

PHILMONT AMBASSADOR UPDATE

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Promoting wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime

May 2025

Opportunities abound for 2026 Treks

The coming summer of 2025 is looking to be a very good one for Philmont Treks. To date, 17,263 Scouts are signed up in 1,682 crews for backcountry adventures. Looking ahead to 2026, there is a unique opportunity to grow participation with 12,031 Scouts currently signed up.

While the 2026 reservations represent a solid start, increasing participation by an additional 3,000 Scouts will ensure that Philmont can continue offering the full range of exciting program features that Scouts have come to expect. "By adding an additional 3,000 Scouts to reach our 15,000 participant goal, we can maintain the incredible experience that makes Philmont so special," projected Camping Director Matt Hart. "This goal presents an exciting opportunity to further engage the Scouting community and make 2026 an unforgettable year at Philmont.

"To achieve this critical attendance goal, we need the support of our Philmont Ambassadors. Your efforts to spread the word, encourage participation, and promote Philmont's unique offerings will be instrumental in reaching this milestone. Together, we can make 2026 an incredible success," added Matt.

Those 2026 Trek participants will be awarded a special version of the Philmont Arrowhead to celebrate the nation's *semi quincentennial* (literally half of 500 or 250th) anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This distinctive patch is sure to get attention with its patriotic red, white, and blue border.

The sign up for Individual Opportunities is looking good, with 358 individuals in total including 29 women for the Rayado Trek.

There was a time when the number of Scouts wanting to go on Treks exceeded the available slots. Just a few years ago, crews had to hope they got lucky in the Lottery.



This distinctive Arrowhead patch commemorating the *semi quincentennial* of the U.S. will be awarded for completing a Trek in 2026.

Not any more. The challenges brought on by Covid greatly affected the overall number of Scouts in the program. This is especially true for those who joined in 2020 and 2021 and would be in the prime Philmont age group today.

While there was a short-term bump in the number of participants in 2019 following the Ute Park fire, participation has fallen off since.

A promising number of crews did sign up for 2026, but later had to cancel their reservations. Among the reasons given were financial strains, scheduling conflicts, and inability to find sufficient adult advisors. Philmont has taken notice of the reasons for the decline and is implementing new measures to encourage Crews.

Opportunity (continued on page 2)

Amy Hutcherson lands her dream job as PTC Director

Amy Hutcherson brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her new position of Philmont Training Center Director. She was extensively involved in Scouting as her two sons, Ean and Easton, progressed through Cub, Scouts BSA, Venturing and beyond. Ean is an Eagle scout, and Easton is working at Cimarroncito as a rock-climbing instructor this coming summer. Her husband Ron was very active being a unit leader and a PTC participant both as a student and a Silverado.



"This position at PTC has been my dream ever since I first visited during the

summer of 2013 when I attended the District Key 3 training," reflects Amy. She returned the next year as a Silverado while her husband attended a PTC conference. She's been back several times either attending more conferences or being a Silverado herself.

She's also quite familiar with Scouting's high adventure bases. She's hiked on three Philmont Treks, two with her sons and once as a female adult advisor for a coed Venturing Crew. Amy has been to the Summit with Ean's crew and there again at the Venturing Fest in 2018. She's sailed at Sea Base with Easton in 2020.

Together with her experience as a par-

Hutcherson (Continued on page 10)

Philmont looks to expand 2026 participation

Opportunity (Continued from page 1)

To ease financial burdens, Philmont is moving up the date for award of scholarships so crews will know earlier that they will get assistance from the Ranch. This will enable them to have a clearer idea of what their fundraising goals are.

Philmont continues to offer Waite Phillips Scholarships of \$400 per crew to support a Scout who might not otherwise have the resources to participate in a trek. The Ranch has other resources to help deserving Scouts on a Trek. Contact the Camping Department if you are aware of Scout with special circumstances. In 2024, over \$100,000 of allocated scholarship money was left on the table because Crews just did not think to apply.

Promoting the availability of [scholarships](#) is one area that Ambassadors can assist Philmont in recruiting. The [Philmont Staff Association](#) also offers scholarships for Individual Opportunity experiences.

To boost 2026 participation, any new reservation for a crew arriving after July 15th, 2026, will get the 2025 pricing. Late season slots usually have a drop off in requests. The new reservations must be made before July 31, 2025, so now is the time to get the word out to units.

