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SERVING BOTH SIDES OF THE ROAD

January 2025

Watson Returns to Philmont as General Manager

Philmont is thrilled to announce Andrea Watson as the new Vice President and General Manager of Philmont Scout Ranch. With over 20 years of leadership experience, a deep connection to Philmont, and a passion for its mission, Andrea will oversee operations and work with staff to maintain Philmont's legacy.

Andrea's Scouting journey began at the Philmont Training Center. She has completed three Philmont treks, served five years on seasonal staff, and held various roles, including Director of the Philmont Training Center and National Director of Outdoor Programs and Properties. Andrea, a Distinguished Service Award recipient and Vigil Member of the Order of the Arrow, also volunteers with her sons' Scout troop.

"Over 20 years ago I left Philmont to start my professional career in Scouting. In the years since I left, I've served Scouting in 3 local councils and worked for the national

Hoyt Moves To CST 1 Director See story on page 2.

council twice. Throughout these many years I have had a deep hope in my heart that one day I could return and serve with the amazing Philmont team again. Today I'm so humbled to have this dream come true- to return HOmE to Philmont!"

Andrea was instrumental in starting what was first called the Philmont Training Center Ambassador Program in 2012 to promote programs on "The Other Side of The Road." However, at the first Ambassador Seminar in 2014, it was announced to the attendees that they would now be "Philmont Ambassadors" and would be promoting "Both Sides of The Road."

"Starting January 6, I begin the next journey of my career as General Manager of Philmont Scout Ranch. I'm honored to serve this amazing place with an incredible mission that changes lives. And I know it changes lives because It changed me way back very first time I went! My family is thrilled to return to the Cimarron community. Thank you to all of you have reached



Andrea Watson

out to us and for all of your support," remarked Watson

Please join in welcoming Andrea HOmE!

Sd

Danny Tucker Relocates To Grand Canyon Council as COO

Danny Tucker, who has been the PTC Director since May of 2021, has taken a new Scouting role starting on January 1. "It is with regret that I announce my departure from Philmont. I have taken a new position with the Grand Canyon Council in Arizona as their new Chief Operating Officer. I truly enjoyed my time at Philmont, but this was an opportunity that was too good to pass up," remarked Danny. The Council serves about 40,000 scouts in Arizona and new Mexico.

"I have had such joy in working with you and the Ambassador team. What each

of you has done has been nothing but amazing! Thank you for your friendship and for the work you continue to do to make the Ambassador program such a success," said Danny.

"I want to wish each of you the very best. You will all be missed. I do plan to return to Philmont this summer for the anniversary reunion and possibly teaching the Council key 3 course in July."

Danny's email will remain as Daniel.Tucker@scouting.org.

SA

Philmont Ambassador Update

January 2025

Roger Hoyt To CST 1 Director

Roger Hoyt, BSA vice president and Philmont's general manager since 2019, announced his resignation as Philmont GM in September. His last work day at the ranch was October 14.

Unlike all of the other Philmont general managers in the last 50 years, though, Roger isn't retiring. He's moving on to a new post as director of Scouting America's Council Service Territory 1 which encompasses the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Alaska and Hawaii, plus portions of Wyoming and northern California and the Pacific Rim countries of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines (It's a little bigger than Philmont). He will get to do that from his home in Missouri, since much of his work will be done remotely, with 50-60 travel days per year.

During his tenure at the ranch, Roger faced more challenges than many of his predecessors combined: recovery from the 2018 Ute Park Fire and ranch closure, the COVID pandemic, closure of the ranch for a second time in 2020 due to COVID, record attendance years in 2019 and 2021 after those closures, the BSA bankruptcy and resulting budget cuts, and decreased attendance in the past couple of summers.

He's definitely been a "boots on the ground" GM as he has probably hiked more of Philmont than all but a couple of his professional colleagues. (Dave Bates and Mark Anderson come to mind). A prolific hiker and mountaineer before he came to the ranch, Roger could often be found on weekends heading out to the far corners of the property with a fellow staffer or two in tow. He's clocked well over 1,200 miles on Philmont trails, and ran his first marathon at the Philmont Trail Race in August.

Roger said, "While we will miss Philmont and all the people and activities it has to offer, my wife Diana and I are excited about the new challenges." They're looking forward to being closer to grandkids and family as well.

Adapted from PSA High Country magazine.

