



# PHILNEWS

Welcome HOmE - May 2025

"Delivering wilderness  
and learning adventures  
that last a lifetime."



Rangers, Infirmary Staff,  
and Logistics Staff completed search  
and rescue leadership training.  
Photo By Julia Manipella



# WELCOME BACK!

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Summer staff checking in for the 2025 Summer.  
Photo by Julia Manipella

## More Than a Job: The Summer That Shapes You

By Andrea Watson, Unit 1



When people ask me what Philmont is like, I usually pause because it's hard to explain a place that changes you like Philmont does.

You can call it a job. Technically, it is. We have responsibilities, we complete assignments, we follow schedules. But if you've ever stood on Lover's Leap at dawn or hung out with a group of staff in the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center after a long day or sung the Philmont Hymn at the closing campfire with other staff that have become your second family,

you know this is more than a job. Philmont leaves a mark.

I've seen it in alumni who went on to become park rangers, teachers, engineers, parents and credit their summers here with shaping how they lead, how they care, how they solve problems. One former staff member told me, "Every hard conversation I've had at work, I've approached like managing a situation at Philmont, calm, direct, with trust." Another shared, "I learned what it meant to have purpose, because Philmont gave me one."

During my own five summers on Philmont seasonal staff, Philmont is where I learned to lead for the first time. Where I learned to fail forward. Where I learned that the hardest days — the dust, the exhaustion, the unpredictable curveballs — are often the ones that teach you the most.



But Philmont doesn't shape you by accident, it happens when you let it. This summer, be intentional. Choose growth. Choose kindness. Choose to make decisions that reflect who you want to become, not just who you are today. Whether you're solving a tough problem or simply showing up with a good attitude, every moment is a chance to lean into the person Philmont is helping you become.

This summer, maybe you'll hike long miles, cook thousands of meals, drive trucks through sudden hailstorms, haul gear, or handle radio calls that start with, "Well, this is going to sound weird but..."

And somewhere in the middle of all that, you'll grow. You'll build resilience, compassion, resourcefulness, and joy. The kind of growth that stays with you long after the tents come down and your nametag fades.

This isn't just a summer job. It's one of those rare experiences that becomes part of who you are. I'm glad you're here. Let's make it count together!

**"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others, and the world remains and is immortal."**  
- Waite Phillips



2024 crews arriving at the Welcome Center ready to meet their rangers.  
Photo by Caroline Fallin

# Welcome HOmE!

By Matt Hart, Unit 2



If this summer is your first time on staff, know that the way we spell HOmE is to remind you that this special pile of rocks is often called “Heaven On Earth.”

Welcome HOmE! These simple words can create a feeling of comfort and belonging, a sense that you are valued and respected. A home is a place where we feel safe, can let down our guard and be our authentic selves. Hearing someone say, “Welcome Home,” can create a profound sense of connection and acceptance, even if we aren’t technically in our own physical home!

The last few weeks have been spent with our leadership teams preparing for your arrival, and soon enough, the arrival of our first crews of the summer! The next week or so will be spent preparing you to take on your roles, through a variety of training sessions across the Ranch.

It is an exciting time! Something you will surely hear during this time and into the season is a very important mantra: Change Lives. No matter our roles, we all have the opportunity to change lives this summer. The Philmont experience is a pivotal one for many of the Scouts that will pass through our gates, but we don’t always think about how Philmont will change OUR lives this summer!

Work hard this week to learn your roles, how you can bring success to your department, and what you can do to give each participant a great, life-changing Philmont experience. This summer is a growth opportunity for us all. And who knows, maybe your lives will be changed forever as well! Thank you for the work you will do this summer across the Ranch, and I look forward to seeing you all in action very soon.



**2024 crew running to get their crew photo taken.  
Photo by Cami Vollmer**





2024 Rock climbing Training at Cimarrocito  
Photo by Cami Vollmer



# Catch the Energy!

By Shelley O'Neill, Unit 3



There is nothing quite like the start of a Philmont summer—the buzz in the air, the sense of anticipation, the energy building around us and that unmistakable magic you can feel but can't quite explain. Welcome HOmE.

This summer, we will serve thousands of guests, and each day will be filled with purpose, connection, and moments that matter. We will navigate unpredictable weather, unexpected schedule changes, curveballs only Philmont can throw, and all the surprising moments that lead to unforgettable stories and lifelong memories. But here is the thing to remember: the real impact doesn't just come from what we do—it comes from how we show up to do it.

This summer, I challenge each of us to catch the energy! – that spark that makes Philmont different from

It's in the way we show up for each other. The way we lift each other when things get tricky. The way we turn a small gesture into someone's best memory. It's the spirit we bring to the job, not just the job itself.

