



PHILNEWS

Issue No. 3: Who to Know and Where to Go



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

04

Boots on the Ground, Heart in the Hills

By Owen Traub

07

Counselor's Corner

By Dr. Luke Arnold

08

Tim Rosseisen Q&A

By Riley Brown

10

Happy Birthday PTC

By Owen Traub

12

The Other Ten Essentials

By Matt Bolden

15

Announcements

16

Stream Restoration

By Riley Brown

19

Van East, The Volunteer

By Owen Traub

21

Games & Puzzles

22

On Swans & Scorpions

By Matt Bolden

26

The Tale of Four Crews

By Andrea Watson

Front cover by Sarah Peplow. Back cover by Jake Halter.



Photo by Sarah Peplow.

Boots on the Ground Heart in the Hills

By Owen Traub



Trailbound crews hanging out around their tents after their shakedown. Photo by Gabriel Milby.

What's the difference between a homebound Scout and a trailbound Scout? Some might say it's the affinity for All-Sport and Fig Newtons they gain while on trek.

Others measure it in their excitement towards the dining hall food. To uncover changes that a Scout at Philmont undergoes, Marketing and Photography Services recorded interviews with both homebound and trailbound Scouts.

TRAILBOUND

WHAT WILL YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM BE?

1. I'm excited for the burros, we're taking them from one place to another, I'm not entirely sure.
2. I'm excited for French Henry.
3. Climbing Mt. Baldy, I think sum-

miting it is really awesome, it's kind of a surreal experience.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

1. I'm extremely excited, it's going to be so much fun!
2. I feel great. As an adult I am not stressed whatsoever about the crew.
3. I'm feeling a little nervous, but also excited, I think that's just natural.

WHAT ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT

1. There's lots that can go wrong, but hopefully we can avoid all of that.
2. I guess just waking up in general. I do not wake up well.
3. The crew, since we don't have that much experience.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU GET ALONG

1. Most of us were at Sea Base last year and we didn't have any argu-

ments. We're all really close friends, I think we'll be good.

2. I could see some disagreements happening, but nothing that wouldn't happen to other crews.

3. I mean I think some disagreements, but I think we're really tight knit.

HOMEBOUND

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM?

1. Horse-riding. It's pretty interesting.

2. Rock climbing, definitely the one where I had to put in the most effort.

3. COPE program at Head of Dean. I really like the rope course at the end.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

1. I feel relieved that it's over and I also feel proud of the crew and everything we accomplished and the memories we made on the way.

2. Before I started this trek I was very intimidated. Compared to all the backpacking treks I've done before this was by far the longest and made me very nervous. Over the course of the trek as a group we would get comfortable with what we were doing which really helped us.

3. I feel proud of our group that we made it through, now I'm ready to go home and take a nice shower.

DID YOU CONQUER ANY FEARS

1. Being dirty all the time. We also saw a bear on the trail and had to scare it off using pots and pans.

2. Before this trip I was worried that our crew wouldn't make it through. We had a few people in our crew that

were struggling a little bit. At the end everyone made it through, and it didn't really seem like that big of a deal.

3. I barely had any ideas about what to expect. I heard there was a lot of walking and good views. The hiking got hard. The pack was always heavy and unbalanced but I asked myself 'what am I saving my energy for? This is the real thing. This is where I go all out.'

DID YOU GET ALONG

1. In the beginning my troop was arguing all the time but near the end of our trek we established more of a connection together.

2. I feel like our crew dynamic at the start was not organized. Towards the end we really bonded together and we put stuff up way faster and had way more fun

3. We were coming from pretty different age gaps but over the course of the trek we really brought each other up and that made us a really powerful team.



Crews practicing how to pitch a tent.
Photo by Muriel Alldredge.



Troop 702 from Highland, MD playing a competitive game of hackey sack. Photo by Gabriel Milby.

