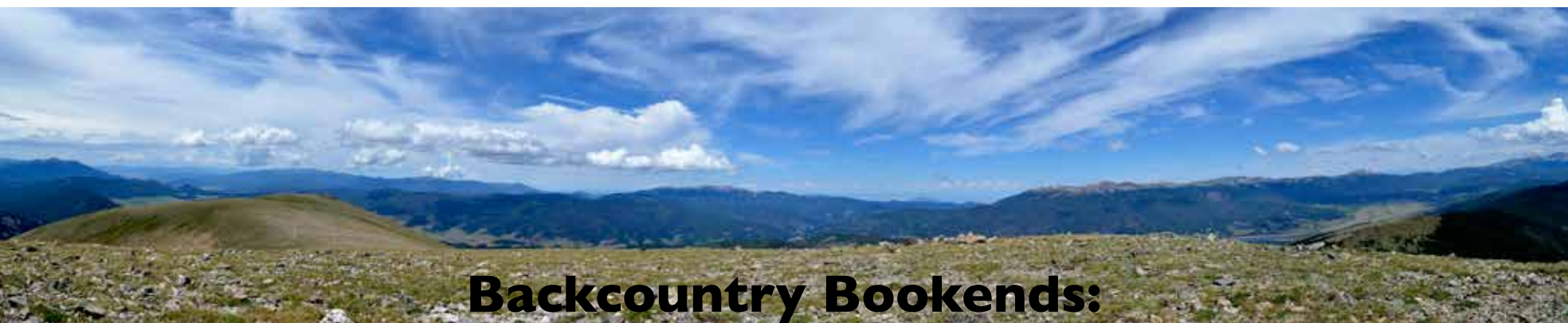


# PHILNEWS

AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2014

76 YEARS OF  
PHILMONT

ISSUE NINE



## Backcountry Bookends: A to V in the Valle Vidal

*Backcountry Bookends is a column prepared by the Backcountry Managers to help inform Philmont staff about the different camp regions of the backcountry.*

**Matt Hubbard**  
Unit 45

What do you get when you combine the National Forest, Philmont and big circular tents? The Valle Vidal unit of the Carson National Forest of course! The Valle Vidal is over 100,000 acres of Ponderosa Pine forests and sweeping meadows. This unique landscape is secured with a partnership between Philmont and the Carson National Forest which includes special hiking and camping privileges in exchange for conservation work and stewardship. The Valle Vidal (Valley of Life) offers a spectacular landscape unlike anything found on Philmont property. Although we all know and love the long and lovely Beaubien meadow, or the robust, aspen encrusted meadow of Miranda; the Valle meadows offer a sweeping vista where you can wander to the middle and stand half a mile from any tree. Just south of Little Costilla, with the Clayton Corrals as a departure point, you can find a meadow that is three miles long and

over a mile wide. That's bigger than Phillips Junction's Area of Responsibility! Additional mega meadows include Beatty Lakes, The Oat Field (just south of Ring), The Ring Place Meadow, and Whiteman Vega is bookended by meadows to the north and south. Punctuating the meadows are hogback walls of rock, one of which runs directly behind Seally Canyon from the NNE to the SSW and eventually intersects with Mt. Baldy. Another hogback affectionately known as The Rock Wall runs due North/South from west of Ring Place down to Mt. Baldy. Go ahead, take out your map, and check these bad boys out, they're pretty cool!

As a part of the land agreement with the Carson National Forest, Philmont hasn't built any permanent structures in the Valle. It only maintains one true building, the Gorley Cabin, an old cattleman's cabin next to the Ring Place Corrals, which serves as the Ring Place cabin. In lieu of a cabin, the Valle camps use yurts, a circular tent from the

nomadic tradition that is either twenty or thirty feet in diameter. Ring Place's yurt is a sleeping quarters for some of their staff, while the yurts at Whiteman Vega and Seally Canyon serve as the staff cabin and hub of program activities. Philmont uses yurts to minimize our footprint and visual impact in the Valle.

The Valle Vidal is also unique because there are no wells at any of the staff camps. Although McCrystal Creek which runs in to the North Ponil Canyon is a reliable water source, it isn't enough to sustain the region. To provide water to all of the staff and scouts, a weekly water run is made to refill water buffaloes stationed at each camp. A special buffalo equipped with a pump is towed to Shuree Ponds and refilled with a garden hose; the entire process takes about two hours per camp, and an entire day to finish all of them. The buffalos contain 525 gallons of water and weigh over 4000 pounds fully loaded with water.

**Continued on page 6**

## Dan Beard Challenge Course

**Dallas Elmore**  
Staff Writer

On the Northern edge of Philmont lays Dan Beard, one of the Ranch's three challenge course camps and the gateway to the Valle Vidal for many crews.