The FISH! Philosophy reminds us that energy is a choice. We can choose to:

**Be There** – Show up for the people around you. Put the phone down, look up, and really listen. Whether it is a coworker who needs a hand or a Scout pushing through something hard, your full presence can make all the difference.

**Make Their Day** – You never know how a kind word, a quick thank-you, or a small act of thoughtfulness can turn someone's entire day around. Look for moments to lift others up – you never know the impact it might have.

**Play** – Let us not forget this is fun. We are living in a beautiful place, doing work that matters. Bring your personality, your creativity, your weird and wonderful ideas. Let joy fuel your work.

**Choose Your Attitude** – Some days will test you. On those days, choose gratitude.



Choose grace. Choose to be the kind of teammate you would want to work with. Attitudes are like germs, they are contagious. Spread something worth catching.

What you are doing this summer is so much more than a job—you have stepped into something meaningful, something magical. A place where your effort, your creativity, your energy, and your heart will shape someone's Philmont story and leave a lasting mark on your own.

Let's play. Let's serve. Let's make each other's day and be there for each other.

Catch the energy and pass it on!

# Welcome HOmE!



## Join the PSA

before June 30 to vote in our  
2025 Board of Directors Election

**\$20**  
Seasonal Membership

Visit the PSA Office next to the  
National Scouting Museum

2024 Staff give out hotdogs  
to crews on top of Baldy.  
Photo by Kamila Corwin





2024 Wranglers Drive Horses from base  
through Cimarron to Ponil  
Photo by Cami Vollmer

## 1600 Hours of Opportunity

By Dave Kenneke, Unit 4



If you start adding up hours from today until the end of the Camping season, many of you may have the opportunity to spend 1600 hours at a special place with some of the best people in the world. I say many of you and then look to those who may be even luckier- those who have been here on the Ranch a while already this spring and those who may continue on in the fall. There are always great things happening at the Ranch- the Training Center is serving Adventures of a Lifetime

year-round, and other departments on the Ranch are offering programs throughout the year---but let's think about the next 1600 hours!

1600 hours may sound like a long time, but it is already slipping away! That's the total amount of time we all have to ensure that we deliver the highest quality of support and service for the greatest Wilderness and Educational Programs on earth to every single participant.

Sure, there will be other opportunities, such as days when it's cold, windy, hot, and dusty (hopefully, many rainy days, too!). There will be "opportunities" with people who may need us to reach deep into our souls and understand the challenges they may be experiencing instead of lashing out at them.



We can go the extra mile when we are tired or hungry and have answered the same question a thousand times. Opportunities when we thought we were leaving on “days,” and we are still happily fulfilling our duty of delivering those experiences of a lifetime.

Opportunities when something seemingly breaks down within the operation - or supplies and people are late according to our schedules... and of course the opportunity to make friendships that will outlast our final breath. Opportunities to spend time with those friends in a little piece of Heaven On Earth.

WAIT A MINUTE! - I have a question: How do you squeeze all that living into 1600 hours? Well, you do what Phil staff have always done, and always will do, you make it happen. You always give the most and the best, because it is the only way you know how! It is part of your nature, your DNA. It is why you are here as part of this Phil-family, which will become a part of you forever. Make the most out of every day, every hour, and every minute. Before you know it, the 1600 Hours will have passed too soon. Make all the opportunities work for you – make friends, explore, keep a journal, strive for health and happiness... and eat lots of chile---red or green or Christmas - it doesn't really matter!



**Hikers Coffee Co.** | Cimarron's cozy spot to sip, relax, and have friendly conversations

See Our Summer Schedule Today!

# Welcome to Philmont Scout Ranch!

By Kevin Stickelman, Unit 5



I am thrilled to welcome each of you to Philmont Scout Ranch for what promises to be an unforgettable season. As we embark on this journey together, I want to express my gratitude for your commitment and enthusiasm. Your dedication to creating a positive and enriching experience for our scouts is truly inspiring.

Philmont is more than just a place; it's a community where we learn, grow, and forge lifelong friendships. This summer, you will have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of countless young people. Your role is vital in fostering an environment of adventure, learning, and personal growth.

As we embrace the third point of the Scout Law, let's strive to be helpful in all our endeavors. Whether it's assisting a fellow staff member or guiding a scout through a challenging program,

your willingness to help will make a significant difference.

Additionally, let's stay mentally awake, as the Scout Oath reminds us. Being alert and mindful will enable us to seize every opportunity for growth and ensure the safety and well-being of everyone at Philmont.

Remember, every challenge we face is an opportunity to grow stronger and more resilient. Embrace each moment, whether it's a breathtaking sunrise over the Tooth of Time or a quiet evening on a porch in the backcountry. These experiences will shape not only the scouts but also each of us as leaders and mentors.