PS



Commissioners from across the country gather in the Assembly Hall for the beginning of their week of conferences and networking opportunities. (*Philmont photo.*)

Recruiting for PTC Begins By Matching Scouters to Courses

Winter tends to slow your pace a bit and gives you time to catch your breath especially after a hectic fall season of Scouting Activities. That means it is a good time to look at your Ambassador annual activity checklist to ensure that you're getting the message out about Philmont opportunities in the coming months. See Page 8 for a 2025 Checklist you can use.

The full PTC schedule is available so Scouters can see the breath of learning opportunities available to them. Ambassadors who have had the most success in getting people to Philmont know that it is very important to target Scouters for specific courses at PTC. Be sure to check out all the conferences <u>here</u> so you can match Scouters to a course that fits their interest. The following paragraphs point out just a few of the conferences that you can use to recruit Scouters to attend PTC.

Ambassadors usually know the importance of Commissioners in building and sustaining the Scout program. Point out to them that the first week of the PTC summer has a full schedule of conferences designed specifically for them. Commissioners at every level of service can find powerful courses for helping Units succeed. They will have opportunities to meet and interact with the National Commissioner and members of the National Commissioner Service Team while networking with commissioners throughout the country. This will be an especially popular week, so it's important to remind them to register early.

The following week, June 15-21, features a bonus two-day Commissioner Session *It's About Relationships*. During the full week, the *Mechanics of Advancement* session is designed to connect participants with the essentials to help Scouts reach higher ranks. Be sure to let your District and Council Advancement Chairs know about this course which will enhance their programs and aid retention.

During the same week the Ambassador 1 and 2 Seminars will be happening. This is the time for you yourself to get fully on board if you have not yet attended the A-1 course. You can supercharge your promotions with new ideas and insights into Philmont's operations in the A-2 seminar.

The week of June 22 to 28 has a busy schedule focusing on STAR – Strengthening Trust and Authenticity in Relationships. Five conferences—Adaptive Special Needs, International Scouting, Opening Doors: Reflecting the Communities We Serve, Scouting Relationships Advocates, and the Psychology of Scouting: Youth and Adult Mental Health Conferences – are offered to elevate relationships as the cornerstone of a stronger, more inclusive Scouting program.

This week also features a special performance by world-famous ventriloquist (Continued on page 3) Enroll Now! Ambassador Seminars: June 15 - 21

Ambassador Experience: June 22 - 28

Start Recruiting for PTC

(Continued from page 2)

Ronn Lucas. You can also stop by to say hello to Jim Ellis, our former Ambassador Coordinator, who will be the Conference Chair that week.

The Philmont Ambassador Experience will be happening the same week. Ambassador will learn how to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of a Philmont Trek and to teach Trek Advisors how best to prepare for their future Philmont adventure. This first-hand experience will include all the activities a Trek Crew goes through arriving at Philmont and getting Ranger Training along the trail. Participants will spend a



encouraged to bring their western wear to participate in this western themed adventure! The week will feature a 4th of July Parade and rodeo, our summer program activities, and family memories that will last a lifetime! Speaking of a rodeo; The Cimarron Maverick rodeo is the longest running open rodeo in the West! This rodeo has been running for 102 years! So pack you boots and grab your hat! We are going to have a boot scootin', steer ropin', yee-haw week!



night in the backcountry before returning to Base Camp and where they will be giving service to Philmont by helping staff with important activities. Ambassadors who are attending the A-1 or A-2 seminars can plan to stay the extra week to attend this session

If they are doing nothing else at Philmont during 2025, all Scouters will want to attend PTC's 75th Anniversary Reunion Week from June 24 to July 5. There will be special entertainment and guests, historical presentations, tours, programs, sharing of great Scouting stories, songs, skits and just plain fun. Philmont Family Adventure activities will all be available for attendees. They can also check out the updated National Scouting Museum and the exterior remodel of the Villa Philmonte. After having fun at PTC from Monday to Thursday, they can join the festivities on Friday at the Cimarron Rodeo and 4th of July celebrations. All guests this week will receive a commemorative gift.

The week of July 6 to 12 features four courses important for Scouters wanting to strengthen the "Duty to God" component within their Scouting Program. These include a conference on Scouting Chaplaincy as well as three courses on Scouting in the Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist Churches. Ambassadors would do well to contact the affiliated Chartered Organization Representatives and church leaders in their council about these important offerings. This week also has three courses that address maintaining and growing Scouting: Developing a Culture of Growth, Planning for the Future of Older Youth Programs, and Making Scouting Unforgettably Fun.