The challenge course is Dan Beard's main program. Crews that pass through the camp have a chance to test their teamwork on several of the 11 obstacles the course offers. Before Scouts sink their teeth into big obstacles, they begin with a few initiative games.

"We use these game to burst the personal space bubbles," said Daniel Howland, the camp director of Dan Beard.

The staff uses exercises like the Human Knot or the Helium Hula-hoop to get the Scouts out of their comfort zones. It has the added benefit of putting Scouts into the correct mindset to complete the rest the challenges. The Human Knot, in particular, effectively brings crews together. By having to untangle themselves from a complex knot

**Continued on page 2**

## Rayado Ridge Dedication

**Dallas Elmore**  
Staff Writer

The state-of-the-art Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp was officially opened and dedicated to the Scouting world on July 18th.

The festivities started with a general tour of the multimillion dollar facility. Scouting dignitaries were led across the complex, examining the campsites, activities field and training pavilions. Each piece of the complex was designed with training in mind. The campsites are situated with their own particular view of the mountains surrounding the area.

**Continued on page 3**



Christine Henri / Photographer  
**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on Friday, July 18 at Rayado Ridge.**

# NEWS AND PHOTO TEAM

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Peter Friedlander

# August 2 - August 10

Saturday, 2	Monday, 4	Tuesday, 5	Wednesday, 6	Thursday, 7	Friday, 8	Sunday, 10
8 p.m. Saturday Shakes at the SSSAC Snack Zone	8 p.m. Movie Night: Back to the Future at Baldy Pavilion	9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Blood Drive at the SSSAC TV Rooms	8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Blood Drive at the SSSAC TV Rooms  8 p.m. Philmont Coffee House, location TBD	8 p.m. Dodgeball at Baldy Pavilion	8 p.m. Friday Floats at the SSSAC Snack Zone	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Brat Day at Baldy Pavilion

## Continued From Page One, Dan Beard

of human limbs, treks begin to use communication and leadership skills key to successful expedition.

At the completion of the initiative games, the leaders of the group are typically flushed out. Next, crews begin to do a combination of Dan Beards 11 challenge events. Obstacles like the Nitro Swing, the Wall, and Artesian Beams all require varying combinations of listening, communication and leadership skills. These skills fit the eight principles of COPE course development, such as trust, teamwork, leadership, self-esteem, decision making, communication, problem solving and planning.

The change in crews from the first challenge to the last is visible. “The first event they are bickering, but by the last event they are building,” Howland said “They are all smiles and are more prepared for their trek.”

Dan Beard is also the only challenge course camp to offer the Birds Nest. The Nest is a cargo net that hangs in the air between four posts. Scouts are charged with getting their group into the net without climbing directly in. Crews use creative techniques to complete the task, often swinging crew members up and into the Birds Nest.

Another popular event is The Wall. A recognizable challenge course obstacle, crews flock to the wooden monolith. Typically, crews end with the wall to incorporate the skills they’ve learned along the way.

Staff enjoy the challenge course as much as the Scouts do. Amy Compare’s, a program counselor at Dan Beard, enjoys Artesian Beams.

“It takes the longest, but it has the best reward,” Compare said.

Using 7-8 posts of different lengths, Scouts are required to finesse their way across a beams spaced unevenly apart. Once crews get a handle on the challenge, Compare adds another wrinkle.

“They have to communicate in animal voices,” Compare said.

Crews with communication issues on their treks tend to benefit from these new wrinkles more than others.

A Rayado crew that passing through Dan Beard was treated firsthand to a rigorous COPE course challenge. However, the Scouts seemed unfazed by the changing conditions. In fact, it helped them.

“There was a lot of bonding, it brought us closer together as a family almost,” said Kathryn Sweeney, from 718-RW.

Nestled between the detritus of the Ponil Complex Fire and a healthy forest, the camp uses its location to its advantage. In addition to hosting the challenge course, Dan Beard plays a BEEP game called Firesweeper for its evening program. A combination of minesweeper and Trivial Pursuit, the game is an effective way to teach Scouts about proper forest ecology.



Doyle Maurer / Photographer  
**Rayado Crew 718RW works together to get from one platform to another without touching the ground at Dan Beard.**



Doyle Maurer / Photographer  
**Crew 718RW enjoys the COPE course at Dan Beard on Monday, July 21.**

From the Editor:  
Thanks to all those who contributed stories. The NPS department appreciates all the help and support we have received.  
- PhilNews



# Continued From Page One, Dedication

There is a pavilion for group discussions and meal times, and an activities field has space for group games large and small.

Those touring the dedicated training grounds found them impressive.

"They are beautiful facilities, with opportunities to accommodate the number of participants you are looking for in group size, and the new equipment to match," said Joe Glockner, an executive board member of Patriots Path Council in New Jersey.