As we prepare for the season ahead, let's support one another, share our knowledge, and celebrate our successes. Together, we can create memories that will last a lifetime and inspire the next generation of scouts. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Let's make the summer of 2025 at Philmont Scout Ranch the best one yet!





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**BAR LAZY 7 RANCH** Colfax County, Moreno Valley. 594.38± deeded acres, accessed off blacktop between Eagle Nest and Angel Fire. Historic headquarters. Currently used as summer grazing; ponds and trees also accessed off county road on rear of property. Modern Survey. Qualifies for elk authorizations in Unit 55A. **\$3,629,000**

**MIAMI 80± ACRES** 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home with water shares, roping arena, steel barn with shop. Other historic barns, Pipe corrals. Far enough off road to be private. 2350 SHW 21, Miami NM 87729. **\$569,999 asking price.**

**COOL CIMARRON CANYON LIVING, 3 BEDROOM 2 BATHROOM** 2,321 sq ft home built 2009 with amazing back covered porch and attached two car garage. 29665 HWY 64 Ute Park, NM 87729. **\$535,000**

**MAXWELL PLACE** 39.65± deeded acres, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom 2 story home. Property is ob pavement with big views of the mountain range, mature cottonwood trees, 1 apricot tree, irrigation rights, domestic water meter, older well, barns, useable outbuildings, including root cellar compliment this property. 461 Elm Tree Rd. Maxwell NM 87728.

**MIAMI 40 ACRES** 320± Deeded acres, 180.80 Irrigable acres, center pivot, mid 2000's modular home, two water meters, two barns and one large insulated shop on concrete slab. **\$848,000.**

**LOTS IN TOWN NEAR ST JAMES AND NEAR THE BANK.**

# Greetings and Welcome!

By Dave Werhane, Unit 6



I hope you're ready for summer, filled with learning adventures, sunshine, and hopefully some more refreshing New Mexico rains. While we can't guarantee the rain, we can guarantee that you will find our rich Philmont history everywhere, especially in our backcountry and museums!

No matter your role at Philmont, please plan to embrace a few moments everyday looking around and enjoying what remains of those who came before us. Remember, Philmont's a vast place and a lot of our history can be found in those often-unexplored places slightly off the beaten trail, such as in the North Ponil Canyon or our Baldy mining district. I encourage you to hit the trail and discover dinosaur tracks, crazy geologic formations, breathtaking vistas, and even relics left by Native Americans, frontiersmen, miners, loggers, and thousands of others who lived on this land.

When you are in Base Camp, PLEASE stop by the National Scouting Museum! We have spent the last few years planning, curating, designing and installing new exhibits in both the Scouting Heritage Gallery and the Philmont Gallery. The Scouting Heritage Gallery now has what many believe to be the most comprehensive and complete collection of BSA History ever displayed in one location. The Philmont Gallery continues to be updated every winter and it is loaded with a lot of new photos, artifacts, and stories. The exhibits are impressive and deep, so please stop by and enjoy whenever you can.

Of course, don't forget the old favorites like the Villa Philmonté Rayado Settlement. During the Winter and Spring, the Villa has undergone a wonderful facelift in preparation for PTC's 75th anniversary and the Villa's upcoming 100th anniversary in 2027. The Villa Philmonté is always a treat so please swing by, take a tour, or just hang out during the open hour from 4-5 pm every day once the campers arrive. The rooms are stunning, the Waite Phillip's story inspiring, and the tour guides friendly!

If Rayado and the Santa Fe Trail interest you, we will be hosting candlelight tours at the Kit Carson every Tuesday & Thursday from 6 pm- 9pm. Please stop by and enjoy a historic sunset!

This summer, I hope that you take in what Philmont, the Philmont Museums and all that our historic sites have to offer. These places are your resource. So, fill your water bottle, enjoy a deep breath, and make some great memories... visit the Villa, explore the National Scouting Museum, and hike through history.

Buena Suerte y Buen Yiaje!



17 Deer Run Rd., Cimarron, NM  
PhilmontScoutRanch.org/Museums  
575-376-1136



**Open 8 a.m.  
to 5 p.m. daily!**

Hours extended to 5:30 p.m. beginning June 1



2024 Museum Staff at the  
Greens Ward on All Staff Day  
Photo by Cami Vollmer





2024 Back Country  
Staff Scatter to Uracca  
Photo by Cami Vollmer

## A Note to Staff

By Phillip Ferrier, Unit 7



Dear Staff,

The feeling in the air is always magical when the staff arrive at camp for the summer. There is always so much excitement from a group of people coming together to make a positive impact on youth and reconnect after some time away. The work you will do this season will be so impactful, and I want you to remember that those of us in the ranch leadership are here to support you in what you do.