Your Council's Training Committee Volunteers and professionals will want to attend the courses offered during July 13 to 19. In the *Innovate and Facilitate* conference, they will learn how to use challenging games and team building activities in their training sessions and will discover ways to maximize the involvement of all participants. At the *Nuts and Bolts of Training* conference, they will gain practical insights and tools to build a stronger, more adaptable team through interactive workshops, scenario-based learning, and collaborative discussions.

Start contacting Scouters in your Council now about attending PTC this summer.

Philmont Ambassador Update

January 2025

Adventure Pass To Be Available for Day Visits

Coming for 2025, travelers who are passing by Philmont during their travels to the Great Southwest will have an opportunity to stop by Philmont and have fun adventures even for a few hours.

The Adventure Pass program will allow guests the freedom to attend Philmont and participate in Family Adventure Camp activities without the need to register for a premium half- or full-week experience. Guests will participate in staff-guided programs that are pre-scheduled for each day.

Although 'walk-ins' are welcome, they will need to register online before arrival.

Activities are chosen based on conference and Family Adventure Camp program availability. These could include the high ropes course and climbing wall, familyfriendly hikes, arts and craft projects, flyfishing, museum tours, range and target activities, and more. Additional information on activity offerings and requirements are available <u>here.</u>

If you are looking for a more immersive, pre-planned structured experience with guaranteed activity spots, Philmont recommends that people register for one of their premium Family Adventure Camp itineraries <u>here</u>. However, if you are just passing by Philmont, you can take a break from your travels and enjoy a variety adventures that you can't get anywhere else than Philmont with this option.

The Adventure Pass will have half-day and full-day options. Meals will be available for a fee at the Dining Hall.

If guests want to stay overnight before or after their Adventure Day, they can arrange for accommodations in the traditional Terrace Tents or Luxury Deluxe Tents depending on availability. Theses can be reserved ahead of time at the Campspot web site <u>here</u>.

Guests will need to be prepared with proper gear like water bottles and hiking shoes for their adventures. More information is available <u>here</u>.



Glamping in the Backcountry

Hut-to-Hut Adventures Provide New Way to Experience Philmont

Philmont's new Hut-to-Hut program is a luxury trek with a five-night stay in the backcountry and base camp locations. After a successful pilot trek was run in 2024, the program has been put in place for 2025.

Hiking distances will vary from four to ten miles a day depending on the route chosen. Guides are well-trained to assess the group's needs and adjust to ensure guests enjoy their experience.

While hiking between camps, Philmont staff will move trekker's belongings to the next location and set up accommodations. Guests will enjoy upscale meals and opportunities to socialize, relax, and explore Philmont's natural beauty.

During the trail experience, guests will stay in a variety of cabins and canvas tents, each equipped with a bed. Bedding and linens are provided at every destination, so there's no need to bring these along. Showers are available at select locations for guest use.

Each stop on the Hut-to-Hut adventure offers a rich history to explore. Participants will be sleeping, eating, and spending time in areas that have been enjoyed by many others throughout history. They will experience fine local cuisine in remote backcountry locations with scenic views. Morning breakfasts include lighter continental options and hot meals for longer hiking days. Picnic lunches are provided on the trail. Lunches will include charcuterie boards and upscale sandwiches. Dinners will include an appetizer, large hot meal and a decadent dessert. For guests with special meal requirements, Philmont can accommodate most dietary needs. Trekkers will not be hungry when participating in the Hut-to-Hut program!

While getting to Philmont is the responsibility of guests, shuttles from Albuquerque and Denver airport shuttles can be arranged for an additional fee. Pickup from the Raton Amtrak Station or the Raton airport is available at no additional charge for Hut-to-Hut participants. Shuttles from the Denver and Albuquerque airports are available from private companies for about a \$300 fee.

The Hut-to-Hut registration fee is \$2700 per person. For more information, contact Maddy Houk at maddy.houk@scouting.org. Philmont Ambassador Update

January 2025

Elevator Pitch Can Inspire Adventures



Scouts will not find an easy way up Baldy, but you can motivate them to make the trip to Philmont with an effective "elevator pitch" that quickly piques their interest in a High Adventure experience. (Philmont photo)

By John Lesko, Ambassador Task Force Co-Coordinator

There is no elevator that will get you to the top of Baldy. However, there is such a thing as an "Elevator Pitch" that can get a Scout to Philmont.

An elevator pitch is a concise and compelling summary of your idea, product, or service designed to spark interest quickly. Here are the essential elements:

1. **A Hook:** Start with something attentiongrabbing, like a surprising fact, question, or bold statement, to pique curiosity.

2. **Clear Value Proposition:** Explain what you or your offering does and how it solves a specific problem or meets a need. Focus on the value it brings.

