

# PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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Promoting wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime

March 2025

## Philmont Aims To Be Scouting's Front Door

Under the leadership of new General Manager Andrea Watson, Philmont is undergoing a big transformation. Philmont is picking itself up and tuning around. Instead of being a kind of "last great adventure" where Scouts go to complete a Trek just before aging out, Philmont is now becoming the "front door" to Scouting America.

Philmont is setting out to be the showcase of the entire Scouting America program. It is where Scouters with young children can have fun together at Family Adventure Camp. Philmont is where Scouters can bring their sons and daughters to the Kids and Kin program while they themselves interact and learn from national experts at PTC. It is where Troops with 11- to 13-year-olds can get a taste of all Philmont has to offer at the new Unit Adventure Camp.

Amid these changes, Philmont will still be the place where older Scouts can apply the outdoor skills, leadership training and teamwork ability they have gained as they advanced through Ranks. On Treks they will use lessons learned while earning Merit Badges in camping, hiking, cooking and backpacking. They'll exercise their skills in shooting, climbing, and geology on the trail. Philmont will continue to be one of the ultimate adventures a Scout can have.

There is a big challenge in meeting this new vision of Philmont, and that is changing the current perception of Philmont. We Ambassadors will play a key role in presenting Philmont as the "front door" to all Scouting America has to offer to youth and families. This will require a delicate balancing act. We need to maintain the magical appeal of a Philmont Trek and yet build a new perception that Philmont is also a family-friendly experience that everyone can enjoy.

We Ambassadors are up to it!



Philmont's Welcome Wagon at PTC will be greeting many more Scouts and families to the adventure of Scouting through new programs and outreach efforts. (Philmont Photo)

## New Unit Adventure Camp Lets Scouts Get Taste of Philmont

**Unit Adventure Camp** is an entirely new program for 2025 that provides an opportunity for Scout Troops to come to Philmont and experience outdoor programs, preview the trek program, and learn about its leadership development programs. This is a great experience for any scouting unit wanting to have an experience at Philmont without the big commitment of a Trek.

The new program is designed for 11 to 13 year old youth, those new to high adventure, and those who have never been to Philmont. Though the program is designed for younger scouts, everyone is welcome to attend and experience what the ranch has to offer.

Unit Adventure Camp is an opportunity to experience Philmont as a full scouting unit somewhat like a traditional summer camp. Even family members are welcome to join the unit. Activities include hikes in the backcountry, high ropes and climbing

tower, range and target activities, fly fishing, craft center, museum tours, and more. Each day includes team building activities.

Participants will stay in tent housing at Philmont Training Center and enjoy meals in the dining hall. Each night, scouts will be able to participate in evening programs at PTC including the world-famous Cobbler Night. Each day begins and ends with a flag ceremony, and chapel services are held throughout the week.

Units must have a minimum of two 21+ registered adult leaders at a preferred a ratio of 1:5 adults to youth. All participants must meet Philmont Scout Ranch physical requirements. Minimum group size is 6. Maximum group size is 24. Participants will sleep in 2-person canvas tents at the Training Center for the majority of the stay. The cost is \$625/person and includes tent, meals, and program.

For more information, click [here](#).

## Save April 3 for Webinar

Ambassador should set aside the evening of April 3, 2025, for our Spring Webinar. Our special presenter will be Philmont's new General Manager, Andrea Watson. Andrea will be talking about the new emphasis at Philmont to become the Front Door to Scouting America and all the program it has to offer.



The time and link to the webinar will be sent by email to Ambassadors as we get closer to this date.

Be sure to attend this very special and informative session.

## 2256 and 7020

These are the numbers of Scouts that Philmont can still accommodate on Treks in 2025 (188 crews) and 2026 (585 crews), respectively, as of this newsletter issue.

Any qualified unit can sign up for these openings and get them **right now!** They are all listed on the Philmont website [here](#).

For a 2025 Trek, scouts and adults should already be in excellent shape and have already had several backpacking trips under their belt. They only have a few months to fine-tune their preparations.