Counselor's Corner

By Dr. Luke Arnold, PhD, LMFT, NCC



Why is Men's Mental Health month important? According to the Anxiety & Depression Association of America, men

suffering from mental illnesses are less likely to receive mental health treatment or diagnosis, and part of this is due to the stigma about a man speaking out about it, deeming it as a weakness. Men are less likely to openly discuss mental health issues and seek help than women, due to social norms, reluctance, and belittlement from others, and these stigmas have a significant impact on males, according to the ADAA. Men often face pressure to "man up" when speaking out about mental health issues, and it is seen as a form of weakness or not "manly."

The good news is that some of these stigmas are starting to go away. It is safe and healthy for all of us to reach out to others when we need to. Prior to 2020, we were moving really fast. Then we screeched to a halt. Then we began to restart slowly. Part of the beauty of slowing down is your ability to take in and appreciate more of what is happening. You get to be at Philmont! You get to hang out and play! Savor it.

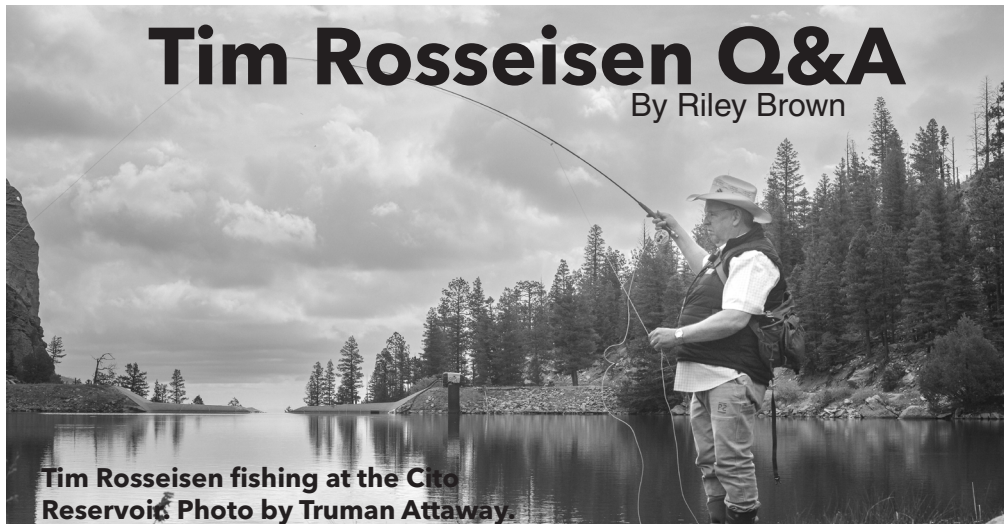
Here are some actions that may help keep some of the focus on self-care activities as you continue to transition into life at camp:

- Slow down.
- Have fun.
- Be curious.

This summer is going to be amazing. Just remember, day in and day out, through the challenges and the successes, the one constant that you have is you. When you take good care of yourself, you'll be exponentially better at taking care of others.

Tim Rosseisen Q&A

By Riley Brown



Tim Rosseisen fishing at the Cito Reservoir. Photo by Truman Attaway.

Tim Rosseisen is a Philmont Seasonal Staff Member who has worked on the ranch for a total of sixteen years. His first seasonal years were in 1984, coming back years later in 2022. For the last four years he's served as the CHQ Special Project Manager. In interviewing someone deeply embedded in Philmont's culture, we've documented some of Tim's favorite aspects of camp and explored why he continues to return year after year.

Q: What does the position of Project Manager entail and what's that like?

A: It's got a wide-range title. Our office handles situations that come up that don't fall into any other department's hands. It's everything from people who need to rejoin their crew late or advisors who aren't behaving nicely. We handle all the National Camp Accreditation Programs. So, every Scouting America camp has to go by these standards, and Philmont [has] 30 of

these camps who have to be accredited because of all the Backcountry Camps. We've got a lot of ground to cover.

Q: How has Philmont ultimately impacted your life?

A: Outside of camp, I own a small business in Breckenridge. I've really learned to coach and develop really good employees, some have worked for me for 15 years. What I've learned here being a camp director, I've learned how to work with people, which has been a huge benefit for me outside of Philmont. Inside Philmont, it's the common goal we all share to make this place great. As a lot of people say it's just a pile of rocks, but in another way it's the people here that make that pile of rocks so special. The people I get to work with or just get to know from being here is super valuable to me—it means a lot.