Glockner was on the committee that developed the first syllabus for the NAYLE program. After the tours, he and several other members of that committee were honored at the dedication ceremony with a framed satellite photo of the camp, and each of the participant campsites are named after the original NAYLE committee members.

Dedications aside, leadership training on Rayado Ridge has come full circle. For many years, variations of youth

and adult training were held at Rocky Mountain Scout Camp, near Lovers Leap Turnaround. Although the facilities were capable of handling the participant load, noticeable handicaps emerged.

"There was no room for expansion," Glockner said.

After issues with the Rocky Mountain location became untenable, the Philmont administration began looking for a suitable replacement to fill its training needs. Through sheer happenstance, Mark Anderson met with a former Scout who wished to see his leadership training grounds from the 60's. He led Mark Anderson to Rayado Ridge, where the detritus of a full fledged leadership training facility was evident.

After considering input from the NAYLE committee, the BSA facilities group and other parties, Rayado Ridge was chosen as the site of the new Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp.

None of the new facilities would have been possible without the financial support of



Christine Henri / Photographer

**John Clark welcomes the crowd to the Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp Dedication Ceremony.**

Scouting volunteer Jack Furst. A noted philanthropist for the Boy Scouts of America, Furst was involved in the project from the beginning. A Boy Scout growing up, Furst is well aware of Scouting's ability to mold leaders and wanted a location to match.

"We've created a physical

facility for excellent leadership content to be executed," Furst said.

Coupling Rayado Ridges location with its historic purpose, leadership classes have already taken off. Every session of the 2014 NAYLE summer season is full and two Wood Badge courses have already been

scheduled by councils from Texas. The staff for all of these programs appreciate Rayado Ridge for the environment for education it gives them.

"Its a time to reflect, go out into a quiet sport, the atmosphere itself is what makes it special," said Christina Morgan, a former NAYLE staff member.

## Corrections

If any corrections are seen please notify the PhilNews Editor by emailing [philmontnps@philmontscoutranch.org](mailto:philmontnps@philmontscoutranch.org) or I-Camp it to News and Photo Services.

## Submit Your Work to PhilNews

We are accepting poems, short stories, photos and artwork.

Either I-Camp or email any articles you wish to be considered. Please submit all articles by Friday to be in the following Friday's issue.

Email: [philmontnps@philmontscoutranch.org](mailto:philmontnps@philmontscoutranch.org)

## Issue Eight Sudoku Solutions

### Easy

1	2	3	5	6	8	4	7	9
5	6	9	3	7	4	1	2	8
4	7	8	9	1	2	6	5	3
6	8	1	4	2	3	5	9	7
2	9	5	7	8	1	3	4	6
7	3	4	6	9	5	2	8	1
9	1	7	2	5	6	8	3	4
3	5	6	8	4	9	7	1	2
8	4	2	1	3	7	9	6	5

### Medium

1	5	3	4	7	9	6	2	8
8	2	9	1	5	6	3	7	4
7	6	4	2	8	3	1	5	9
5	1	8	9	2	4	7	3	6
3	4	7	6	1	8	5	9	2
2	9	6	7	3	5	4	8	1
9	8	1	3	4	7	2	6	5
6	7	2	5	9	1	8	4	3
4	3	5	8	6	2	9	1	7

### Difficult

1	2	6	4	3	8	7	5	9
4	9	8	2	7	5	3	1	6
3	5	7	6	9	1	8	4	2
9	4	5	3	2	6	1	8	7
6	8	3	1	5	7	9	2	4
7	1	2	9	8	4	6	3	5
2	7	4	8	6	3	5	9	1
5	3	1	7	4	9	2	6	8
8	6	9	5	1	2	4	7	3

### Expert

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	8
8	4	9	7	3	1	5	6	2
5	7	6	8	9	2	1	4	3
2	1	4	6	8	3	9	5	7
6	9	8	5	1	7	2	3	4
3	5	7	2	4	9	8	1	6
4	3	1	9	2	8	6	7	5
7	8	5	1	6	4	3	2	9
9	6	2	3	7	5	4	8	1



# Mark's Minute: What Do We Stand For?

**Mark Anderson**

Director of Program,  
Unit 2

At the beginning of the summer, I had a conversation with most of you about what Philmont stands for, and how that defines our Brand. We know that it is a special "pile of rocks", rich in history, kindled by the legacy of Waite and Genevieve Phillips, and full of lifetime memories for all who visit it.

In our conversations, I also shared the important contribution that each of you make to insure that together we reach our full potential in delivering the best Philmont experience to participants, to fellow staff members and to our visitors. This requires that we remain focused on what each of us can do so that we can satisfying every customer's needs. What happens in one area affects every other area to one

degree or another.

All aspects of Philmont are compared against every experience that a person has had. We have been asked to live by a high standard. This means that we must live an exemplary life. Our character is always showing!