For a 2026 Trek, units have over a full year to prepare, and they will need all of it to get ready for a rigorous challenge.

Ambassadors should emphasize to all units, and especially to adults, that they need to take Philmont's physical requirements very seriously. They should also watch the preparedness seminars [here](#).

# How Is Philmont Like An Elephant?

You may have heard the parable about the a group of blind people who had never come across an elephant and they try to learn what it is like by touch. Each blind person feels only one part of the animal such as its side, tail, leg, or tusk. Then they describe the animal based on their experience. They find that their descriptions are vastly different from each other. One says it is like a wall, another says it is a rope, the third says it feels like a tree, and the fourth says it is sharp like a spear. The moral of the parable is that we have a tendency to think we know something based only on our limited experience.

Philmont is so vast, with so many different programs, that most of us are like the blind men. We only describe it to others from what little we have experienced. It is no wonder that most Scouts have heard that Philmont has only high adventure mountain treks because that is what they have heard from other Scouts. Or that Scouters hear that Philmont has a number of great conferences, but they have no idea of all the ways you can be out in the backcountry without being on a Trek.

As Ambassadors it is our responsibility to know the entire range of Philmont programs so that we can help Scouts and Scouters find a conference, youth leadership experience, individual opportunity, Family Camp, summer job, and even a Trek that fits their interest.

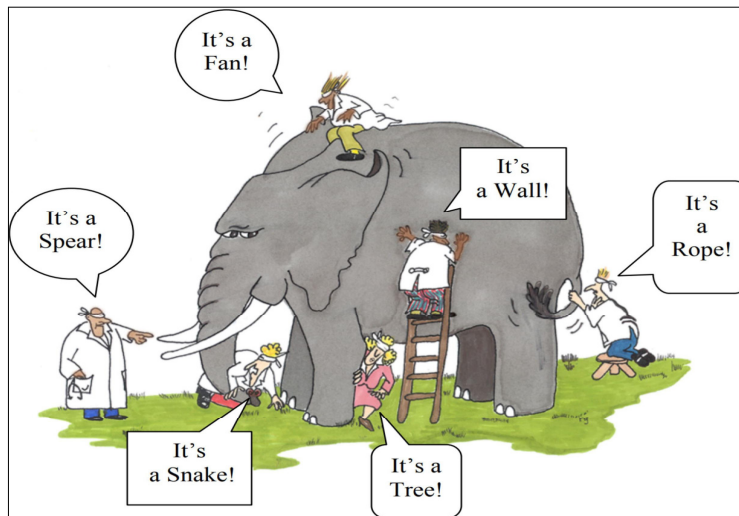
The challenge is that most Ambassadors have only experienced one or two of these programs. While it is almost impossible to participate in them all, the next best thing is to attend an [Ambassador Seminar](#) where you get a feel for many of them. If you have only

been on a Trek, do you know about all the amenities for families over at PTC? If you have only been to a conference, have you been to a backcountry camp and felt the majesty of God's Country? If you have only been to Family Camp, have you learned all the ways that can help units grow by interacting with other Scouters from around the country at a PTC conference? You can get to experience these first-hand at an Ambassador Seminar.

You will also be able to talk to other Ambassadors about their experiences at Philmont. You will meet others who have been on staff in the backcountry or have been a ranger in their youth. Some

have attended many conferences and can give you pointers how to get the most from them. They have been on Treks and know the best practices for selecting gear, setting up camp and cooking. All these are valuable lessons to pass on to others back home.

They are also there to learn from you and what your expertise at Philmont can teach them. As we all know, despite the wealth of knowledge that instructors have, some of the most memorable learning takes place during the breaks and outside the classroom.



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# Let's Get Everyone To PTC To Celebrate Its 75th!

Your help as an Ambassador is greatly needed for PTC to make its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year one for the ages! If you know someone who has been putting off a trip to Philmont, simply tell them that this is the year they absolutely need to go. There will be a ton of special activities, entertainers, fun, games and even birthday cake. These are on top of all the excellent conferences

and wonderful Family Adventure Camp activities.