No matter your role on the ranch, you will develop friendships. You will contribute to lasting impacts. You will struggle through a challenge and overcome it. These experiences will develop into memories you'll carry for the rest of your life. This will be my 24th summer on camp staff, and each year, I've been so fortunate to continue to make new friends, have new experiences, overcome challenges that make me stronger, and develop memories that I will forever cherish. I hope you have many opportunities to do the same!

Be sure to say "hi" when I run into you in the backcountry or around base camp this summer, and please tell me about one of the experiences you've had that has impacted you.

# Change Lives!

By Austin St. George, Unit 7a



Welcome, it is an exciting time to see all the Philmont Staff check in for the summer, starting to get ready to deliver a stellar program to the thousands of participants that will be coming soon! The participants coming have been planning and preparing for their Philmont experience for the last 2 years. As they prepare, they been getting the gear set up, went on shakedown hikes, formed their crew, and they have built up the excitement for the one thing that makes this land such a special place for millions – you the Philmont Staff!

Once they get here and are hiking in the backcountry, they will be challenged, I believe that at any given moment over the summer someone is having the most impactful day of their lives here at Philmont, having a moment that changes their lives and helps them grow to be a member of society.

It may be the challenge of breaking out of a mental box while hiking up a steep mountain or learning about the importance of conservation and taking care of the world around them, or just a just a simple moment of a crew bonding together and find the joy of the outdoors. Overcoming the challenges and sharing these moments with their crew is all part of the Philmont experience.

We need to spend our time supporting them through those challenging moments, and it takes all of the Philmont staff to do so. So, I encourage you to work hard this summer to continue to make those most important days for all our participants, to positively impact the lives of young people and their advisors through inspiration and the effective delivery of the finest Scouting possible through backcountry adventure. In doing so you will find that it will not just change the lives of the participants but also change your own. Change Lives!

# Dear Philmont Staff

By Amy Hutcherson, Unit 9



Welcome HOmE!

Whether this is your first season or your tenth, you are now part of something magical. Philmont is a place of breathtaking beauty—towering peaks, crisp mountain air, and endless skies—but what truly makes this place magical is you.

Since my first visit in 2013, I've come to understand a simple truth: people don't return to Philmont just for the views. They return for the laughter shared around a campfire, the joy felt connecting with other Scouters at a conference, the stories told under the stars, the challenges faced together on the trail, and the friendships that form in the dust and sunshine of this incredible land.

You are the reason Philmont is more than a destination. You are the reason it becomes a cherished memory, a tradition, a calling. Every Scout, Scouter, and visitor who walks this

land will remember the kindness, strength, and spirit you bring. Your dedication, your energy, and your heart are what transform this legendary place into something unforgettable.

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**

**- Helen Keller**

Thank you for choosing to be here. Thank you for giving your time, your talents, and your passion to this movement. Without you, Philmont would still be beautiful—but you are what makes it magical.

Let's make this season one to remember.



**2024 PTC having fun and bring enthusiasm at All Staff Day  
Photo By Caroline Fallin**



# Welcome, From The Philmont Training Center

By Maddy Houk, Unit 9a



Summer is right around the corner, and here at PTC, we're getting ready to welcome families, Scouts, and crews for another unforgettable season in the heart of Philmont. Whether it's your first visit or a long-awaited return, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

This year, we're especially proud to celebrate a huge milestone — 75 years of the Philmont Training Center. Join us for a special reunion week, June 29th to July 4th, as we honor our legacy with guest speakers, special programs, and a look back at the traditions that make Philmont so special.

Every evening, PTC is bustling with activities designed to bring our community together. From cobbler nights and ice cream socials to our signature Western BBQ with line dancing, branding, and games, there's always something fun happening.

Plus, our Craft Center is open daily - perfect for creating a keepsake or just relaxing with a project.

You will see our guests around base and in the backcountry starting June 5th! They are so excited to see you and what you do. To them you are living the dream!

We also have overnight accommodations available for family and friends who'd like to experience Philmont this summer. Visit our website for details on lodging, meals, and a list of self-guided adventures you won't want to miss.

We can't wait to see you this summer — whether it's for a week of training, a family adventure, or just a visit to join in the fun. See you soon!



2024 PTC Craft Center  
Photo By Caroline Fallin

# Cimarron Shuttle

Visit the historic town of Cimarron!

Shuttle service is free!!

PARTICIPANTS and STAFF



Depart Welcome Center

Depart Downtown Cimarron

**11:00am**

**11:30am**

**1:00pm**

**1:30pm**

**4:00pm**

**4:30pm**

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**Rangers, Infirmary Staff, and Logistics Staff completed search and rescue leadership training.**  
**Photo By Julia Manipella**



**Staff Photos.**  
**Photo By Julia Manipella**

# **Staff Are Here! Time to Train!**



**The Chief Ranger Nick Copeland speaking to rangers at Muster.**  
**Photo By Julia Manipella**



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WELCOME BACK — YOU MADE IT!