Theodore Roosevelt said, *"I care not what others think of what I do, but I care very much about what I think of what I do! That is Character!"* Roosevelt used additional words to describe character like: honesty, decency, fair-dealing, common sense, courage, perseverance, self-reliance, and truthfulness.

Whatever else character is -- and it seems to be many things -- it is the essence of humanity at its best. It is each of us working and living in a community of trust and respect, following the rules that have been laid down and incorporating them into our lifestyle.

Roosevelt said, *"At the core of every transaction, therefore, is character: its presence, its absence, its abundance, its scarcity."* This means that every action we take exposes our character, who we are and what we stand for.

I know that each of you made a personal commitment to your legacy this summer and that you have discovered ways that your "thumbprints" will enhance the Brand. I hope that you will take a few minutes this week to reflect on your summer and on the journey you have taken. There is still time to change the course to achieve the goals that you set.

I am proud of all that you have done and all that you will do in the weeks to come as we share the Brand of Philmont with each participant, visitor and staff member. Let's continue to show what we stand for!



Samantha Waidler / Photography Manager 2011

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# The Ranger Marathon:

## A Test of Physical Endurance and Metal Willpower

**Chris Zapple**  
Ranger Trainer

Among the dozens of challenges made up through the years, one stands at the pinnacle of all Philmont bucket lists. Super Black Death and The Plague may sit on a pedestal, but the elevation gains of those challenges cannot top this hike. Many staffers contemplate the strenuous task, some take the leap of faith, and few make it all the way.

The Ranger Marathon: Dan Beard to Carson Meadows, 40+ miles of hiking in under 24 hours.

The Ranger Marathon is a standardized challenge that will take you on a journey between the northernmost and southernmost staff camps at Philmont. As the crow flies, only 22 miles of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain wilderness separates these two camps. The trails and roads of Philmont, however, will take you on a journey of over 40 miles. In addition, the Marathon stipulates a 24-hour limit, which includes hiking and breaks. The hiking record is around 10.5 hours and the trail running record (yes, I said running) is around 7.5 hours.

Now that know the basics of what you're getting into, let's go over a few tips to put you in position for a successful Marathon:

1. Make sure you have at least two days off after attempting the Marathon. You will be very sore afterward and need a recovery day before returning to work.
2. Grab two other friends and take them with you. If one has to drop out, you're still following the buddy system.
3. Plan out a route. There are many ways to go, as we'll discuss later.
4. Pack up your backpack with 25-30 pounds of gear as per traditional Marathon regulations. Bring at least four liters of water capacity and lots of food!
5. Get to Dan Beard or Carson Meadows. Either camp works; it just depends on which direction you want to hike.

Preparation is key for any hike,

but especially for the Marathon. Prior to attempting the Marathon, go for a 20+ mile hike to test out how your body handles the stress of a long hike. After many miles and hours of work, the body will begin to run out of glycogens and other vital nutrients needed to function properly (long-distance runners know all about this!). Having a few longer hikes under your belt can ensure for a safer trek and quicker recovery.

While the absurdity of traversing 40+ miles in one day is part of the experience, hikers differ concerning the Marathon route. Traditionally, going through Base Camp or hiking along the highway (US 64 or NM 21) is looked down upon, so avoid these places if you don't want to argue about the legitimacy of your marathon. In addition, the traditional starting place is Dan Beard, but starting at Carson Meadows is equally acceptable. In this article, I will analyze the north to south route (Dan Beard to Carson).

The hike from Ponil Turnaround to Dan Beard is about six miles, so make sure to catch an afternoon bus the day before you start your Marathon. The Dan Beard staff is pretty awesome, so enjoy your time hanging out with them.

Starting from Dan Beard, you will most likely travel down the flat Bonita and Middle Ponil Canyons and approach Ponil from the northwest. After stopping for some water, or a quick root beer, the second stretch takes you from Ponil to the Cimarron River. At Ponil you will face your first big choice: how to get over the Dean Skyline. You can take the path through Graveyard Canyon or the switchbacks above Dean Cut-Off Camp, which will take you straight up to the top of the Skyline and down into Dean Canyon. From Dean Canyon, you can choose to take the long road to Turkey Creek Turnaround via Black Jacks or down the hot trail to Bear Canyon Turnaround. Both routes include many miles of hiking through the blistering hot Central

Country, but this is relatively unavoidable. A secondary route from Ponil to the Cimarron River includes going down the South Ponil Canyon to Pueblano, up to Head of Dean, and through Santa Claus camp before heading down to Bear Canyon Turnaround. The Cimarron River is a great place for a break.