The Tooth of Time Traders is doing its part to help. Every crew that signs up as part of this incentive promotion between now and July 31st will be entered into a drawing. Five lucky crews will get free custom crew shirts. Those with existing reservations will also be eligible for the drawing.

In order to assist in recruiting adults, Philmont is also offering free Philmont Advisor Skills School (PASS) tuition and wilderness first aid for any council contingent advisor or a first-time crew advisors that feels the need for additional training.

Philmont is now offering crew visitations by staff via Zoom to help promote and answer questions for new reservation expeditions. Units can sign up for these [virtual visits](#) at the Philmont web site. Expert staff from Philmont's Camping Department will work with the unit to find a time that a meeting can be arranged. The Camping department is also expanding in-person Philmont representation by having both staff and Philmont Ambassadors at council events.

Philmont Ambassadors can greatly help recruiting efforts by making these incentives known to units within their council. Depending on the situation, some Ambassadors may be asked to participate in the in-person or virtual staff visits. The more information that Scouts have about Philmont, the more likely they are to commit to a Trek.

For those concerned about the fire-

affected landscape, they should note that it has been 7 years since the Ute Park fire. The land is springing back to life. Many areas and camps are now open again such as Dean Cow and Ute Gulch and have new facilities. Crews should still be prepared for considerable exposure in the burn area because of the lack of shade. Rangers will inform crews of the precautions to take.

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.philmontscoutranch.org/75th-anniversary-of-the-philmont-training-center/>



Ambassadors get Philmont badge for attending PTC



Ambassadors in good standing can now get their official Philmont Badge if they are attending any PTC conference. Stop in the PTC office and ask Amanda to make one for you.

Of course, Ambassadors attending any of the Ambassador Seminars or the Ambassador Experience also get a Philmont ID badge. The badge acknowledges your service as well as encourages your attendance at PTC conferences.

Wear your badge proudly and help promote Philmont wherever and whenever you display it.

P2

Still room in summer conferences

PTC's 75th season is promising to be a banner year, but there are a number of conferences that could use some help in boosting their numbers. Ambassadors should take note of conferences on the list below to encourage Scouters to attend. For example, you can contact your Council Training Committee members about the "Nuts and Bolts of Training" course. Contact Venturing units about "Planning for the Future of Older Scout Programs," and so on. As extra encouragement, note that recruiting three Scouters for conferences helps get you the PTC Master's Track device.

Those courses noted below with a link have a flyer you can download and send to the appropriate people in your Council.

- **Mechanics of Advancement for Today's Scouts**
- [Philmont Fly Fishing](#)
- **Advancement Issues and Solutions for District and Council Leaders**
- **Psychology of Scouting: Youth Mental Health**
- **Wilderness First Aid: Instructor Development Course**
- **Chart. Lead. Explore. Youth 14-20: Planning for the Future of Older Scout Programs**
- [Making Scouting Unforgettably Fun](#)
- **Scouting Chaplaincy**
- **Scouting in the Catholic Church**
- [Scouting in the Lutheran Church](#)
- **Scouting in the Methodist Church**
- [Innovate & Facilitate: A Blueprint for Impact](#)
- [Nuts and Bolts of Training](#)
- [Wood Badge Co-Hort](#)
- [Developing a Culture of Growth](#)



PTC to host National Outdoor Conference in September

The 2025 National Outdoor Conference will be held September 17-21, 2025 at Philmont Training Center. The conference is a biennial event that features speaker sessions, keynote events led by distinguished industry experts, peer-to-peer informal discussion groups and many other learning opportunities. All participants will enjoy the chance to experience a small part of the outdoor adventures Philmont offers.

This year's conference will focus on five areas:

1. Leading youth safely forward
2. Changing and improving the way we work together
3. Making our programs highly relevant to today's youth
4. Broadening our appeal and revital-

izing our brand

5. Strengthening financial positions.

Anyone and everyone involved in outdoor program delivery should attend. That means Scout Executives, directors of support services, program directors, rangers, camp directors, council presidents, council board members, district committee members and council program vice presidents. Anyone on a camping, properties, conservation, aquatics, range & target activities or COPE/climbing committee will also benefit.

Preconference workshops will be held from Sunday to the Wednesday evening leading up to the start of the conference. Offerings cover NCAP, range activities, and marketing. They even include an Autumn Adventure Trek.

Many exciting and informative adventures are available after the conference on

Saturday afternoon, September 20th. Attendees can stay on to see and experience Philmont and New Mexico.