Q: Why do you keep coming back to Philmont?

Tim Rosseisen

A: I don't feel like I'm old enough to be retired, that's for sure. I think the reason I keep coming back though is the friendships I've built, just over the last four years. And also watching people develop into leaders after just four years. I can't get enough of it. It's just one of those things that you really feel like you're making a difference. Whether it's just doing your job or coaching or talking to people who need someone to talk to. That's why I come back.

Q: Tell me about the Veterans Flyfishing that takes place in the fall, how you got involved, what they're about, and the impact they can have on participants.

A: It came about because people on the ranch committee thought it would be a great idea if we were helping out our veterans. I reached out and got help from a few people and we've been doing it for 13 years now. It's probably one of the most rewarding programs because a lot of these veterans haven't been to

Philmont, but they know about Scouts. So, I became the coordinator for that program, and as we started doing more of it, we got more and more participants. Most are veterans who were in combat and most have traumatic brain injuries or PTSD. Flyfishing is a great tool to use because you're constantly moving and constantly thinking. It really lets them relax a bit. And then the comradery you have in the evenings—a lot of times they know each other from different units they served in but had no idea. It's a rewarding program. And we usually get about 15 veterans from northern New Mexico, west Texas, and central Texas.

Q: How much has Philmont changed in the time you've been here?

A: A lot. I think...I don't look at it at all in a negative way, I look at it more in a positive way. Times are changing and we're not going to live like we did in 1985. And, it's a



Tim's tackle box. Photo by Truman Attaway.

generational thing. If you can't adapt to the times of what's going on, then you're just going to be an old curmudgeon. Personally, I think we're doing great things here just as well probably better than we did a long time ago here at Philmont.

Q: What do you hope for future change within Philmont in upcoming years?

A: I like to see our attendance [grow] at Philmont. The best way that can happen is word of mouth because whoever has been to Philmont is our best person to let other people know. We need to make the best possible experience we can for the participants that come here, not only for them but for the staff that works here. So, if we get quality staff that constantly return and

then we get Scouts that keep coming back or have other friends that they tell, then that is great for the future of this place. I see a difference just with this year because we have really great staff and a lot of them have returned, over 50% return rate, and I think that's really good.

Q: Any closing comments?

A: A lot of times when you're working here at Philmont, no matter what job you have, it could be projects manager, dining hall, maintenance, marketing and photo, you're going to have bad days. The good days you have will certainly make up for them and if you learn from whatever made that bad day a bad day, just move on and keep your head up. Things will get better the next day, and this is a great place to learn that.

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A promotional image for Hikers Coffee Co. The background shows a woman with long brown hair and sunglasses sitting on a red and white striped couch. In the foreground, there is a large, clear plastic cup filled with a red and blue layered drink and a black straw. To the right of the drink is a white coffee cup with a red rim and handle. The cup features a graphic of a mountain range and the text "Hikers Coffee Co." with a small red cross symbol. In the bottom left corner, there is a QR code. Below the QR code, a red banner contains the text "See Our Summer Menu Today!".

Happy Birthday PTC

By Owen Traub



Happy Birthday Philmont Training Center! 2025 marks 75 years of the Philmont Training Center serving as a place for learning, connection, and adventure. For generations, PTC has brought Scouts, leaders, and families together through conferences, programs, and experiences that leave a lasting impact. As the PTC celebrates this milestone, it's also looking ahead to the next 75 years. With more participants attending this summer than in any of the past several years, the PTC is growing and evolving to meet the needs of Scouts and families seeking new adventures and meaningful experiences at Philmont. From June 29th to July 5th, the PTC

hosted guests with historical presentations, tours, skits, songs, and a variety of activities to showcase its appreciation for the Ranch and its visitors. Guests explored the Craft Center, where there's something for everyone—from jewelry making and woodworking to painting and other creative pursuits. Over the decades, the PTC has also been a gathering place for professional Scouters, educators, and entertainers, adding depth and variety to Philmont's story. Beyond programs and events, the PTC plays a crucial role in supporting the Ranch's operations. Staff work tirelessly to create engaging activities, manage logistics, and ensure that families, crews, and conference attendees enjoy their time at Philmont. As the PTC turns 75, we honor the dedicated staff and volunteers who make this special place thrive—and we look forward with excitement to all that the future holds. Now, who's ready for some birthday cobbler?