For those taking the Turkey Creek Turnaround route, you will head up the hill to Vaca and Harlan, around Deer Lake Mesa, and down into the heart of Central Country. For those choosing Bear Canyon Turnaround, an eight-mile hike will lead you up and over the Bench to Ute Gulch, where you can stop for some fruit and milk. Once you hit southern Central Country, you can take many different routes to get to Clarks Fork where you will face one of the hardest challenges of the Marathon: Shaefer's Pass. Definitely take a break at Clark's to fill up on water and grab a snack. Shaefer's Pass is a long, 2.5-mile climb that will take the best of hikers at least 45 minutes.

After going up, enjoy the long downhill to North Fork Urraca Camp then the quick climb to Miner's Park. The next stretch, Miner's to Abreu, will require another big decision. The first route includes Crater Lake and going around Fowler Mesa. This will tear up your feet but contains few hills and a long downhill from Aguila to Abreu. The second route takes you from Miners to Lover's Leap Camp and up Stonewall Pass. The distance is slightly shorter, but going up Stonewall Pass will push your limits and the downhill will take a lot out of you. If you have weak knees, I advise you avoid the Stonewall Route. Other routes include going over Fowler Pass and down the Stairmaster (Bonito Canyon) to Old Abreu Camp.

Finally, after reaching Abreu, you have about 1.8 miles to go! Go through Old Abreu camp, take the trail up the hill, and Carson Meadows will be in sight. After finishing the Marathon, don't forget to sign the Ranger Marathon

Signature Book and leave your favorite quote.

With only a few weeks left in the season, only a handful of staff members have officially completed the Marathon this summer. If you have three days off coming up and want a challenge, test your limits and go for it! Oh, and if you think the Marathon is too easy, try the Cons Marathon: this short hike goes from the top of Little Costilla to the now-abandoned Line Camp south of Carson.

Good Luck and have fun!



Courtesy of Alex Trumble

**Rangers Jack Brown, Alex Trumble, and Max Niehaus (L to R) after successfully completing the Ranger Marathon two weeks ago.**

## Continued Training Schedule

Continued Trainings or CTs are training sessions put on by ranger trainers nearly every night of the summer from 6 p.m.-6:45 p.m. in the Walcott Room of the SSSAC. These sessions are fun and informative. All staff are welcome and encouraged to attend, we hope to see you there!

### Dates

8/2

8/4 and 8/6

8/5 and 8/7

8/8 and 8/10

8/11 and 8/13

8/12 and 8/14

8/15

8/16 and 8/17

### Topic

Meteorology and Climate Change  
GIS - Geographic Information Systems

Fire Building, Including  
Alternative Methods

What Not To Where

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Backcountry Medicine - Spiders,  
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## Continued From Page One, Valle Vidal



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### Philmont Museum Bike Giveaway

To register, fill out a form with your name, email and zip code at the Philmont Museum



Drawing will be Nov., 10, 2014  
Winner will be notified by email

pounds fully loaded with water. A full buffalo of water will get the camps through an entire week of chores and scouts most weeks. Additional water resources in the Valle are windmills, which are located around Iris Park, Beatty Lakes, and in the Whiteman Vega meadow.

An additional peculiarity of the Valle is the lack of trails. There is only one formal trail in the entire unit and that is the Whiteman Vega biking trail, another of which is under construction. However there are additional informal and social trails in addition to two track roads that weave together the camps in the region. The lack of trails means that visitors to the region need to use their best navigation and orienteering skills to successfully explore Philmont's three most northern camps; however when they are not successful at finding their way, Seally Canyon is ready and willing to step in and help.

Seally Canyon is one of Philmont's two Search and Rescue camps. The program runs anywhere from half an hour to two hours long. The focus is on informing the participants, providing them practice for what they've learned about SAR and then applying that knowledge in a realistic scenario. Some of the skills learned and applied are the history of SAR, line and other searching techniques, appropriate visual and verbal range, litter carrying, wilderness medication, and much more. Gerad, Bradley, Chase, Josh, Mark, and Sean get to play with an awesome moulage kit that includes fake blood, an exposed fracture cuff, and paint to help them recreate injuries that would require an emergency response. In addition to their SAR program Seally Canyon thrills in ultimate Frisbee and educates with an informative Ponderosa Pine fire ecology hike up to a ridge for the sunset. The staff of six at Seally has already been able to practically apply their program 11 times of the summer and graces the radio with the name "Seally Team Six".

If you are looking for a time to visit this staff that "Never Forgets To Be Awesome".

Just a couple of miles to the Northwest of Seally Canyon, Ring Place and its staff of Patrick, Jess, Jon, Molly and Will. These men and women of science are dedicated to the craft of weather prediction, food service, and astronomical presentation. Ring Place is the commissary of the Valle Vidal and flings out tens of bags of food a day. When they aren't handing out trail meals, they provide a day program of folk weather. In this program they teach scouts to predict upcoming weather patterns just by looking around. Although most of us know that a cumulonimbus/anvil/thunderhead cloud usually is a sign of an oncoming thunderstorm, they educate scouts on how to read cirrus and stratus clouds. Hopefully the diversely fascinating clouds that Ring Place inspects during the day clear away before night for their evening astronomy program. Using a telescope provided by the staff, allows them to see the rings of Saturn and the spot on Jupiter, as well as, a number of other fantastic celestial bodies. I highly recommend that any staff members planning to hike Costilla, also spend the night at Ring Place.