They can take a day hike to one of the Philmont landmarks, cast their line for trout in a swift-flowing mountain stream, or saddle up for a high-altitude horseback ride. They can take one of several backcountry drives through the mountains to see some of Philmont's historic camps and spectacular scenery. Closer to civilization, they can tour Philmont's base camp facilities and the famous Villa Philmonte. Those more interested in nuts and bolts can take an operational tour with maintenance experts to learn what goes into keeping the world's largest camp running.

Watch the conference site [here](#) for registration information.

P2



The first Ambassador seminar in 2014 brought together many Philmont enthusiasts who are still active today. *(Philmont photo)*

Long-Time Ambassadors still enjoy promoting Philmont

Andrea Watson's most recent return to Philmont marks another milestone in the Ambassador program which was started when she was PTC director in late 2012.

The first Ambassador Seminar was held in the summer of 2014. Forty-six Ambassadors and faculty crammed into the Miranda classroom for a week of learning about their new role. There are a number of active Ambassadors who date their tenure back to those early days of the program. So how do they keep fresh at delivering the Philmont message?

Will Ore tries to do a Philmont exhibit at several district and council events each year. These include the Commissioner College, a Merit Badge College, an OA event, Council Program Preview and a Camporee. Because they are spread out through the year, he feels he can comfortably cover them all. He's become known so well that people often look at him and say, "I was wondering if you would be here with a Philmont display."

"Luckily the Old North State Council is supportive of Philmont and is willing to work with me," notes Will.

Rick Seeger in Three Harbors Council, has a more of a challenge. Although he would appreciate more support from his council, he is able to promote Philmont along with other High Adventure bases at the council's annual "Scouting The Zoo". During this weekend event, Scouts from all programs get to camp inside the Milwau-

kee County Zoo. Fortunately, their encounters with bear and mountain lion are much more tame at the zoo than on the trails.

Rick misses the time that Philmont provided more materials like brochures to liven up his display, but he does make use of the six-foot banners. He finds the Ambassador Newsletter to be an enjoyable way of keeping up with Philmont news.

Jim Whitehead from the Erie Shores Council doesn't get tired of promoting Philmont or any of the other High Adventure bases because of his personal experiences at each of them. His council's big promotional event is its Trailhead Academy. Much like a University of Scouting, he is able to connect with the Cub, Scouts BSA and Venturing programs there. His council is supportive by providing Midway space for Philmont at this event. Jim also makes his presence known at District Roundtables and has given presentations to individual units.

Julia Lesko, the Philmont Ambassador Co-Coordinator, has also been an Ambassador for over 10 years. She has been able to do some kind of promotion about once per month which includes speaking at Roundtables in person or virtually. She's also presented at her Council's U of S and other unit, district, council, and territory events. Whenever she and co-coordinator and spouse John are Campmasters, they bring along promotional material so they can interact with unit leaders, parents, OA

members and others at camp.

"Our most effective presentations are those when we can identify and follow up with interested Scouters and families to help them make coming to Philmont a reality," says Julia.

One of the reasons Julia has not experience "burnout" at being an Ambassador for so long is that she partners with the other Ambassadors in her National Capitol Area Council. She observed, "There's a wise African proverb that helps us to avoid burnout: If you want to travel fast, go alone. If you want to travel far, bring along your friends."

Ambassadors can also get creative in seeking out help. They may know Scouters who have gone on Treks and are passionate about Philmont, but are not Ambassadors themselves. Tom Baltutis in the Northern Star Council has often invited his Scouter friend Mark to help at the University of Scouting midway. "Mark loves to talk about Philmont Treks," says Tom. "Although he has not been to Philmont in several years and so does not meet the Ambassador qualifications, he has all the enthusiasm for the Ranch that you could want. It's great to have him talking about Treks while I focus on PTC, Family Camp and Individual Opportunities."

All these Ambassadors agree that staying up to date on Philmont is im-

Ambassadors *(Continued on page 5)*

Veteran Ambassadors maintain enthusiasm

Ambassadors (Continued from page 4)

portant. The Ambassador Newsletter is one of their primary sources of information. By also tuning into the Ambassador Webinars and by perusing the Philmont web site, they know that they are getting the most current information which is important to keeping their councils up-to-date. The Ambassador Facebook page is another communications channel they rely on.