As an example of the festivities, world-famous ventriloquist Ronn Lucas with his trusty sidekick (and sometimes nemesis) Buffalo Billy will be giving a special performance in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Lucas has been a performer on CBS specials, at the Kennedy Cen-

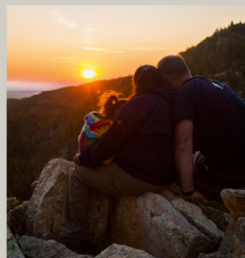
ter for President Ronald Reagan, at Ford's Theatre twice for President Bill Clinton and for President George W. Bush. He also performed at the London Palladium for Queen Elizabeth. His show is not to be missed.

During the special anniversary celebration week of June 29 to July 5, even more events are planned. These include guest speakers, a walking tour of PTC with the legendary Mark Griffin, and a family carnival as well as all the fun that Philmont offers on hikes, horseback rides, the climbing tower, target ranges, and the craft center.

Topping off the week is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in Cimarron followed by the longest-running open rodeo event in the West sponsored by the Maverick Club. All of Philmont's wranglers will be there to show off their skills and vie for prizes.

Start contacting your Scouter friends today to get them to put Philmont Training Center's 75th anniversary celebration on their 2025 to-do list.

P2



**YOU are invited**  
Philmont Training Center  
**75th Anniversary**

**June 29 - July 5, 2025**

Bring your entire family to this special celebration!

#### Activities Include:

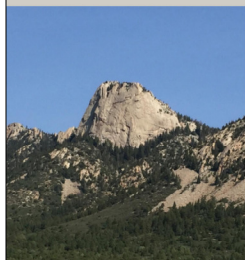
- Special entertainment
- Guest speakers
- Historical presentations
- Behind-the-scene tours
- Philmont Family Adventure activities
- Cimarron 4th of July Parade & Rodeo
- Scouting stories, songs, skits and just plain fun!

The week is open to everyone. Scouting America registration IS NOT required to attend.

All guests will receive a commemorative gift.

**Registration is OPEN!**

**\$425 plus Housing**



See details at  
<https://www.philmontscout ranch.org/75th-anniversary-of-the-philmont-training-center/>



## PTC Schedule Has New Look

The schedule for PTC Conferences has a new look that makes it easier to find a course that fits your needs. Now, conferences are grouped by categories accessible by the click of a button. So instead of looking down a list of conferences by date, Scouters can see those that match their interest like "Outdoor Focus", "Scouting Unit Essentials" or "Conferences for All".

The new format not only allows viewers to see the types of conferences that interest them, but also has easy links to get more information along with more links for registering, lodging, Kids-N'-Kin, fees and scholarships.

Look for more changes to come in the Philmont Website. Explore the new PTC today [here](#).



# Winter Trek Offers New Set of Challenges

By **Daniel Yee**, Philmont Ambassador  
(Atlanta Area Council)

[Editors's note: This is the first of a two-part series on the Ambassador's Winter Trek taking place in late February. The report on the trek itself will be in May's Newsletter]

Bob Weagraff has seen Philmont in the summer and fall. In late February, he and a few other intrepid Philmont Ambassadors will get to experience the ranch's fourth season.



"For me, Philmont is my happy place. I enjoy the beauty of God's creation and the solitude one feels while traversing the trails of Philmont in the off-season. I always feel at peace," said Weagraff, of Laurinburg, NC. He is Council Commissioner for the Cape Fear Council.

Six ambassadors from all over the country are returning HOmE in February to chase one of Philmont's most elusive arrowheads: the Winter Trek. This crew of Ambassadors have trekked each year on an Autumn Adventure since 2021. This is the first year they have tackled the Winter Trek.

To earn a Winter arrowhead, Philmont requires at least 25 miles of hiking and five nights in the backcountry with a three-hour conservation project.