The most northern Valle Vidal camp is Whiteman Vega which specializes in conservation and bodacious

bike riding. With the new partnership with Giant bicycles the program is improving every day, and not just due to the new bikes, but also in part with the conservation work site ran out of the camp. Mike Crockett leads the effort to build a second, simpler, bike trail for scouts to ride on. Whiteman Vega takes a passion for teaching scouts to ride mountain bikes safely, while also having a maximum amount of fun. Sean, Joel, Logan, Luke, Peter, and Taylor are all excellent technical riders and adept mechanics who demonstrate maintenance techniques for the scout's bikes back home on the bikes up at Whiteman Vega. The Vega is the only place at Philmont that participants can engage in mountain biking. Although it is a long hike and a further drive, the patience is worth it for one of the ranches most exhilarating programs.

The Valle Vidal is a pain to reach, especially from base camp, but the payoff is worth it. It is populated by passionate people perfecting popular pastimes! These lonely men and women of the Valle treat guests the right way and try their best to include all staff in program and a good meal. The beautiful landscape north of the ranch is underexposed to staff eyes and it is a shame that more haven't taken in this beautiful environment; come for the meadows, come for the staff, come for Little Costilla, and stay because you got a flat tire.



Morgan Court / Photographer  
Flowers blow in the wind at Ring Place.

# PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarship

The Philmont Staff Association Seasonal Staff Scholarship program has steadily grown over the past seven years.

More dollars for college expenses have been awarded each year, and more Philstaff have submitted applications for these funds.

Both trends continued last summer. 120 summer staff applied for the PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarships in 2013. Thanks to our members' generosity, the PSA awarded a total of \$45,000 to 46 recipients last year.

The Philmont Staff Association is working hard to make 2014 an even bigger year for the Seasonal Staff Scholarship program. There will be more funds available for you to use for school expenses. However, you need to apply.

Forms are available around the Ranch, including the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center and the PSA office. Scholarship awards of \$500 for 1st year staff, \$1,000 for 2nd year staff, and \$1,500 for 3rd year staff will be made for the Fall of 2014 – Spring of 2015 academic year.

Payment of the scholarship will be distributed directly to the school. Applications are due August 31, 2014.

Over the past five years, \$150,000 was been awarded to Philstaff. First-year staff to seasoned veterans, Wranglers to PTC staff to Rangers, freshmen to graduate school students, the Philmont staff has been well represented amongst the scholarship winners.

All college and post-secondary education students are encouraged to apply this year.

## Trail of Courage

Philmont Scout Ranch has been asked and agreed to launch the Trail of Courage Program. Over the next few years, it will be rolled out to all parts of the Boy Scouts of America including other high adventure bases, summer camps and Boys' Life Magazine. I encourage you to join me by participating in the Trail of Courage-right Decisions/Right Now-Be Tobacco Free. Teenage smoking dropped from 36.4% in 1997 to 21.9% in 2003. However, each year since 2003 the percentage of teenage smoker continues to rise! This is a startling fact, since we know the danger and risk of smoking to our health.

What is the program? The program allows conversation to take place with each crew. These conversation focus on the seven parts of the program:

1. Become personally fit.
2. Eat a nutritious diet.
3. Exercise.
4. Be tobacco free and not smoke or use smokeless products.
5. Live free of drug and alcohol habits.
6. Learn the seven cancer danger signs.
7. Live the Scout Oath and Law

Who Leads the Conversations? Each Ranger is asked to coach the Crew Leader to guide conversations during the crew's trek that focus on each of the seven parts of the program.

On the last night of the trek, the Crew Leader will encourage the crew to take the pledge and commit to the seven parts of the program.

The recognition for making the pledge and participating in the program includes a Trail of Courage patch and Boys' Life Personal Pledge Card. These items are available to the crew free of charge at the Safekeeping Counter in Camping Headquarters.

Can Staff Participate? Yes! Each member of the Philmont Staff is asked to participate in the Trail of Courage program.

**Step 1:** Review the material in the Trail of Courage-Right Decisions/Right Now-Be Tobacco Free brochure. You may wish to discuss the program with your friends and your department.

**Step 2:** Make personal commitment to pledge to work on achieving each of the seven part so the program.

**Step 3:** Complete the Staff Pledge Card and turn it in at the Personnel Counter at the CHQ Office.

Each staff member who participate will receive the Trail of Courage patch and the Boys' Life Personal Pledge Card.