The best way to stay current, though, is by actually getting to Philmont on a regular basis especially to the Ambassador Seminars. The Ambassador I seminar content is designed to familiarize newer members with the basics of Philmont. The Ambassador II seminar constantly changes to provide updates. One of the most valuable sessions for both is the opportunity to meet with top Philmont management to hear first hand about the upcoming improvements to the Ranch and its programs.

This summer's Ambassador I and II seminars occur during the week of June 15 to 21. Both conferences are substantially redesigned for 2025.

Don Winn and Kristin Chioma will lead the A-I participants. They'll go over how to design a display and where to get the materials for making one. They'll help you craft your 'elevator pitch' and design a flashy Philmont business card. Along the way, you'll be having such fun and fellowship that you want to come back for more.

That's exactly what Barry Bray and Daniel Yee will be focusing on in the A-2 course, aptly renamed "the Ambassador Reunion." There'll be more activities to learn about Philmont and ways to encourage others to attend. They have a number of outings planned, including getting out and learning about Philmont's conservation practices. Look for some of the long-time Ambassadors at the Reunion.

Register for these seminars [here](#).



Getting a cold root beer at the Ponil cantina feels great after a long hike. (Philmont Photo)

Ambassador Experience preps you for Trek

By Dustin Taylor, Philmont Ambassador and PTC Faculty

Want to spend a night in the backcountry? Would you like to learn how to train individual crews or run District/Council wide training events for Philmont treks? Then the Ambassador Experience course is for you. It happens June 22 to 28, the week after the Philmont Ambassador conferences. It's open to all Philmont Ambassadors and District/Council High Adventure/Camping committee members or volunteers.

Our journey begins Sunday night by attending the meetings that the Crew Leader, Chaplain's Aide, Wilderness Guide and adult advisors attend. We then experience the Opening Campfire for crews leaving the next day. Monday morning we meet our Philmont Ranger at the Welcome Center and check out equipment, take a crew picture, get trail food, visit logistics and head to Medical for our re-check. After lunch and an equipment shakedown by our Ranger, it is time to finalize our packs.

Next morning, we will board a bus and head to our drop off point where we will start our Ranger training and hike to Ponil. We will set up camp, visit the cowboy action shooting, draw food at the commissary, and sip cold root beer at the trading post. We'll do a behind-the-scenes tour of Ponil. Dinner that night will be a famous Philmont chuckwagon dinner. Afterwards, we will enjoy the evening program put on by staff.

The next morning we hike to Sioux camp for three hours of conservation work. After returning to Ponil, we break camp and prepare to meet our bus at the Ponil turnaround. When we arrive back at Camping Headquarters, we turn in our equipment and have free time until 6:45 PM when Ronn Lucas, world famous ventriloquist, will

put on great show at PTC. We will later attend the Closing Campfire for crews.

Thursday will be spent discussing personal and crew lessons learned on our mini-trek. We'll go over trek prep support for local crews, the PASS Program, Philmont Preparation Seminars, shakedown guides, mental and physical fitness, personal equipment, crew gear, and a Philmont equipment display.

We will go over District and Council Best Trek training practices and learn about two council training events: Hike-A-Palooza (Heart of America) and Phil-A-Palooza (Longhorn). We'll discuss the important question: Why is Philmont good for your Council?

After a Philmont update on Friday, we will develop a best practices Philmont Training Plan which we can share with all Ambassadors and then tailor it to your own District and Council needs.

The Ambassador Experience will involve hiking and backpacking, so make sure you have done some hikes with a pack prior to the experience. Parts A, B, and C of the Health and Medical Record are required. Spouses are welcome to attend PTC's Silverado program during the week. Because of the backcountry overnight though, participants attending without a spouse other adult will be unable to bring youth to participate in the Kids and Kin program.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dustin Taylor (coronadophilmontambassador@gmail.com) or Rob Welander (hoacphilmontambassador@gmail.com).

Register for the Ambassador Experience [here](#).

Adventure Pass Enables A Day of Fun at PTC

Travelers passing through north-eastern New Mexico can take a break and spend a half day or full day for some fun at Philmont. The new [Adventure Pass](https://www.philmontscouttranch.org/ptc/adventure-pass/) lets them schedule a short stop and enjoy some hiking, climbing, shooting or riding. They can even arrange for meals in the Dining Hall. They will need to register ahead of time at www.philmontscouttranch.org/ptc/adventure-pass/

Because activities are coordinated through the Family Adventure Camp program, more activities are available Monday through Friday.