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NEW ITEM

The Other Ten Essentials

By Matt Bolden

Abreu Camp.

Photo by Logan Albrinck.

In my time at Philmont, I've learned that packing lists can only get you so far. Experience is the best teacher, bar none. In that sense, here are ten things that you should make sure and have with you during your time in the Backcountry.

Stoke:

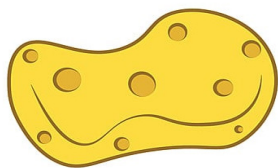
Because somewhere, somehow, it will rain... and your socks will get wet. Stay sunny on the inside



Zen Patience: For bear bags. For lost tent stakes. For the "Scenic Route." For people who snore.

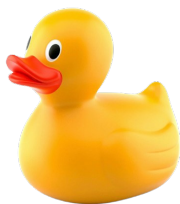
Flexible Definitions of Cleanliness:

Showering is a concept, not a guarantee.



Existential Acceptance of Smell: At some point, you are the funk in the tent. Let go of earthly pride. Embrace Eau de Backcountry.

Rubber Duck: Tom Hanks needed Wilson to get through living on an island alone in Castaway; an inanimate companion to project all your worries, concerns, and frustrations onto is a must for the backcountry. (P.S.: you can give them fun names like Bartholoreginaldo)



The Joy of Painting Season 18

Episode 12 "Southwest Serenity":

Whether you can



break out your trusty backcountry dvd player on top of Baldy or choose to bring out the standard issue

PhilVHS® Reader to watch it during a campfire lull, this Bob Ross staple is sure to help you capture the backcountry's beauty in all its watercolor-y divinity.

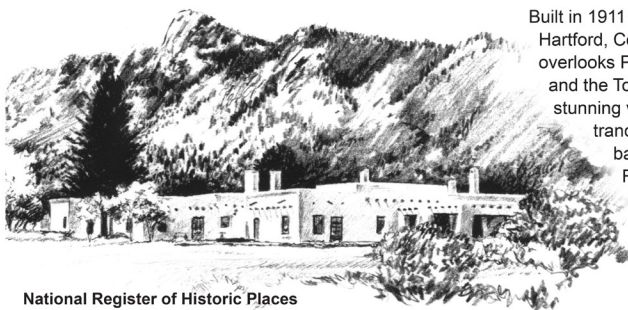
Resilient Sense of Humor: Because someone will drop the dinner. Or the coffee. Or get the bear rope stuck on the bear cable.

Strategic Selective Hearing:
Useful when someone suggests, “Let’s hike one more mile!” or when your crew leader yells, “Only 2 more switchbacks!”

Profound Philosophical Musings:
Who am I without Wi-Fi? Is trail mix an identity? Is the Tooth of Time actually a tooth?

The Will to Keep Walking: When it’s hot. When it’s cold. When your feet look like raisins. Because Philmont calls you back—even when you swear this is your “last trek ever.”

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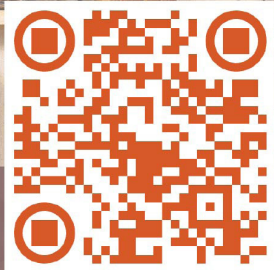
Contest Rules & Entry Details can be found at registerphilmont.org/photocontest

CATEGORIES

Humor
Action
Living History
Portraits
Animals and Wildlife
Landscape
Candid

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar Events

- 7/7** Trivia, 8pm-10pm
7/10 Brat Day, 11am-1pm; Board Game Night, 8pm
7/11 Movie Night
7/12 Trinkets and Trade
7/18 Tie Dye Social, 3pm-5pm
Ice Cream Nights, every Tuesday at Matt Hart's House, 8pm
Chapel, every Sunday 7-8pm

