

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

January 2023

Philmont Advisor Skills School Returns

Back by popular demand, Philmont is excited to announce the reopening of the Philmont Advisor Skills School (PASS) sessions at Philmont!

This weekend long training experience provides an opportunity for crew advisors to learn the fundamentals of Philmont camping skills and procedures in the beauty of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Courses are taught by experienced Philmont Rangers and Backcountry Staff to help advisors learn important skills that will help them be better prepared for their summer experience.

Participants will have an on-site, hands-on learning experience that will give a better understanding of the following Philmont skills, procedures, and resources:

- Conducting a shakedown hike
- Philmont issued gear
- Physical conditioning
- Youth leadership positions
- Campsite setup and the "Bermuda Triangle"
- Smellables and bear bag hanging
- Dining fly and tent setup
- Gas stove operation and care
- Philmont's backcountry cooking method
- Newest trail meal options
- Dishwashing and sump use
- Effectively breaking camp
- Day 1 Base Camp processing
- Scheduling Philmont Museum experiences
- Philmont Second Season Programs
- Introduction to Winter Adventure Program

Program Overview: After checking in and processing the evening before, the course will start with a quick tour of the

Skills (Continued on page 8)



Map reading is one of the skills that Rangers teach in the PASS training. (Philmont Photo.)

PTC Registration To Open in January

There is nothing like looking forward to warm weather to get Scouters through the winter, especially if summer promises to bring a week or more of time at Philmont. Registration for Philmont Training Center (PTC) opportunities will soon be open, and those include Family Adventure Camp, PTC Conferences, and programs like the Philmont Leadership Challenge.

PTC registration is a two step process. First participants select their conference or Family Adventure option, then they go to a second website to select their housing.

Leading off the summer is Commissioner Week from June 4 to 10. The conference will provide opportunities to meet and interact with the National Commissioner and members of the National Commissioner Service Team while networking with commissioners throughout the country.

The week of June 11 to 17 features

Alumni Relations: Jump Starting the Future by Revisiting The Past. This conference will answer the question: "What to do to rebuild and advance the BSA post-bankruptcy?" Attendees will learn everything they need to know about identifying, connecting, and engaging with our alumni. They will learn all about affinity and affiliate groups such as a Wood Badge, National Eagle Scout Association, Camp Staffers and more. The best part is making connections with other Scouters from across the country.

Anglers can learn new or hone their fly fishing skills at their own conference during this same week. Looking further afield, Scouters can learn about opportunities abroad at the International Adventures in Scouting Conference.

The week of June 18 to 24 has confer-

PTC (Continued on page 6)



The first food pick up at Base Camp Commissary can be the largest of the Trek. *Philmont Photo*

Focus on the Backcountry

Commissaries Keep Crews Well Stocked On The Trail

Philmont's gear list does not include one essential item: food. That's because Crews are provided with their initial provisions and are restocked along the trail by eleven commissaries at Base Camp, Apache Springs, Cimmaroncito, Cimmaroncita, Miners Park, Phillips Junction, Ponil, Rich Cabins, Ring Place, Sawmill and Ute Gulch.

When crews arrive and go through the check-in process, one of their main stops will be with trip planning at the logistics building. Here the lead crew member and an advisor review the itinerary, program highlights of their trek, water sources along the route, and meal pickups. If members of the crew have special food needs and they brought substitutes, they will need to mark these bags with the location and date to be picked up to ensure that they are at the right place at the right time. From Logistics, those bags will be transported to the Backcountry Warehouse where they will be delivered to the appropriate commissary along the Crew's route.

The four commissary driver teams each consist of a seasonal truck driver accompanied by a warehouse clerk. The drivers traditionally drive the vehicle while the warehouse staff will primarily focus on pulling orders and completing base camp deliveries. Normally, if somebody aspires to become a driver, they must put in two summers as a warehouse clerk in order to gain the necessary experience and

knowledge.

Getting those meals to the commissaries can be a challenge in itself. Any backcountry road can quickly change into a nightmare for drivers as a thirty-minute rain shower can turn a dry, well maintained road into a slip-and-slide.