3. **Target Audience:** Identify who benefits from your idea, product, or service. Be specific to show you understand your audience.

4. **Uniqueness:** Highlight what makes you or your solution stand out from competitors or alternatives. This could be your approach, experience, or a unique feature.

5. **Conciseness:** Keep it brief. Ideally 30 to 60 seconds. Avoid jargon or unnecessary details.

6. **Call to Action:** End with a clear next step, such as scheduling a meeting, sharing contact details, or asking a thought-provoking question.

7. Confidence and Passion: Deliver your

pitch with enthusiasm and self-assurance. Your energy can make your idea more engaging and memorable.

Here's one example of such a pitch:

"Philmont is more than just a destination— it's a transformational experience for Scouts and Scouting families. Imagine a place where breathtaking landscapes, lifelong friendships, and unmatched leadership development converge. Whether you're trekking through its iconic backcountry or attending a conference at the Philmont Training Center, you're stepping into a Scouter's paradise— where tradition, adventure, and personal growth thrive.

For families, Philmont offers a rare chance to bond over shared experiences while discovering new skills and perspectives. For Scouts, it's a life-changing opportunity to build resilience, leadership, and a deep appreciation for the outdoors.

This isn't just another Scouting event—it's a place that changes you and strengthens your connection to Scouting. If you're ready for an experience that will inspire and energize your Scouting journey, let's talk about how you can get to Philmont. The first step could be as simple as exploring the options for conferences or treks."

So what's next?

Actively LISTEN for what the Scout or Scouter or Scouting family member is looking for. Then match up a PTC conference, program, or Scout Ranch adventure with their specific interest or need. Give them a brochure or point them to a QR code or another resource.

Learn more about how you can develop your elevator pitch by attending the Ambassador Seminars on June 15 to 21.

Sd

New Philmont Handout Covers All Programs

Newsletter Editor Tom Baltutis developed a new brochure that Ambassadors can hand out at events or as a follow-up to their elevator pitch. Titled "Phimont Adventures for Everyone", the brochure briefly summarizes Treks, Cavalcades, Off-Season Adventures, Individual Opportunities, PTC, Family Adventure



Camps, and Jobs offered at Philmont. It also provides the link addresses for each so that people can quickly go to the appropriate web page to find more information.

"Although QR codes are becoming more popular and are replacing most handouts, some people still like a physical brochure in their hand to remind them about what they heard or saw at a Philmont presentation," says Tom. "This brochure does just that. I have found that I do not need to print out a lot of them, just a half dozen or so, and have them to give to those that want them."

The brochure is available to download from the Ambassador Resources page <u>here</u>.

Page 6

PSA Offers Individual Trek Scholarships

The Philmont Staff Association Campership program offers financial assistance each year to individuals in need who want to attend one of Philmont's many individual programs. These include men's and women's Rayado Treks, the Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS), Trail Crew Treks (TCT), Ranch Hands, and Order of the Arrow Trail Crew Treks (OATC). In 2024, 29 different individuals were awarded scholarships totaling nearly \$20,000. To apply or learn more about the PSA Campership program, visit <u>philstaff.org/</u> <u>ScholarshipApplications.</u>

Sd

Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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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.



NEW PHILMONT FLANNEL NOW AVAILABLE IN STORE AND ONLINE

Crews Need to Prepare Now

Philmont needs your help as an Ambassador to ensure that every crew on a Trek has the best experience possible. Each year, Crews unprepared for the rigors of the trail arrive at the Welcome Center thinking that they are off on an ordinary summer-camp escapade. Matt Hart, Camping Director, relates the story of an Adult Advisor asking about taking their golf cart on the trail.

Ambassadors need to stress the importance of getting in shape, building skills, and demonstrating the teamwork necessary for everyone to have a great time on the trail.

Adult Advisors and Crew Leaders should be watching the *Preparedness Seminars* each month. The upcoming January topic will cover Health and Safety. Past seminars are recorded and available at <u>www.philmontscoutranch.org/treks/</u> philmont-prep-seminars/.

The Official Philmont Shakedown Guide <u>www.philmontscoutranch.org/</u> treks/shakedown/ goes through much of the same material in printed form.

Philmont strictly enforces the height and weight limitations listed on the Part C: Pre-Participation Physical. All participants should take the time to read the High Adventure Risk Advisory that accompanies Part C. Youth and parents must discuss with their health provider any conditions that may affect their Trek participation.

This includes Adults Advisors as well. Those with border-line hypertension should be aware that if their blood pressure is above 160/95 during their medical re-check at Philmont, they may be kept off the trail. Even if they are OK at home, the high altitude at Base Camp may cause their blood pressure to go above this limit.