Philmont Ambassador Newsletter

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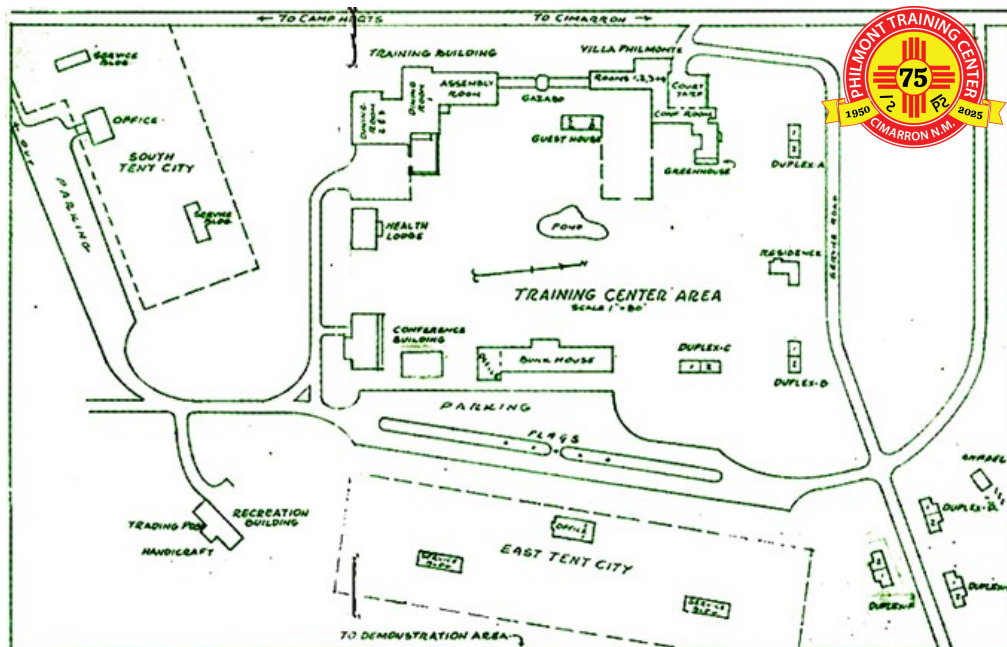
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PTC in the 1950s looked a bit different than it does today



You might still find your way around Philmont Training Center using this map from the 1950's. However, some things have changed. How many can you spot?

TOOTH OF TIME TRADERS PTC 75TH ANNIVERSARY



COIN



NALGENE



PATCHES

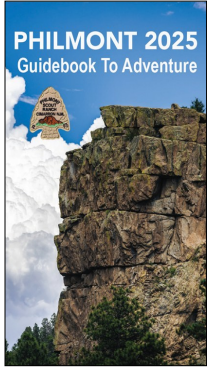


BUCKLES

It's in the Guidebooks!

Philmont has strict requirements for advisors

Editors note: Leaders frequently call Philmont asking questions about Treks. Most of these are answered in the Guidebook to Adventure and Advisors Guidebook. Because the guides cover so much though, advisors and scouts often overlook or forget important details. This article is the first in a series that will cover important topics so that Ambassadors can be familiar with them.



Philmont requires that each single-sex crew has a minimum of **THREE** adult Advisors. If the crew is co-ed **FOUR are required**, two male and two female. This provides flexibility if an adult Advisor needs to leave the trail.

If a youth participant must come off the trail for any reason, their parent cannot accompany them IF it would result in the crew becoming a Substandard Crew as described later in this article.

All advisors should understand they function as advisors for the entire crew, not just their own children. They are responsible for ensuring the crew follows all BSA and Philmont rules. The exception to this would be for an adult who is caregiver for a special-needs or disabled Scout. If so, they are expected to work directly with that Scout to ensure their safety and successful trek completion.

Co-ed/Female Crew Leadership Requirements

Crews with female youth are required to provide at least one adult female Advisor while *en route* to and from Philmont and while on trek. While on the trek, a coed crew must have two male and two female adult advisors.

Council Contingent crews may have a mixed registration of Scouts BSA, Venturing, Exploring, and Sea Scout members.