Keeping thousands of Scouts fed on the trail requires keeping the commissaries well stocked. Delivery size and frequency are all determined by the number of crews picking up meals and the floor space that can store those meals. Some larger commissary buildings like Ponil can actually store close to 60% of their seasonal needs at one time. Other, much smaller units like Cimarroncito, cannot even store a full week's worth of meals at once. 'Cito requires up to three deliveries each week in order to maintain adequate stock without overloading the structure.

Backcountry commissaries are open from 8 AM to 5 PM, but if a crew is running late, the staff will be more than accommodating and help them out regardless of the time. Some sites, like Baldy Town, know that the majority of their food pickups happen between 5 PM and 8 PM when crews are coming off the mountain.

Each commissary provides the standard two-person meal bags to every crew. In addition to the bagged meals, crews also can pick up extras such as fresh tortillas,

Trail Food (Continued on page 7)

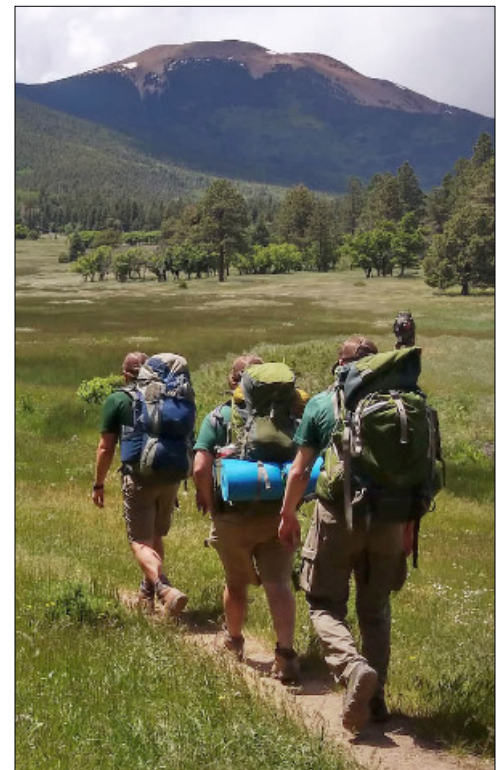
Five Reasons To Work In The Dining Halls

Each summer Philmont hires more than 1,100 staff members to help deliver the Philmont experience to more than 22,000 Scouts. Many people apply for positions in the Ranger Department, Conservation and Backcountry, but help is still needed in many base camp positions including the dining halls. While these positions may not sound as appealing as being a Philmont Ranger, they have some perks that most people don't realize, making them a great way to enjoy the Philmont staff experience. Here are the top 5 reasons to work in the dining hall!

1. Best Days Off Schedule

The dining hall staff work very hard and are rewarded with a 4 day on, 3 day off schedule. If a person wants to work at Philmont to explore the backcountry, then this is the schedule for them. Many backcountry staff spend their days off traveling

Dining Hall (Continued on page 7)



Food Service Staff have more time than other seasonal staff to get out into the backcountry on their own. *Photo by Robert Seginack (2019 CHQ Dining Hall Staff)*

Ambassador Profile

Philmont Leaves Sherri Moravec Speechless

Sherri Moravec has some pretty impressive credentials as the Coordinator for National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience and the Philmont Leadership Challenge. She's also on the training team for the Great Southwest Council and helps out with Wood Badge. With all that background and experience, you would think she was good with words. Philmont got the best of her, though.

Let her explain it: "My whole family was on my first trek, husband, two sons and myself. Of course, there were 8 other scouts there too! The only problem was that I did not have enough descriptive words in my vocabulary for the Philmont backcountry. Every time we came up to a fabulous view, which was constantly, I was speechless with amazement. All I could say was "Wow"! The scouts began helping me with new descriptive words like 'this view is going to be "stunning" Mrs. Moravec!'"

Those vistas were not all that was unforgettable says Sherri, "The best memory I have is the feeling I got when surrounded by the beauty of Philmont and fellow scouts which is pure contentment."

Sherri has been an official Ambassador for not quite a year, but like many has been promoting Philmont ever since her first visit to PTC in 2000 when she lived in Texas. She now gets to live much closer to HOME. She moved into the Great Southwest Council which covers northern New Mexico and part of Colorado, so it even includes Philmont.