"For us, Philmont is special in the off-season," Weagraff said. "There are no programs, there are no crowded staff camps, you don't see other crews on the trail, it is just your crew, nature and yourself. Over the last four years, our friendships have grown and each of us look forward to seeing each other at Philmont every year."

Last September, the ambassador crew hiked in North Country, tackling Philmont's highest peak, Mount Baldy. A year prior the group hiked up Mt. Phillips, the ranch's second-highest spot.

The February trek will traverse 31 miles starting at Six Mile Trailhead and going to Indian Writings, Metcalf Station, Dan Beard, Ponil, Head of Dean and finishing at Maxwell Trailhead.

Like a summer or fall trek, the winter crew will have to contend with the terrain and weather. At elevations up to 8,800



Food safety precautions like hanging bear bags apply especially in winter because lots of critters are even more eager to break into your provisions. (Philmont Photo)

feet, rather than summer heat it will likely will be well below freezing.

"I've invested some money for more efficient gear for this trek, from a new backpack and sleeping system, to the warm clothing," said Steve Gold, a troop committee chairman in the Cascade Pacific Council in Oregon. "Crossing my fingers it'll all work."

*"Cold-weather camping is the ultimate test of your ability to camp and travel in the backcountry and learn to live in harmony with the environment,"* the ranch says on its website. *"Training in winter camping will prepare you to safely enjoy many winter adventures and to teach others to enjoy these unique experiences."*

Winter adventures crews can participate in a variety of activities that include snowshoeing, sleeping in snow shelters and cross-country skiing. Scouts can work on elements of the Snow Sports and Search and Rescue merit badges.

As part of his preparations, Weagraff slept on a concrete slab in his garage when the temperatures in North Carolina dropped to 17 degrees one night.

"Based on my research it, is all about layers and managing the weight given the additional items you take to stay warm and comfortable," he said. "My 20-degree bag was fine with a liner."

Ambassador Tom Kube said he's looking forward to Philmont's winter. It will be his sixth trek.

"When I get to Philmont, the day-to-day world disappears and there is nothing but nature, good friends and plenty of time to recharge and take stock," he said. "I don't think we can really appreciate the gift that Waite Phillips gave to Boy Scouts so many years ago until we put boots on the ground in the backcountry." **P2**

## Seasonal Jobs Still Available

Philmont still has openings for seasonal staff jobs. Many young adults look back upon their Philmont employment as the best job they ever had. Seasonal employment offers competitive pay, plenty of responsibility, interesting companions, and absolutely unbeatable surroundings. Housing and meals are included.

Job seekers should begin by filling out an application [here](#). Most seasonal employment starts May 3 and runs through August 7. Preference is given to those who can commit to the entire season.



# Guías Teach Crews About Wilderness Protection

Scouts on a Philmont Trek are familiar with the concept of a crew leader chosen by the crew members who will be the quarterback for the expedition. The Crew Leader is responsible for planning the crew activities and ensuring that members follow the game plan— aided by their Adult Advisors who act as their coaches.

Another important position on the team is that of the Wilderness *Guia* meaning *guide* in Spanish. The Guia helps the crew preserve the Philmont backcountry through understanding and applying the principles of Leave No Trace and the Philmont Wilderness Pledge. With 22,000 people using the ranch every year, special care needs to be taken to ensure the wilderness character of the terrain.

The Guia should be selected by the crew prior to the first shakedown hike and should help the crew follow wilderness ethics both at home and at Philmont. The duties of the Guia are to

- Work with their crew's Ranger to learn the principles of the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace.
- Assist their crew implement these principles throughout their trek.
- Guide their crew in discussions about wilderness ethics by focusing on one of the seven principles of Leave No Trace during seven days of the trek.
- Help their crew follow all camping practices as outlined by their Ranger and strictly follow Philmont's bear and wildlife procedures.
- Help the members of their crew earn the Wilderness Pledge Achievement Award.