## Trail of Courage -Right Decision/ Right Now-Be Tobacco Free Pledge

"I pledge to become personally fit, eat a nutritious diet, exercise, be tobacco free, live free of drug and alcohol habits, learn the seven cancer danger signs and live the Scout Oath and Law."

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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# Weekly Advice Column: Ask Activities Department

Dallas Elmore  
Staff Writer

*This week, Philnews went to the Activities Department. We spoke with assistant manager Savannah Moore to learn about what Activities does for Philmont staff and Scouts.*

## What exactly does Activities do?

Activities handles opening and closing campfire for Scouts every night. Activities is the only department that does program for all Scouts on the Ranch. We maintain the SSAC, the Hardesty Casa Central and the fitness center and provide Staff member activities. We are also responsible for male and female tent city.

## What do you do for opening and closing campfire?

We run the opening and closing campfire. Opening campfire is more serious than closing, in order to teach the Scouts about the history of Philmont and who has lived here. Closing is more of a fun wrap-up, emphasizing how they all made it.

## What kind of events do you put on for Staff?

We have Friday Floats and Saturday Shakes that alternate weeks. Their is also Monday Movies, where we serve popcorn and play a movie. Occasionally we



Morgan Court / Photographer

**Savannah Moore, Activities Assistant Manager, maintains the SSAC and organizes events for the staff members.**

will host dodgeball tournaments, which people seem to really like. We also do tie-dye night twice each summer, along with other events like blood drives, table tournaments, open mic, the winter job fair, a 5k fun run, salsa night and Smores. We are always looking for suggestions as well.

## What can staff do on a regular basis at the SSAC?

Staff can watch TV in the main room, or go to the TV rooms. You can reserve those in advance and watch movies on DVD, Blu-Ray, or VHS. We have movies that you can rent, although we ask that staff do not take our movies permanently. In addition

to the movies, we also offer board games that staff can borrow, there is a horseshoe set out back, and staff can come and check out a map and discs for the disc golf course in the area behind the Baldy Pavilion. Rentals for games and movies are for three days.

## What do most staff members not know about Activities?

This year, Activities staff have begun to hike in the backcountry every day and deliver soda to camps to tell them about base camp activities. If you need a hiking buddy, you can show up at the SSAC at eight a.m. and join. We also run the fitness center, and staff can work out anytime. The kitchen in the SSAC is also available for people to reserve for cooking. Staff are welcome to use the kitchen as long as others are not using and they clean up their mess.

## What do you do concerning tent city?

In the SSAC, we have disinfectant and brooms for cleaning staff tents. If your tent has issues, you can come to us and submit a work order for repairs. The lights in your tents can be repaired by us. Someone is in the SSAC all



Morgan Court / Photographer

**Staff members can request to check out and order new games at the Gene Schnell Office in the SSAC.**



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# The STEM of the Universe

Rachel Thomas  
STEM Staff

The newest special trek of Philmont has hit the trail and they are off to bright start. Crew 722-ST is a group of inquisitive and contemplative minds here to learn about the science, technology, engineering and math on display in our backyard of Philmont Scout Ranch. Early on in their trek, the crew sat atop Deer Lake Mesa discussing the creation of the Universe and identifying constellations, planets and galaxies. Each of these topics were discussed with fervor, as the participants and their STEM Rangers bounced from subject to subject, the astronomy evening set the tone for encouraging curiosity, enthusiasm, and unique, hands-on learning opportunities.

The most commonly accepted theory regarding the beginning of the Universe is the Big Bang Theory. This theory originated with Edwin Hubble's discovery that the

other galaxies in the Universe are moving away from our own, each at a speed that is proportional to its distance from us. He concluded that there must have been a time, now believed to be 14 billion years ago, in which every component of the Universe was contained within a point.

Within the first billionth of a second, space expanded faster than the speed of light, doubling at least 90 times and growing from the size of a sub-atomic particle to the size of a golf ball. During this time, the Universe was approximately 10 billion degrees and filled with unstable atomic particles and free electrons, causing the space to be opaque. As the free electrons were absorbed to create neutral atoms, the Universe became transparent and rapidly lowered its temperature. Evidence of this is still observed today as background cosmic radiation and can be detected relatively uniformly throughout the Universe.

Cosmic background radiation is present primarily as microwave radiation. Only 2.7 degrees above absolute zero, it fills the universe uniformly and is believed to be a result of the Big Bang. By studying the properties of the radiation, the physical properties of the Universe can be inferred, since the radiation was emitted such a long time ago and has traveled over a great distance. It took 380,000 years for matter to cool enough that atoms could form and light to be observed, and another 4.6 billion years for our solar system to be created. The nebular hypothesis states that a molecular cloud collapsed, creating turbulence that created insane amounts of heat and caused a star to form. Most of the molecular matter within the collapsed cloud created the sun, but a small amount formed a planetary disk and the various planets that are contained within it. Some of the material was large enough to collect other molecular material, snowballing into the

planets we know today. The various levels of radiation and molecular composition are responsible for the various properties of the planets. It is believed that it took millions of years for these planets to form.