Business Hours

- National Scouting Museum:
8am-5pm
ToTT: 7am-6:45pm
Villa: 8:30am-5pm
Yurt: 8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm
Cantina: 9am-6:45pm & 8pm-10pm

Work at Philmont Full Time

Lead Maintenance Technician-Tent Repair
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Housekeeping Lead
Housekeeper
Ranch Technician-Forester
Store Assistant Manager and Snack Bar
Store Assistant Manager and Warehouse



Looking to join the Philmont team after this summer? Check out our website!

Stream Restoration

By Riley Brown



Cito Creek Restoration.
Photo by Isaiah Mitchell.

Since 2022, Philmont's Conservation Department has worked on a Creek Restoration Projects. Cimarroncito Creek runs through Hunting Lodge down to Springer. In the past the restoration site was at Lower Bonito, a much narrower channel, but this year it's taking place for the first time at Cito Creek. The work at Cito Creek is being supported by a River Stewardship Program grant from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for \$409,400.61. Each day around four separate groups of crews would come in to tackle this conservation project. In order to earn an arrowhead three hours must be completed. This project is one of the ways at Philmont some of the crews are checking the box before hitting the trail. Their goal is to trap sediment in order to raise the water table via beaver dam analogues or "manmade beaver dams" to promote biodiversity. Within each group, half would wade into the creek and make a wall out of juniper branches around several wooden poles while others dug out mud and placed the layers on top of the branches, alternating the materials to ensure no water got through. Kyle Oakley, Stream Restoration Foreman comments, "New Mexico is only 0.6% wetlands, but they house 85% of biodiversity."

With a history of over-grazing and driving out beavers, restoration is more important than ever. "I think

there's so many benefits," Oakley continues, "It's really advantageous and really good for the ecosystem. It supercharges the environment and gets those keystone species established and works its way up."

Although work at Cito Creek only began in June there's already been noticeable changes. Fish and small amphibians are returning as the water levels rise and get restored to their original grandeur. Robert Slater, one of the stream restoration staff echoed Oakley's view,

"With educational benefits we can teach people why this work is so important for our health and the ecosystem's health."

The overall sentiment of the



Crews and the Conservation Department making beaver dam analogues. Photo by Isaiah Mitchell.

Stream Restoration



Crews scattered along the bank of Cito Creek gathering juniper branches and mud. Photo by Isaiah Mitchell.

project was healing nature while having a minimal impact. The work is a Process-Based Restoration, meaning the goal is to help the environment so it can then build itself back up without the need for more human interference. Seth Mangini, project manager for the restoration project shared, "Human activities often result in the simplification of natural systems that were previously complex. This might mean the removal of species, or in the case of a stream, taking a wetland system that had multiple channels and a lot of groundwater storage and straightening and incising them. This results in a system with less resilience in the face of disturbances such as drought and fire."

Furthermore, within the site there was no heavy equipment, only handheld tools. The crews spread out along the stream competed with each other on who could build their dams higher and achieve a greater water height. Troops 101 and 104 stated, "I learned that lifting the water level will help rebuild the ecosystem and [that] water is very important for all the wildlife. And with certain human effort we can convert back to what nature's supposed to be." So how can people keep helping? Continued education and being conscious of individual actions can have large effects on mitigating human impacts to the natural world. As Kyle Oakley said, "We're young and it's going to be us that has to fix this."

Van East, The Volunteer

By Owen Traub



Van East outside the Philmont Welcome Center.
Photo by Gabriel Milby.