Her promotions include doing University of Scouting classes, Midway presentations, and District Roundtables. "I find the person-to-person discussion is the most effective but presenting to a larger group can be just as effective. If I can convince one person to visit Philmont I consider the presentation a success," she explained. However, the large area she covers inhibits those close encounters. "It is challenging in my council to share Philmont with others as we very rarely meet in person."

Nevertheless, being an Ambassador fulfills her "natural desire to want to share this wonderful place with everyone and how it can change lives!"

As a newer Ambassador, Sherri bene-



Sherri Moravec has close ties to Philmont through her involvement with the Philmont Leadership Challenge and the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience.

NEW! Ambassador III Seminar

You have spent time in the classroom at the Philmont Training Center learning about the conferences, family adventure, individual and crew treks, and the second season programs. You have learned advanced presentation and display techniques and used your knowledge and experience to put together a small group presentation. But there must be more, right? There is! Welcome to the Philmont Ambassador III Seminar.

During the week, you will learn how to plan for and execute a council retreat or a conference (scouting affiliated or non-scouting affiliated) at the PTC, immerse yourself in a highlight reel of what a backcountry crew experiences both in basecamp and get to overnight in the backcountry. You also get to give back to Philmont by volunteering at the PTC or at basecamp, and participate in the Family Adventure program firsthand. You will also learn how to use backcountry crew experiences to better help crews prepare for future Philmont treks.

To attend the A-III seminar, you must be a currently approved Ambassador who has completed the A-I and A-II Seminars, complete parts A, B, and C of the Health and Medical Record and meet Philmont backcountry physical requirements. If you have already completed the Ambassador I Seminar, you may attend the Ambassador II Seminar on June 18-24 and stay at the PTC for the Ambassador III Seminar June 25 – July 1! Because we will be spending a night in the backcountry, participants attending without a spouse/other adult are unable to bring children to participate in the Conference Youth Program.

Great Ambassador Displays Have It All Covered

A table covering can add magically transform your Philmont display. It can turn a school cafeteria table from a Formica slab into nicely decorated showplace for your Philmont materials. Besides, it can neatly hide all the stuff you brought to the event like bags and boxes that usually sit under your table.

A covering can be as easy as using a couple yards of fabric from local sewing store. You don't even need to bother hemming the edges if they drape over the table and are out of sight.

You could use a plain covering or a tablecloth with a western or mountain theme to it. Pleated table coverings give a very professional trade-show look. Spandex and fitted display covers are available as well. Several Ambassadors have had custom cloth banners made for them with Philmont logos. Whatever you use will improve the appearance of your display immensely.

Shown here are a few examples of Ambassadors' displays using table coverings. Note also how they also use large maps and banners to make their display stand out even more. **P2**



Dave McRae



Ben Feril



Jim Salisbury



Vicki and Jeff Jurek



Ambassadors Find Philmont Magic on Autumn Trek

By Tom Kube, Philmont Ambassador

We came from Portland, Scottsdale, East St. Louis and Laurinburg, North Carolina all to interconnect just outside of Cimarron, New Mexico at Philmont Base Camp. Five of us, Steve, Holli and Steve T., Bob, and Tom, all arrived ready to hit the trail and cover roughly 30 miles in six days in the backcountry. After a relaxing and “*Get to know each other*” lunch at the St. James Hotel with our Ranger, we hit Base Camp for the preliminaries – Med Checks, Logistics and, of course, the Tooth of Time Traditions.

On day one after double checking gear [and dropping unnecessary weight], we were off to the Zastrow Trailhead to hike to Old Abreu Camp for the evening - a short day to get acclimated. This was a great way for Bob, Steve and I to reconnect from 2021 and get to know Holly and Steve as this was their first Autumn Adventure, and Steve’s first backcountry trek. Meeting up and getting on the trail built an immediate connection among the crew that only got better as the week went on.

Day two got us out early and off to Craggs Camp. We were the first crew to visit Craggs in 2022 as we trekked through the edge of the Morris Creek Fire Burn Area from 2018 to get there. One can only appreciate both the majesty and devastation that Mother Nature can muster on the Earth, and the magical way it starts to return. We hit a bit of rain as we hiked into and down [the incline was pretty decent] to the Craggs Camp which was overgrown with significant deadfall and looked untouched in quite some time - an absolutely beautiful camp nonetheless. At camp, Holly even got to fish a bit. It rained, and we learned about the new, non-Red Roof Inns - latrines which we unofficially christened “White Castles”. You will need to see those in person! The highest elevation max this day was 8,800 feet.

