent to each reservation contact/lead crew advisor in September and is also available [here](#). The advisor just needs to provide a short essay justifying the need and describe how the youth will benefit from the Philmont experience. The form is due back to Philmont on December 31, 2022.

Scholarships for Individual Trek fees are also available through the Philmont Staff Association (PSA). The application form is available on the Philmont website [here](#). Due date for these scholarships is April 1 of the attending year.

The PSA Staff Scholarship program helps staff perpetuate the Philmont spirit in their everyday lives, be it through continued service to Philmont and the PSA, the Boy Scouts of America, their local units, or their personal, academic, and professional communities. Scholarships of approximately \$1,000 are available for the upcoming academic year. The application is available [here](#) and is due on August 31.

Even youth attending PTC with their parents are eligible for scholarships through the PSA. A limited number of \$100 scholarships are available [here](#) to first-time PTC and Family Adventure Camp youth ages 5 to 10.

Some councils have Campership or similar programs that can fund part of a Scouter's PTC fee. Check with your council for availability.

***If you know of a deserving Scout who is especially needing funds to get to Philmont, contact the Ranch to see what other assistance may be available.***

**P2**

# Liven Up Presentations With Philmont Stories

Giving a presentation about Philmont to a Scout Troop poses several challenges. First, there is the wide range of ages, from 11 to almost 18. The younger scouts don't have much camping experience let alone any backpacking trips under their belt. The middle scouts may be interested in advanced activities, but are still building skills through early ranks and merit badges. Older scouts may see the fun of a high adventure trip but may have conflicts with jobs and college choices.

One thing that all of them can relate to, though, is doing the things that they joined Scouting to do.

One of the best way to get all Scouts excited about Philmont is to talk to them about the adventures they will have there. If you have been on a Trek, talk about what you did on yours. Describe the camps you stayed at and the programs along the way. If there was one that particularly excited you, tell them why. Did you use your favorite T-shirt as a target for black powder rifles? How did it feel to reach the top of Baldy or Mount Phillips?

Did you have rainy days? Be honest about what it was like and how you survived. What challenge did you overcome that you are especially proud of? Share how Philmont changed your life.

If you have not been on a Trek, you can still describe all the wonderful programs at Staff Camps. Look the Itinerary Guidebook to get a feel for what adven-

tures are available. Go over past issues of the Ambassador Newsletter to learn about the programs at staffed camps in the "Focus on the Backcountry" articles.

Better still, bring along a Scout who has been on a Trek to your presentation and let them talk about their experience. Youth listen to and respect Scouts who have had the adventures they want for themselves.

Another approach is to show a video of a Crew's experience. "One More Mile" is a 17 minute documentary style video available [here](#) from the Philmont web site. Other videos are also available under the [Philmont Stories](#) page on the web site.

Make a special effort to keep younger scouts engaged. Although Philmont may not be in their immediate sights, they will be the ones leading the Troop in a few years and deciding what kind of activities they want to pursue. Let them see that going to Philmont will be a highlight of their Scouting adventure.

Adult advisors as well need to feel your excitement. A trek can be as life changing for them as for youth, whether it's their first time on a Trek or a repeat journey. Each participant's adventure is unique and meaningful.

Sharing your personal adventures is the best way to get others fired up to go to Scouting Paradise.

**P2**



Philmont Videos help enliven presentations to keep everyone interested. (Philmont Photo.)

## Maddy Houk - Assistant PTC Director

**Houk** (Continued from page 4)

the area. We all climbed under some low and thick pine trees to keep the hail from hitting us. When the storm let up, we crawled out from under the trees just as a crew was walking by, and we accidentally scared them. We decided to have fun in the situation and asked the group if they wanted to hear the tale about our journey. We really got creative with the story while hiking all the way to Fish Camp, and we told them about our treacherous journey. We were all laughing so hard as we walked into camp. Then as we parted ways they gave us some cricket bites as a reward. They gave them to us as a prank thinking we wouldn't eat them. We had to for just the shock factor, and boy, were they shocked!

**What do you like most about working at Philmont?:** It's all the wonderful people who come to together and the fun memories made here. Philmont is also a place where people learn what they are capable of and that they can do hard things. I think that is something really special that our experiences offer to everyone who spends time here at the ranch.

**What's your favorite off-duty activity?:** My favorite off duty activity is traveling, spending time with friends outside, and trying new things. There is a lot at Philmont and New Mexico that I need to get out and experience!

**P2**

**National Scouting Museum GIFT SHOP**  
VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE

**Winter SALE**

OR CALL  
**575-376-1136**

**Nov. 28 - Dec. 22**

## Keep It Affordable

**Thrifty** (Continued from page 6)

cool, and dry and light all at the same time, they come with hefty price tags. All-cotton fabrics and jeans should be avoided, but cotton/poly blends and some synthetics (avoid nylon, though) can be had for reasonable costs. Should a scout want to have higher-end gear, the long lead time for Treks provide ample opportunity for these to be on their holiday or birthday wish lists. You may also find items like this at thrift stores. Fashion doesn't matter for clothes that are going to get grubby on the trail.

Hiking boots can present a significant cost challenge, but trekking Philmont does not require heavy mountaineering boots. In fact, you can get by with trail runners and similar shoes if they are waterproof. High top hiking shoes can help prevent ankle sprains. The important thing is that footwear is sturdy and well broken in. Blisters can occur even with the most expensive foot wear.

Sleeping bags should be rated to 20° F. It can pretty cool at night in the mountains, even in the middle of summer. Adding a liner can help make a warmer weight bag comfortable rather than buying a new one and keep costs down.

P2

## Ride Rails To Trails

**Amtrak** (Continued from page 4)

are amazed to find how big and comfortable they are. Seats lean far back and provide leg and footrests.

When travelers get hungry, the dining and café cars provide meals and snacks. Pizza and burgers provide an almost nutritious meal, though the snack bar has been known to run out of chips and candy bought up by hungry scouts. Thrifty riders can also bring their own food for their trip.

Travelling by rail from the east follows much of the old Santa Fe Trail route. Before Amtrak, it was the route of the Santa Fe railroad's famous Chief and Super Chief trains from Chicago to LA. The Raton Pass, whose height is now eased for trains by the Raton Tunnel, was a significant landmark on the Trail.

P2



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**WWW.TOOTHOFTIMETRADERS.COM  
WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/TOOTHOFTIMETRADERS**

## Homebound Philmont Scouts Are Amtrak Derailment Heroes

Although Amtrak is one of the safest ways to travel, accidents can happen. When they do, it's great to have Scouts on board. On June 27, 2022, homebound Philmont Scouts rose to the occasion when their train hit a dump truck on the tracks, resulting in several fatalities and multiple injuries.

Scouts showed enormous poise and presence of mind while employing all of their Scout training by immediately jumping into action to assist trapped and injured passengers. Fifteen Scouts and one Scouter earned the BSA's Heroism Award, reserved for those who have demonstrated heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life at more than minimal personal risk to self as a result of the incident.

"They put others before themselves and we're all proud of these boys," said Matt Schultz, an assistant Scoutmaster from Troop 12 who was on the train. "In that moment of the train crash, it didn't take long for every single (troop) leader on board to trust our boys."

The Scouts, from Troop 73, chartered to the First English Lutheran Church's downtown site in Appleton, Wisconsin, and Troop 12, chartered to First English Lutheran Church's north site, were on their way home after completing a 7-day, 50-mile trek at Philmont Scout Ranch.

You can read more at the "On Scouting" article [here](#).

P2