Philmont is travelled much more than other comparable wilderness areas, and so practices are in place that go beyond the principals of Leave No Trace which every Scout should already be familiar with -

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of others

Philmont's Wilderness Pledge adds to these with the following measures:

- Take part in the Ranger led training for



Andrew H. of Crew 716 P reads the Wilderness Guia Book on their lunch break at Upper Clarks Fork. (Photo by Zoe Cranfill, Philmont Staff)

the Philmont Wilderness Pledge and Leave No Trace.

- Follow all Philmont camping practices as outlined by your Ranger throughout your trek.
- Practice all Philmont bear and wildlife procedures throughout your trek.
- Take part in seven trail discussions with your crew that will focus on each of the seven principles of Leave No Trace and find examples of the focus principle during that day of the trek.
- Complete three hours of conservation work under the direction of a member of the Philmont Conservation Staff.

Three hours of conservation work is also a requirement for the Philmont Arrowhead Patch. This activity is built into every itinerary, and the hours count towards both the Arrowhead and Wilderness Pledge Awards.



The major points of emphasis in the Philmont Wilderness Pledge are that each camper should make sure that all trails, campsites and facilities are left neat and clean. They should respect wildlife such as not feeding or harassing any animals.

Participants are in a land where water is scarce and very precious. They should never bathe or do laundry or dishes in or near a spring or stream. They should not throw rocks in springs or touch any solar systems. These are easily damaged, and the flow of water can be disrupted.

Trails have been laid out and constructed to minimize impact on the environment. Scouts need to respect all trails and not cut or mark green boughs or trees. They should not cut across switchbacks or alter trail signs.

Finally, each crew is responsible for leaving a neat and orderly campsite. Whether it be in Camping Headquarters, staffed camps, or non-staffed camps, their campsite should be left litter-free with its latrine and sump clean. Fires (if permitted) must be left dead out.

Philmont Scout Ranch has partnered with [ALPS Mountaineering](#) to support the Wilderness Guia Program. ALPS Mountaineering is a family-owned business has spe-



# Go HOmE in 2025

By John and Julia Lesko, Co-Coordiators of the Philmont Ambassadors

2025 is shaping up to be the *ultimate* year to Go HOmE—and there are plenty of reasons why. Get ready for an unforgettable summer at Philmont!

## This Summer, Make It Count

This year's Ambassador conferences will transform the way you share the magic of Philmont. No matter how many times you have been here—whether it's your first conference or your tenth—we *guarantee* you will walk away with fresh insights, valuable connections, and powerful tools to elevate your role as a Philmont Ambassador.

And if that's not enough to get you packing, every single conference week will feature a special 75th PTC Anniversary celebration! That means more learning, more camaraderie, and more reasons to be part of this milestone year.

## Ambassadors: Let's Open the Front Door to Scouting America

Philmont is not just a destination—it's the gateway to Scouting's future. The Ambassador Seminar curriculum has been re-vamped to help you inspire the next wave of Scouts and Scouters ensuring they experience the life-changing adventure that only Philmont can offer. This summer, you'll be part of something bigger than ever before, shaping the future of outdoor adventure and leadership.

## When & Where to Join the Action

**Week 2:** *Ambassador I and Ambassador II & Beyond*—Take your skills to the next level!

**Week 3:** *The Ambassador Experience (Trek Prep)*—Gear up for the backcountry!

**Week 4:** *PTC's 75th Anniversary Celebration*—Cap it off with a Fourth of July bash and Cimarron's annual rodeo!

## Will You Be There? We Sure Hope So!

This is your year to strengthen your skills, expand your network, and ensure Philmont's legacy continues for generations to come. Whether you're coming for the training, the celebration, or both—you *won't* want to miss it.

So, are you in? We can't wait to see you at Philmont in 2025!