The guidelines for units to attend as a co-ed Philmont crew per BSA Policy are below. A unit can attend coed by one of the two options listed:



Adult Advisors are crucial to the success of a Crew. Philmont has standards that have to be met at all times while at the Ranch. *(Philmont Photo by B. Richards)*

1) Attending as a linked male and female Scouting America troop in the same Philmont crew:

- Scouts BSA is a single-gendered program; as such, male and female Scouts BSA troops can attend together in the same crew **IF each troop** provides their own leadership in the Philmont crew. Each troop must have a minimum of 2 adult leaders age 21+ attending in the crew. This is a total of 4 adult leaders age 21+ for a Philmont crew composed of 1 female troop and 1 male troop that are linked.
- Units who do not share the same charter partner must have local council and both charter partners approval per the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require buddy pairs to be single gender. However, a third youth/participant may be added to allow for a mixed gender buddy group of 3. At least 2 youth members of each gender must be present in each Philmont crew to meet requirements for buddy pairs.
- Although **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require 2 adult leaders age 21+ to attend with a crew, **Philmont requires 3**. If female youth are present, at least one of those leaders **MUST** be female.

2) Attending as a Venturing Crew, Sea Scout Ship or Exploring Post:

- Venturing, Sea Scouting, and Exploring are coed programs.

- Members of these programs can attend coed as long as Scouting's **Barriers to Abuse** are met.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require buddy pairs to be single gender. However, a third youth/participant may be added to allow for a mixed gender buddy group of 3. At least 2 youth members of each gender must be present in each Philmont crew to meet requirements for buddy pairs.
- **Scouting's Barriers to Abuse** require 2 adult leaders age 21+ to attend with each Philmont crew, **however Philmont requires 3**. If female youth are present during an activity, at least one of those leaders **MUST** be female.

Substandard Crews

Any time the crew fails to meet the Adult Leadership Policies above, they are considered a "Substandard" Crew. Philmont will make every effort to implement alternatives to permit the crew to stay on the trail. Philmont's objective is for every crew to succeed and enable them to complete their trek if possible. The crew should understand that if there are no workable alternatives, the crew will have to come off the trail and depart Philmont.

Philmont also has standards for the make-up of Crews, and these will be covered in the next Ambassador Update.



Crews get to stay in larger PTC tents, shown here with “Bed in a Box” blankets, when they *Stay and Play* before or after their Trek. (Philmont Photo)

Bed in a Box

Philmont Training Center has made it easy to enjoy staying in Terrace Tents and Deluxe Family Tents with their “Bed in a Box” option. For only \$8/night, guests get to use a pillow, pillowcase, premium cotton sheets, southwest blanket, duvet, face towel, and a large towel. These make it much easier to pack for camp, especially for those flying or taking the train to Philmont. Crews in the *Stay and Play* program can save their sleeping bags for the trail or enjoy real bedding after their Trek.

New *Stay and Play* lets crews enjoy more of Philmont

Crews can now get an edge before their trek by arriving early to acclimate to the altitude. They can also extend their adventure after a Trek to celebrate their achievement. With the new “[Stay and Play](#)” option, they’ll get to use the Philmont Training Center (PTC) facilities and enjoy access to unique experiences, local attractions and relaxing accommodations.

Any registered Philmont crew arriving before or staying after their trek can participate in *Stay and Play*. This includes families and advisors who want to enhance their Philmont experience.

They will be staying in PTC tents which sleep 2 but are larger and have nicer beds than those at Camping HQ. Tents have electricity and folding chairs for a more comfortable transition into or out of the backcountry. PTC offers individual-entry restrooms providing privacy and convenience.

By being already at Philmont, there will be no last minute rushing to get to the Welcome Center on your arrival day. The 6,600 foot elevation will give crews additional time to acclimate to the altitude they will experience on the trail. They’ll also have more time to peruse the Tooth of Time traders for souvenirs and last minute essentials.

Crews arriving early can take part in their required Camper Conservation Project before hitting the trail, allowing for a smoother trek experience. They’ll work on a hands-on conservation project at Cito Creek contributing to Philmont’s legacy of

stewardship.

For those crews whose itinerary does not include scaling the iconic Tooth of Time or for those who want to do it again, they can! Offered only to crews participating in the Post-Trek Stay at the Philmont Training Center, this hike to the top of the iconic Tooth of Time provides the perfect closing chapter to a trek. Crews can take in the views, capture a final crew photo at the summit and reflect on their journey together before heading home.

To get used to the altitude, there are the 0.75 Cito Creek Trail loop, the 2.25 mile T-Rex Trak hike, or the 3 mile Lovers Leap hike. Crews can tour the Villa Philmonte and National Scouting Museum. They can also make use of the Craft Center to fashion their own unique Philmont souvenir.