You as an Ambassador can make the difference in a Crew's Trek by stressing the importance of fitness and preparation.



The activities at the Chase Cow climbing area will move back to the Dean Cow site starting in 2025. (*Philmont Photo*)

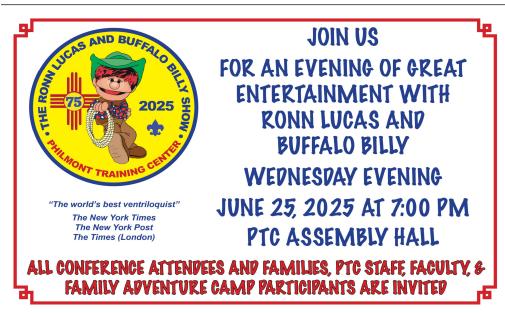
Chase Ranch and Philmont Agree to New Arrangements

Change is in the air at the historic Chase Ranch on Philmont's northeastern border, as Scouting America has ended its agreement for Philmont to use and operate the property.

The Chase Ranch Foundation, the entity responsible for the ranch after the death of its legendary owner, Gretchen Sammis, in 2012, was tasked by her will to use and preserve her property for educational purposes. Sammis, a former teacher and member of the Philmont Ranch Committee, would no doubt have been pleased with the agreement with Philmont, which operated her historic home as a museum visited by thousands of Scouts each summer, and used Chase Cow Camp as a staffed camp for its rock climbing program after the Ute Park Fire in 2018 wiped out Dean Cow Camp.

Scouting America and the foundation had originally entered into a 100-year lease for Philmont to operate and use the property, but they mutually agreed to terminate that during the BSA's recent bankruptcy. The parties then entered into a licensing agreement for continued use by Philmont, but that has now terminated as well. Philmont and the Chase signed a new agreement last month under which Philmont will continue to manage the Chase cattle operation and provide upkeep for the house used by a resident Philmont cowboy, but will no longer be doing program or using camps on the ranch. Staff removed the yurt at Chase Cow Camp after the summer season, as Philmont plans to reopen Dean Cow Camp next summer and resume its rock climbing program there.

SA



2018 Fire Area Camps Now Open for Treks

Most of the northern and eastern portions of the Ute Park Fire burn area reopened to overnight camping in 2024.

Harlan reopened as a staffed camp with the return of its shotgun shooting and reloading program that had relocated to Santa Claus Camp after the fire. In preparation for its reopening, the camp received new cabin lighting, appliances, and tent platforms, plus repairs and upgrades to its water system.

Trail camps back in use included Dean Cow, Black Jacks, Deer Lake, Devil's Wash Basin, and Minnette Meadows (on the western side of the fire area). With no staff at Dean Cow, that camp and Black Jack's became part of the CHQ area of responsibility. To facilitate response in case of an emergency, two-way radios were placed in each camp with detailed instructions for when and how to use them, but no calls came in from either camp during the summer of 2024.

Dean Cow and Ute Gulch will both reopen as staffed camps next summer as Philmont continues to move back into the recovering burn area.

Sd

AMBASSADOR ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

January	[] Make a Philmont presentation at the January Council Executive Board meeting focusing on training opportunities at PTC. Emphasize the Philmont Experience at the Training Center. Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
	[] Read the January Update in the Newsletter Section on the Ambassador Resources page.
February	[] Publish council newsletter article and/or social media post on Philmont Training Center Conferences.
	[] Promotion Opportunity for this month: Event: Date:
	Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
	[] Make a presentation or have a display at a Scouting Anniversary event. Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
	[] Publish council newsletter article and/or social media post on Family Adventure Camp.
	[] Promotion Opportunity for this month: Event:
	Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
March	[] Read the March Update in the Newsletter Section on the Ambassador Resources page.
	[] Promotion Opportunity for this month: Event: Date: Date:
	Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
April	[] Participate in the Spring Ambassador Webinar (TBD)
	[] Promotion Opportunity for this month: Event: Date: Date: Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
Мау	[] Read the May Update in the Newsletter Section on the Ambassador Resources page.
	[] Promotion Opportunity for this month: Event: Date: Date: Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
June	[] Attend an Ambassador Seminar at PTC June 15-21, 2025 or the Ambassador Experience from June 22 to 28, 2025.
July	[] Contact your Council's Wood Badge and NYLT Course directors and arrange to make a presentation about the Philmont Leadership Challenge
	and NAYLE programs. Report your promotion on the Ambassador Resource page.
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