2025 LIMITED EDITION COLLECTOR'S BELT BUCKLE

UNDER 100 LEFT

ONLY 225 TO BE MADE  
NUMBERED 1-225/225

# Philmont Priorities and Tips

By Julia and John Lesko, Co-Coordiators of the Philmont Ambassadors

In your role as an Ambassador, please remember to:

## 1) Recruit for ALL the 2025 PTC Conferences.

Please review the [2025 PTC Conference Schedule](#) to identify specific individuals for each conference each week, and personally invite them to have a learning adventure of a lifetime. It can take 5 to 8 times of reaching out to an individual to recruit successfully. Your goal is to recruit at least 7.5 attendees to PTC this summer in honor of the 75th

anniversary! This includes recruiting families for the Kids-N-Kin program, as well as Family Adventure Camp and [Adventure Pass](#)! Let's serve more families, as well as introduce Scouting to new families by thinking of Philmont as Scouting America's front door.

## 2) Recruit for 2025 Individual Programs (youth not yet 21).

- 14-day Trail Crew (16+)
- 14-day Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (16+)
- 16-day Ranch Hand (16+)
- 21-day Rayado (15+), and

*Priorities (Continued on page 7)*





Restorative thinning during the winter is an important part of the Conservation Department's effort to maintain the health of the backcountry forest. (Photo by Kate Warrick, Philmont staff)

## Conservation Department Preserves More Than Trees

During the last 200 years, Philmont has been subject to all manner of ranching, resource extraction and recreational activities. Each activity altered the landscape in its own way. Hard rock and hydraulic mining forever changed the shapes of many of its high peaks and steep-walled canyons. Intense clear cutting in the early 1900s resulted in the dense, even-aged batches of Ponderosa Pine found across the ranch. A century of wildfire suppression left the forest floor covered in a thick layer of litter and debris.

Following the gift of the Ranch by Waite Philips, early settler and mining routes provided the only access into what was very much a wild place. Waite had developed trails that gave easy access to some of his favorite places, including the Rayado Lodge (now known as Fish Camp), the Tooth of Time and Hunting Lodge, but most other hiking routes were little more than paths through the forest worn in by the horses and boots of ranchers and trappers.

In 1965, a catastrophic flood washed down Rayado Canyon. The once beautiful trail along the Rayado River between Abreu and Fish Camp was destroyed. The route

would remain closed for almost a decade as Philmont's managers learned about trail design and construction techniques that could handle rapidly rising camper numbers.

Roving trail crews began operation shortly after the big flood. These crews installed trail signs and cleared obstacles and blowdowns along major trails. They laid the groundwork for the modern trail system used today.

The Conservation Department became its own entity in 1971. With only a dozen or so staff members, it took up the mantle of maintaining and expanding Philmont's trail and camp system.

One of the first trail construction projects was the Rayado Canyon trail, which still exists today. If you take a hike up this trail, you can witness amazing views that would be unattainable without those early conservation pioneers.

During the 1980's and 1990's, trail construction continued, and many improvements were made to camping and recreation infrastructure. Rock fire rings were gradually replaced with metal fire

**Conservation** (Continued on page 8)



"It's the spirit within, not the veneer without, that makes a man. B-P

## Recruiting Tips

**Priorities** (Continued from page 6)

- 21-day Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS) (16+)

### 3) Recruit Crews to apply for 12-day Treks for 2027 now.

While 7-day and 9-day treks are definitely a good option, crews on a 12-day trek will hike for 10 days in the backcountry with more time to experience activities throughout the week plus hike even further into the backcountry, covering 50-120 miles over the course of their trek, and complete the 3 hours of conservation necessary to earn the Philmont Arrowhead Patch. [Editors note: There are still openings for 2025 and 2026 Treks. See page 2.]

### 4) Help us Grow Partnerships.

If you work with a youth or non-profit organization that focuses on youth development, physical/mental disabilities, outdoor education, outdoor adventure, outdoor conservation, leadership development, or other goals that make them ideal to partner with Philmont, please connect these organizations with the PSR General Manager at [andrea.watson@scouting.org](mailto:andrea.watson@scouting.org).

We join Andrea's vision for Philmont to continue to expand its reach and influence by serving more families, becoming the "front door" to Scouting America, and being the center of excellence in outdoor adventure, backcountry conservation, and leadership development. Let's make sure more Scouts and Scouters experience wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime.