Crews can upgrade their stay by participating in staff-guided *Adventure Pass* programs, available as half-day or full-day options. This pass allows them to join activities that are already scheduled at the Training Center. The schedule changes weekly based on events happening at the Training Center. Activities vary based on availability and may include high ropes and climbing wall, fly fishing, range and target activities, and backcountry hikes.

The basic *Stay and Play* fee is \$20/person per night with an additional \$10/person per meal. Note that there are no facilities to cook at PTC, but crews can choose to eat in town instead. The *Adventure Pass* is offered in half-day (\$40) and full day (\$75) per person options.

P2



JOIN US
FOR AN EVENING OF GREAT ENTERTAINMENT WITH
RONN LUCAS AND
BUFFALO BILLY
WEDNESDAY EVENING
JUNE 25, 2025 AT 6:45 PM
PTC ASSEMBLY HALL

“The world’s best ventriloquist”
 The New York Times
 The New York Post
 The Times (London)

ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES AND FAMILIES, PTC STAFF, FACULTY, & FAMILY ADVENTURE CAMP PARTICIPANTS ARE INVITED

Not ready yet? Then Philmont training starts today

How quickly can you get in shape for Philmont? Like everything else in life, the answer is “it depends”. One of the most common comments from Philmont Management concerning crews is that too many show up and are not physically fit for a Trek. Don’t let your council’s crews be one of them.

Well-prepared crews started training months ago. They combined regular exercise with numerous hikes both with and without backpacks. They have made shake-down backpacking trips to test their skills and gear. They are primed and ready for a life-changing Philmont experience.

Then there are crews who did not take preparation seriously. They just realizing now that in a month or two they will hike for miles with a 40 to 50 pound pack. Can they get ready in time? Well, maybe.

The first thing to consider is their baseline fitness. Do they regularly participate in some cardio sport or run, bike, swim, hike and walk regularly. If so, their chances are good of getting ready. On the other hand, if they lead a sedentary lifestyle and/or spend a lot of time in front of a screen, preparing for a Trek will be a challenge, but it is achievable. The key is simple. **They have to start NOW!**

Provided that there are no other physical issues, and they’ve checked with their doctor, a person can get fairly ready by starting a fitness program in early May. Remember that a medical professional’s approval is already needed for the Part C physical. Be sure the medical provider reads all the fine print about what is involved in a Trek before they sign off for you.

Start by just moving – walk, bike, run, or dance - for at least 30 minutes a day. You will be off to a good start. Start increasing your exercise time as you progress.

“People training for a marathon use the 10% rule,” said Paul, a distance running coach. “You can bump your regular training distance up 10% at a time and still be within your ability. Once you are comfortable with that, bump it another 10%. Your ultimate goal will be to go about 2/3 of your longest expected distance.” For a Trek with a maximum 12 mile day, you should aim for hiking 8 miles.

Be sure to vary your training. Some days go fast, some days go slow. Some days go long, some days go short. Some days



Even in a big city, Scouts can start preparing for the mountains of Philmont by taking hikes with their packs. (Scouting America photo.)

walk and other days bike. Cross-training by alternating multiple activities is ideal. Be sure to take a day off every now and then to let your body rest and recover.

Stairs are your friends. Walk up them instead of taking an escalator or elevator. Do this several times, even if it’s just walking up then down the same set of stairs. If you can’t go to the mountain, then stairs may be the next best thing. Do you recall seeing athletes running up and down stadium steps? There’s a good reason they do it.

Paul also does the Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim run which involves a 10,000 foot elevation change. “When I lived in central Texas, there was no way to prepare for those kind of elevations. You just had to build and maintain your cardio fitness,” he advised. Crews can now get a head start on acclimation with the new “Stay and Play” program. See page 8 for details.

Blend in some strength training with your cardio work. Do sets of squats, lunges, steps, and “mountain climbers”. “Mountain climbers” are an exercise where you start like you just did one push up. While your arms are fully extended and your feet on your toes, raise one foot off the ground and bring your knee to your chest or elbow, then return to the starting position. Repeat with the other leg.

With any strength exercise, it’s OK to just do a few repetitions at first. Don’t overdo it to start. You will not get fit in a day. Just make it a goal to get up to 10 to 20 reps each set and do multiple sets with a rest in between.

Start eating healthy. Cut back or eliminate non-nutritious sweets and snacks.