"You're going to have the time of your life!" As one of Scouting America's most experienced volunteers at the Philmont Welcome Center, with over 75 years of Scouting experience and leadership under his scouting uniform belt. Mr. East greets hundreds of campers every day, dressed in a traditional scouting uniform, ready to soothe their nerves and excite them for the journey ahead. Mr. East lives a life made up of diverse experiences, such as helping to start Troop 36 in his hometown of Ashland, Mississippi, opening and operating his own pharmacy for 60 years, and of course, hiking Philmont trails. Embarking on his first trek in 1953, Mr. East is well-versed in the summer's itinerary, "The anticipation

is fun, actually doing it is fun, but the memories will last a lifetime."

Although much of the staff are either college age or freshly entering the workforce, Mr. East is happy to work alongside younger staffers, "It gives me energy to see all the energy y'all have . . . I'd say that's the biggest plus." From the moment he stepped off of the arrival bus with his guitar strapped around him, Philmont Staff knew that Mr. East wasn't going to allow himself to be defined by his age. Throughout his time at the ranch, he has successfully impressed, entertained, and inspired scouts and staffers alike.

Mr. East's position at Philmont also brings another crucial aspect of the staff ecosystem to light: volunteers. Although Mr. East is no stranger to Philmont, this summer is his first time here as a volunteer. While paid staff are either seasonal or present year-round, volunteers tend to stay for about two weeks, helping fill critical roles. Mr. East decided that he was having too much fun, so he extended his stay to continue teaching new Scouts Philmont 101. Mr. East speaks highly of the education that scouting has provided him, stating that "they'll learn more [useful skills] out here than they will next year at school". He also emphasizes that Scouting is more than hiking and knot tying. Mr. East

Van East

explains that experiences one gains from earning their Eagle or hiking Philmont are necessary for a young person's development. After his stint here, Mr. East has more retirement plans. He wants to finish his autobiography to document his life experiences and lessons. Additionally, he plans to record an album, as he is adept at playing guitar and singing.

Van East is many things. Storyteller, writer, Eagle Scout, and what he considers his most important role – a Philmont Volunteer. He is someone who helps out and fills a role when no incentive is being offered because he loves Philmont. He believes in what Philmont stands for and is trying to accomplish in the lives of Scouts, because he knows what it did for him.



Van East on All Staff Day at the opening program. Photo by Gabriel Milby.



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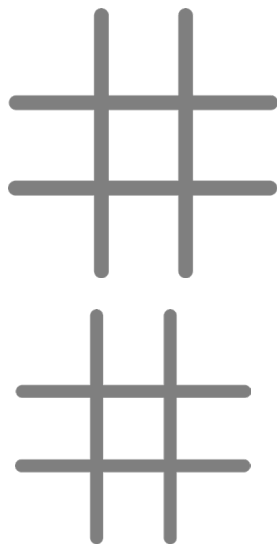
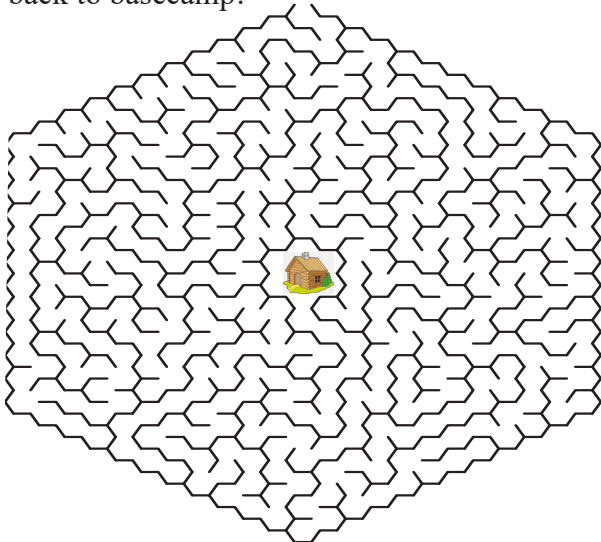
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Help the burro get
back to basecamp!



On Swans & Scorpions

The Wonderful World of Philmont Stargazing

By Matt Bolden



Stars at Ring Place. Photo by Matt Bolden.