On day three we headed to Fish Camp. It had rained overnight but the wind pretty much dried off our gear. We had a cold breakfast, resupplied our water [using the obligatory Katadyne Tablets], broke camp and headed to our next stop up at 8,700 feet and down to 66 degrees. Despite the rain, the weather was outstanding. We walked through some of the most geologically amazing territory on the way. At Fish



Ambassadors on the Autumn Adventure enjoy warm weather and get a beautiful view of the Tooth of Time along their Trek. Left to Right: Ranger Josh Fletcher, Steve Gold, Steve Thompson, Holli Thompson, Crew Leader Bob Wegruff. *Not Pictured - Tom Kube,*

Camp we were able to get a “*behind the scenes*” tour of Waite Phillips’ House and sleep in the cabin that night.

On day four, once again we were up early and headed on our way to Beaubien by way of Phillips Junction. The trail and parts of the road were washed out due to rain as we bushwhacked a bit for the first few miles to get to good river crossings. This was unplanned, but made the day memorable. We took a break at Phillips Junction and made camp by lunch time. We were joined by a dozen horses, a couple of which came up to the porch to visit for a spell. The “scavenger hunt” for water was successful and we once again got to sleep at the cabin, this time out on the porch. Incidentally, the view from the porch in the fall is spectacular – both during daytime and with crystal clear night sky!

Day five was our longest hike of about 7 miles. We were off to Crater Lake, via Hart Peak. It was our coldest morning at about 32 degrees as we prepped to get underway. It was about half way to Hart Peak where we stopped to pay our respects to the crew of the B-24D that crashed there in 1942. The memorial has been upgraded over the years and is worth a visit to read about the crew, view the wreckage and reflect on the sacrifices made by our service members. The downhill to Crater Lake dropped 2,000 feet over the first mile and then leveled out to 8,400 feet at camp.

On day six we left Crater Lake but not

before taking in the magical sunrise to the east! And then, much like horses to the barn, we were anxious to get to the final pick-up point. After an early breakfast on the trail, we enjoyed the backcountry for the final time this year. The route took us over Lovers Leap where we stopped to take in the view and use the time to reflect on the friendships we forged and bonds we built with each other knowing that our adventure was coming to a close.

In all, six days earlier we left base camp at 6,600 feet elevation and topped out at 10,250 on Hart Peak mid-week before coming nearly full circle on our decent back to base camp. This was my second Autumn Adventure and I hope to do one annually. My question to you fellow Philmont Ambassadors is “*What are you waiting for?*” You cannot see the backcountry the same way once you have taken the Autumn Adventure Trek.

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**Ambassador
Autumn
Adventure
September
17 - 24, 2023
[Click here](#)**

PTC Conferences Offer Experiences For All Scouters

PTC (Continued from page 1)

ences on developing Scouting relationships, the use of games within the Scouting program, and the role of women in Scouting. District and Council Key 3's have a conference that will help them develop navigational plans to move forward in achieving the new Council Performance Standards. The first of four of the NAYLE sessions takes place this week.

You can learn everything there is to know about designing and producing colorful emblems to commemorate a multitude of Scout activities in a half-week session June 18-21. Participants will even design a patch for the course itself.

The week of June 18 to 24 has the Ambassador I and II seminars which provide in-depth looks at Philmont operations to help promote the its many programs. Both seminars get attendees into the backcountry and around the Ranch to see and experience for themselves Philmont's beauty.

The inaugural Ambassador III seminar will follow during the week of June 25 to July 1. See the story on Page 3 for more.

That same week, the Cub Scout Extravaganza takes over much of PTC as leaders in Scouting's most popular program get the opportunity to learn how to recruit, engage, encourage our youngest Scouting members.

Those wanting to know more about Philmont itself will want to attend the Philmont History conference which will spend most of its time visiting the actual locations where important events occurred.