**P2**

# Preserving Forest is A Constantly Evolving Job

## Conservation *(Continued from page 7)*

rings. Sumps evolved from 55-gallon barrels to the now ubiquitous drainpipe fittings.

Conservation-focused treks soon developed. The 28-day Trail Crew took its place as the oldest individual program on the ranch, and later the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew was born. The Department has also added other individual programs focusing not only on trail construction, but also a comprehensive conservation education as well. These included the Roving Outdoor Conservation School (ROCS), Trail Crew Trek (TCT), OA Trail Crew Trek (OATC), and Science Technology Engineering Math Trek (STEM Trek). All have educational components to them but are still rooted in conservation skills and work projects.

The Conservation Department also added specialty positions to meet the needs of modern land management. Geographic Information System Technicians produce Philmont's entire sectional, overall, and campsite maps. The Invasive Species

Control Program, formed in 2010, is charged with managing and coordinating Philmont's noxious weed control efforts. Philmont's sustainability program is also managed by the Conservation Department, and three staff members are responsible for 75 tons of recycling every summer.

The Ponil Complex Fire of 2002 spurred the largest revegetation project in the history of Philmont and taught the Department many valuable lessons about land and watershed restoration and rehabilitation following a catastrophic fire. This fire represented a jump forward in the department. It went from a summer-only staff focused on trails and campsites to a legitimate year-round conservation corps dedicated to comprehensive land management. It also created the first ever alternative spring break program at a BSA High Adventure Base. Dedicated to helping in the recovery efforts, PhilBreak participants assist in Fire Recovery efforts.

On May 31, 2018 the Ute Park Fire began close to the Philmont Scout Ranch property line near Cimarroncita. In response, the entirety of the 2018 summer staff became members of the Conservation Department and began work on a shaded fuel break along the Beaubien Road.

Since the Ute Park Fire, The Conservation Department quadrupled the size of its forestry program and has begun working more closely with federal and state agencies to develop a comprehensive forest and land management plan. Philbreak also continued in 2019 to assist in the completion of fire mitigation projects.

In its current operation, the Conservation Department has four Professional Staff: the Director of Conservation, a Forester, a Wildlife Biologist, and a Field Manager. All these positions focus on supporting the seasonal staff workers by working closely with land partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders to identify and plan projects to improve and restore the land we use.

Philmont Conservation Department alumni have gone on to serve the community as wilderness firefighters, professional



trail builders, environmental advocates, and professional educators. The Department has produced several notable leaders in the conservation community writing some of the literature and techniques for these fields. As the Conservation Department looks to take on another 50 years of work, it continues to take the best practices in land management to influence the outdoor experience and environmental health of Philmont.

As Philmont and Scouting look into the future, the Philmont Conservation Department will continue to adapt and develop to meet the needs of our land as well as our participants. **P2**

## Wilderness Guides Lead LNT Practices

### Guia *(Continued from page 5)*

cialized in creating and selling high-quality, affordable outdoors gear for more than 30 years. Founded by gear designer Dennis Brune, the company has become a leader in both innovation and customer satisfaction.

Brune and his wife, LaRayne, have long had the goal of creating high-quality performance gear priced within the range of the everyday outdoors enthusiast. The Brunes raised their children to have a healthy knowledge, love and respect for the outdoors. It's no surprise, then, that all three of their kids – Brian, Adam and Sarah – have roles in their parents' company. The Brunes' love for the outdoors, along with their desire to make outdoor adventures more accessible to everyone, makes ALPS Mountaineering the perfect partner for the Wilderness Guia Program.

Upon completion of their Trek and applying all these practices, each crew member is eligible to receive the Philmont Wilderness Pledge patch, available at the Tooth of Time Traders. They should take it upon themselves to teach these principals to Scouts in their units and apply them to all their future outdoor adventures. It's one of the legacies of a Philmont Trek that they can apply every day for the rest of their lives. **P2**

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