Thirsty? Drink water! Combined with your regular exercise, you’ll start to notice you are dropping some weight. It won’t be a lot unless you cut back a lot on calories. A common misconception is that you can lose significant weight by just by exercising. Usually this is just water weight you sweat off, only to regain it later. Most of your weight loss will come from cutting calorie intake so you are burning more than taking in.

Be aware that if you do not meet Philmont’s height/weight standard, you will not go on the trail.

By starting now, even those who are not in the greatest of shape can be somewhat ready for a Trek of 40, 50, or 60 plus miles. In any case, if you starting training now you will be much better than not training at all.

P2



Running the Grand Canyon is not a practical way to train for Philmont. However, you can start a fitness program now and be ready in a couple months if you stick with it.



Cimarron's 4th of July Parade features riders from all over the county. (Philmont Photo)

Cimarron celebrates its wild history

Cimarron, NM, is located on the land that was part of the 1,700,000 acre Maxwell Land Grant. In 1842, Lucien B. Maxwell, a fur trapper, came to the Beaubien-Miranda Ranch in northern New Mexico. He courted and married Luz Beaubien, one of landowner Carlos Beaubien's six daughters. He eventually inherited the ranch and built a mansion in 1858 on the future town site.

Maxwell built the Aztec Mill in 1864. It is preserved as the Old Mill Museum and is operated by the Cimarron Historical Society. The museum's collection includes working mill parts, Native American tools, weapons and pottery, Maxwell Land Grant paperwork, documents, and other materials.

Cimarron was officially chartered in 1859 and was named for the Spanish word used to describe a mustang, meaning "wild" or "unbroken". Cimarron was the county seat of Colfax County beginning in 1872, when it replaced Elizabethtown. At that time, Cimarron was a stage stop on the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. In 1881, the county seat was moved to Springer, a town on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. It was during this time that Lucien Maxwell, due to rising tensions, sold the Maxwell Land Grant to a group of English investors. Land disputes resulted in the Colfax County War in which more than two hundred people were killed.



In 1905, the St. Louis, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Railway laid tracks from Raton to Ute Park with the intent to haul coal between Raton and Cimarron. Passengers used the daily train service as well as ranchers moving agricultural animals. During World War II, the tracks were removed and the steel recycled to help with the shortage during the war effort.

Soon after the first tracks were laid through town, tracks were also laid 22 miles up Ponil Canyon by the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway Company to haul Douglas fir and ponderosa pine logs from the surrounding mountains. The railroad company delivered its timber to the Continental Tie and Lumber Company located in Cimarron which made railroad ties and timber supports for nearby coal mines.

Cimarron continues to thrive today in part due to its proximity to Philmont Scout Ranch as well as a summer tourism destination.

As a tribute to many dedicated crew members, key artifacts from the USS *Cimarron*, a Naval oiler, were donated to the village because it is the closest settlement to the Cimarron River Basin's Headwaters. The ship's bell now stands in front of the Cimarron High School.

Adapted from "Cimarron, New Mexico" Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cimarron,_New_Mexico

P2

New PTC Director is living her dream

Hutcherson (Continued from page 1)

ent volunteer, Amy has held positions as a Scouting professional. Most recently she was the Director of Support Services in the Three Fires Council in St. Charles, IL, and before that she was the Director of Camping Services for the Pathway to Adventure Council in Chicago. Her professional career includes time at the National Office in Texas as a Membership Growth Coach, International Program Specialist, and Cub Scouting Specialist.

Her impressive background in the Scouting program will be invaluable as she leads Philmont Training Center forward. "Being at PTC is both a challenge and an opportunity. We are going through a culture and mindset shift because PTC is not just for training anymore. It is becoming a location that will appeal to many groups and people with its new initiatives," adds Amy.

Despite her long association with PTC, she had not been very familiar with the Ambassador program which she now directs. She laughed, "I did get a Ambassador fleece jacket from a co-worker in 2016 because it was too small for her. I thought it was just another promotional item that anyone could wear."

As she has learned more about Ambassadors, she's come to appreciate their efforts. "You are a fantastic group of passionate, dedicated promoters of Philmont. I'm so honored to be able to work alongside you as we enter this new phase of growth," she elaborated.

Settling into life at Philmont can be described in one word by Amy: *Amazing!* She shared, "I've told everyone that I'm pinching myself each morning to verify this is real and not a dream! The Philmont culture is definitely unique in comparison to the other positions I've held in Scouting. The Philmont family is truly a supportive network in all ways."

P2