From July 2 to 8, the Philmont Staff Association 50th Reunion takes over. This week includes activities for all ages and abilities. There will be opportunities to hike the backcountry, enjoy nightly music from current and former staff, and attend speaker forums to learn more about how Philmont has changed and the important ways it has stayed the same. There will be an arts and crafts fair, opportunities for service to the ranch, and book signings as



Philmont Training Center offers Scouters and their families unique experiences. Throughout the summer, Family Adventure Camp provides activities for all ages and abilities. The Kids and Kin program keeps spouses and children engaged while Scouters attend conferences.

(Philmont Photo)

well as all the regular family programming including horseback riding, museum tours, shooting, archery, chuckwagon dinner, and much more. The fabulous Maverick rodeo and Cimarron parade will be featured during activities on the 4th of July.

Trek Advisors and Crew Leaders wanting to learn backpacking skills can do so during the Backcountry Sneak Peak from July 9 to 15. This week also has the Scouting in the Catholic Church conference as well as a second session of the District and Council Key 3 course.

The *Now&Then* Retiree Communications Team (made up of retired BSA employees and spouses) is hosting a reunion conference for all retired BSA employees, from all councils, all regions, and the National Council during the week of July 16 to 22. The Ranch will be in full operation so participants can enjoy all PTC and Philmont has to offer. They can bring spouses, children, and grandchildren to enjoy Philmont and the PTC family programs. The same week, the Finding Your Way conference teaches orienteering and geocaching skills.

One great thing about Scouting is how it is open to all. During July 23 to 29, the Adaptive Special Needs and Zia Experience Conferences teach how to provide Scouting

to youth and families needing extra care. During the same week, Scouting U for professional Scouters has conferences on District Administration and Operations. Topping off the week is the Map My Camp conference that teaches how to use software to create accurate maps for camping, orienteering and outdoor programs.

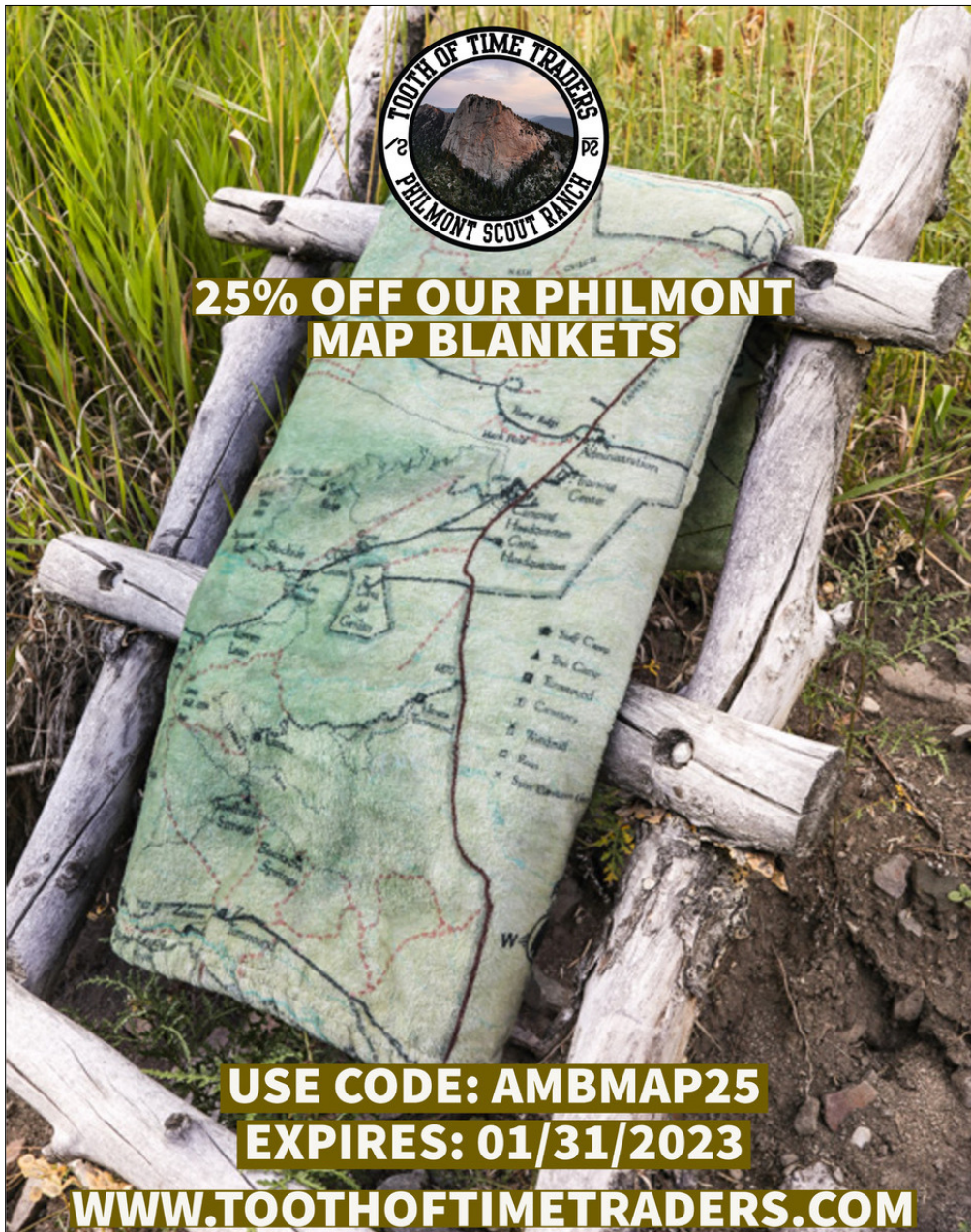
Rounding off the summer in August are a Wood Badge course hosted by the Circle Ten Council from August 6 to 12 and the Philmont Leadership Challenge from August 20 to 26.