Stars connect us across generations and time, across distance and environment. These wondrous balls of gas reveal themselves to all who seek to find them, specifically at Ring Place. At this particular staff camp, many scouts have their first opportunity to point out individual stars and look through a powerful telescope. The constellations that can be seen there have changed in name over time and across history and cultures. For example Scorpius and Cygnus, the Scorpion and Swan constellations, were known to others in the past as a coconut tree and hen. It's the longing to find meaning amidst the blanket of twilight that's an intrinsically human activity via the art of wondering. So what's the deal with these pictures a bunch of long-dead old farts saw in the night sky thousands of years ago? The wonder they evoke is what drives us to learn and to know more, and ultimately wonder is the name of the game at Ring Place with Astronomy.

As the sky darkens, water and coffee are set to boil on the stovetop in the cabin kitchen for participants to enjoy while stargazing. The chill of the Valle air bites the skin as eyes wander from dot to iridescent dot. Constellations, Globular and Stellar Nebulas are pointed out to participants, as well as the historical perspectives and stories each picture holds inside. Included in this experience is often the first chance for many participants to see the

milky way with the naked eye. Benjamin Jinkins, Camp Director of Ring Place, notes that whenever he walks outside alone, "it really sinks in just how vast the universe is." This vastness and dwarfed sense of scale is why stargazing is something that people come back to and never get sick of. Knowing that the heavens above are merely a mirror made of the same gases that humanity evolved from.

Our own sense of personhood is reflected in contrast to the stars above, but also the similarities we have among one another. As CD Jinkins puts it, "We like to end our program with an overview of how all matter was formed through fusion in the stars and so we're all kind of made of the same stuff and that kind of connects us in a way that's pretty deep if you think about it." He goes on to point out that, "being connected in this way makes me think about how important it is to be courteous, kind, clean, obedient, et cetera. In the end, a lot of what really matters is how we treat each other and how we treat the earth." He summed up why astronomy is so important both as a program at Philmont and as a discipline in life. Look up at the stars and think on how each person and thing you interact with was thrust out in the Big Bang trillions of years ago. In the context of the universe, the things that make us different pale in comparison to the things that make us similar to one another.

On Swans & Scorpions



Ring Place Cabin. Photo by Matt Bolden.



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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 on 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.

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The Tale of Four Crews

Trail Notes from GM Andrea Watson

Last week, a massive afternoon storm rolled through Philmont. One of those classic monsoons that seem to come out of nowhere—soaking rain, hail, wind, and the kind of thunder that makes you feel small under the big New Mexico sky.

That day, I ran across four different crews who all experienced the same storm, but each responded in their own way. Their stories stuck with me, and I've been thinking about them ever since. Because in the end, these crews didn't just show us four ways to handle a storm. They reminded us why Philmont matters.

Crew One had enough. When the hail came down and the trails turned into rivers, they called it. They returned to base and decided their trek was over. Sometimes, the challenge feels too big. That day, they reached their limit.

Crew Two almost made the same decision. They came back early, wet and discouraged. But the next morning, something shifted. They laced up their boots, picked up their packs, and headed back out. They didn't let one hard day define the rest of their trek.

Crew Three didn't turn around at all. They kept moving. They changed plans, stayed safe, and made it to camp late that night, tired and soaked but still smiling. They found a way

forward and stuck together the whole time.

Then there was Crew Four. They thrived in the storm. They laughed in the rain, cheered when the hail started, and told me, "That was epic. We can't wait to tell our Moms." For them, the challenge wasn't a setback. It was the point.

Four crews. Same storm. Four different responses.

This isn't a ranking of courage or toughness. Everyone faces tough moments at Philmont. Some days you need a break. Some days you find the courage to try again. Some days you push through. And once in a while, you find joy even when it's hard.

To our participants—remember why you came here. This place asks a lot of you, and you're meeting the challenge. Keep going.

To our staff—your support, attitude, and steady leadership in these moments matters more than you may realize. You're the difference between a crew giving up and a crew finding their strength.

We're about halfway through the season. Storms will keep coming. But so will the stories. And how we respond, together, is what makes Philmont unforgettable. Let's encourage one another to keep going. And when the next storm hits—and it will—ask yourself: which crew will I be?



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