The Fall schedule has a Shooting Sports Fiesta from September 17 to 23 with opportunities to utilize all aspects of Philmont's fantastic shooting ranges, including a special 1000 yard challenge. A second Wood Badge course hosted by the Longhorn Council takes place this week.

Finishing off the fall conferences, photographers can elevate their skills through classroom sessions and backcountry photo safaris with Moose Peterson, a world class nature and wildlife photographer. This workshop offers a unique, immersive experience to explore and take photos of Philmont Scout Ranch.

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**The complete
PTC Schedule
is available [here](#).**



Commissaries Keep Crews Well Supplied

Trail Food *(Continued from page 2)*

fruit, shelf stable milk, cleaning supplies, sanitizer and water treatment tablets.

Four of the commissary locations (Baldy Town, Phillips Junction, Ponil and Ute Gulch) have Trading Posts where crews can purchase jerky, snacks, equipment, extra fuel, and useful items like batteries.

Meals are designed to provide the number of calories needed for being active in the backcountry. However, if Scouts are hefty eaters, they can also sift through "Swap Boxes" available at every staffed camp except for Black Mountain and Crooked Creek. These boxes provide an opportunity to offload meal components that

campers know that they will not eat and give those same campers the chance to find buried treasure in items that they do enjoy.

As the summer progresses, staff and participants quickly learn what is a hot commodity and what is abundantly available. At the conclusion of the year, all of these swap boxes are sorted through and analyzed to determine what was popular and what should be discontinued.

Reviewing the previous years' menu and actually sampling the products on practice hikes will make the world of difference to new and inexperienced campers while on their trek.

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Dining Hall Staff Enjoy More Time Off, Higher Pay

Dining Hall *(Continued from page 2)*

to base and doing laundry. Dining hall staff are hitting the trails on their days off and exploring the beauty of Philmont's mountains.

2. The pay is better.

Starting pay in 2023 for most first-year staff members is \$1,325, but for dining hall staff, pay starts at \$1,595. So if you want to earn more money then this is the place to get it.

3. You interact with Scouts before and after their Trek.

One of the most rewarding experiences at Philmont is seeing the transformation and excitement of Scouts who have just completed their trek. When you serve a crew before they hit the trail, you can see their excitement, and when they return you see a little bit of exhaustion, but a different excitement.

Dining Hall staff also get to interact with Scouters and families attending programs at the Training Center.

4. You play a key role in delivering the magic of Philmont.

Everyone has to eat! Crews and staff need to eat in order to have their adventures. Without a dedicated and talented team in our dining hall the Philmont experience would not be the legendary adventure it is known for.

5. The dining hall is a great way to get your foot in the door.

Many departments such as Rangers, Backcountry, and Conservation are looking for staff who have previous Philmont experience. Working in the dining hall is a great way to get this experience. Staff who work hard in the dining hall and receive good evaluations and recommendations from their managers are desirable by other departments in future years. There are also paths for advancement in the dining hall for those who really like the days off schedule and increased pay.

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Ambassador Profile

Moravec (Continued from page 3)

fitted from attending the Ambassador Seminars to learn more about the Ranch and ways to promote it. "They were amazing and fun! I loved seeing many backcountry areas and sharing the love of Philmont with fellow participants. PTC is a wonderful place to visit for Scouters to help renew our commitment to the program. All PTC and Camping staff are welcoming and helpful scouters who always make me feel at HOME!"

"Those of us who love Philmont find it easy to share the opportunities that are offered at Philmont. Just share your passion for all that is Philmont including Treks and PTC training opportunities, expanding one's leadership abilities and the fellowship with others who love Scouting."

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Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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Skills School Prepares Advisors

Skills (Continued from page 1)

Day 1 process in base camp, gear shake-down, and outfitting services for food and supplies. The crew is taken to a backcountry trailhead for a short hike to a camp where the training will commence. The next day includes a short hike and a return to base camp for continued sessions, tours of the Villa Philmonte and the National Scouting Museum. The closing dinner will be a special opportunity for recognition and closing words and presentation of the official PASS patch.

Another special feature of the Winter PASS program is the introduction to Philmont's Second Season Programs. Participants will learn more about the other programs offered at Philmont and get a small taste of the Winter Adventure program.

Wilderness First Aid: A brand-new option available for PASS participants will be an add-on package to complete Wilderness First Aid training while at Philmont. This will be taught on-site by one of our certified staff members and will qualify for your crew's Wilderness First Aid requirement for your Philmont Trek. Space is limited due to class size restrictions (COVID protocols) and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The course is 16 hours long and will require two additional nights at Philmont. Cost for the add-on package is \$125 and covers training materials, meals, and lodging. There is a separate registration for WFA.

If spots remain, other Advisors not participating in PASS can sign up for this Wilderness First Aid Training opportunity. The cost for the course for non-PASS participants is \$175.

Four WFA-trained crew members are recommended for 2023 and will be required starting in 2024.

Participants: The PASS program is tailored especially for any adult leader registered for the coming summer seasons but is open to ALL registered BSA leaders who want to learn more about camping at Philmont! Crews are limited in size and will be mixed groups of leaders from across the country. Crews are limited to 12 persons each. Early registration is encouraged.

Schedule: The PASS program will be offered during multiple weekends. Arrival

dates are on Fridays, with departures on Monday mornings. The program will be offered on:

January 13-16, 2023

February 17-20, 2023

March 3-6, 2023

March 24-27, 2023

March 31-April 3, 2023

Weather: Philmont in January has highs in 30s and lows in the teens. Weather in late February and March is mild during the day, but still cold at night. You can expect temperatures in the 50s and 60s during the day, with dips into the 30's at night. Weather will be monitored closely to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all. In the event of snow predictions or actual accumulation, programs will be modified to take advantage of this unique opportunity and still complete the curriculum. Guides are already trained for winter program and can provide fun programs either way. Part of the orientation and gear shakedown process will include information on layering and cold weather camping and certain gear will be available for check out by all PASS participants.

Health and Medical Record: Parts A, B, and C are required for each participant involved in a trek, cavalcade, or any backcountry experience that involves a Tooth of Time hike or spending the night in the backcountry. The Health and Medical Record expires annually, so please ensure your record is still current. Copies will be submitted to the health officer during medical recheck and will be returned at the end of the PASS weekend.

Gear: A variety of crew gear will be provided by Philmont for the program, including the following: tents, dining fly, stakes, cooking gear, trail meals, sump gear, and miscellaneous supplies from Outfitting Services. Philmont also has sleeping bags, sleeping pads, and cold weather clothing layers available for individual checkout if needed.

Cost: Cost for the program is \$125 per participant. Fee covers three nights at Philmont, dining hall meals, trail meals, PASS materials, Philmont crew related gear, and a special PASS patch. Transportation to and from Philmont is not provided, but you may be able to coordinate with other participants for ride sharing opportunities.

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