Until recently, it was believed that the Universe would continue to expand at a decreasing rate until gravity eventually halted the entire process and caused an inward collapse of the Universal components. Observations from the Hubble Space Telescope have proven the opposite to be true. The galaxies and supernovae are expanding at a faster rate than was observed previously, implying that the Universe is expanding at an increasing rate. There are many working hypotheses to explain this phenomenon, all of which involve the unknown properties of dark energy. Dark energy is thought to make up approximately 68% of the Universe and its properties are unknown, except that it is responsible for the acceleration

of the expansion of the Universe and it does not share properties with normal matter. One theory states that dark energy is space that is filled with particles that continuously form and then disappear. Today, NASA's missions are focused primarily on finding other planets and determining their atmospheric composition.

As 722-ST packed up the telescope, binoculars and laser pointers, exclamations were made about the amazing astronomy moments of the night, such as seeing the rings of Saturn and the Milky Way weaving from Sagittarius across the dome of the sky to Cassiopeia. As the crew headed to bed, ethical and practical debate continued about colonizing other planets, as well as deliberation about the ongoing efforts to understand this vast universe of which we are a part.

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# Ask the Participants

**Dominic Baima**  
Marketing Staff



**Alex Ornelas & Deneb Patoni**

Dominic Baima / Marketing Staff

“Head of Dean was a really awesome campsite. The sites were wonderful.”

“Going up [to Mount Baldy] was a challenge definitely, but it made you a bigger person. You push yourself and you set different limits for yourself and once you get up there and see everything and say wow, it makes you feel good.”



**Allison Smith**

Dominic Baima / Marketing Staff

“My favorite memory was when we got to Dan Beard and we had this big incline to get up to our campsite and I just remember getting there and it was so nice with the view and everything. We were in the valley and it was really cool.”



**Caelan Lamere**

Dominic Baima / Marketing Staff

“The best part about Philmont was the views, definitely the views. The experience was fun.”

“My favorite memory was horseback riding at Clarks Fork. We had fun and it was a good experience plus we got along really well.”



**Sara Tyrrell**

Dominic Baima / Marketing Staff

“My favorite thing was the staff because they were all fun and energetic and always helped you with whatever you needed and none of them were ever rude. They made it the best experience.”



# Exploring the Wheeler Peak Wilderness

Jason Mazurowski,  
Associate Chief Ranger

Whether you're seeing a movie, exploring New Mexican cuisine, or swimming in the Rio Grande, heading to Taos on days off is a go-to option for most staff members. Now that the summer is beginning to wind down, I would encourage those that are looking for a little more adventure in Taos to take advantage of one of the most beautiful hikes in the Southern Rockies.

Situated just northeast of Taos, the Wheeler Peak Wilderness offers some challenging yet rewarding opportunities for both day hikes and multi-day backpacking excursions. Wheeler is the highest point in New Mexico at 13,161 feet, and by far the most popular climb in the area. Complete with sprawling meadows, wildflowers, snow-capped ridges, mountain lakes, and plenty of bighorn sheep, Wheeler Peak has something for everyone.

Don't let its accolades intimidate you; Wheeler can easily be conquered on a day hike with an early start and proper planning. As always, aim to be off of the summit before noon, especially during July and August. Maps of the area can be purchased in Taos, and I would highly encourage studying them before heading off

into unfamiliar territory. Hike with a buddy and be sure to carry the ten essentials! Keep yourself safe, happy, and hydrated. You will almost certainly encounter bighorn sheep along your journey. They are generally harmless, but keep your distance and respect wildlife.

Williams Lake: The quickest route up Wheeler begins at the Taos Ski Valley and gradually ascends the west face via a series of switchbacks. From the Ski Valley, take a winding dirt road approximately two miles and park at the Williams Lake Trailhead. Follow the road on foot until it joins with the trail. The trail continues 1.3 miles through beautiful Douglas Fir forest before reaching Williams Lake and its basin. Some parties choose to camp here to get a head start the next morning. Because of the altitude and the fragile alpine ecosystem, if you choose to camp here, be sure to adhere strictly to Leave No Trace principles and bear procedures. Continue up the switchback trail until you reach the saddle between Mt. Walter and Wheeler Peak where the trail splits. Head south on the ridge to the summit, and enjoy the view!

Bull of the Woods Trail: The Bull of the Woods Trail, a second, longer option also starts from Taos

Ski Valley. Though Bull of the Woods is longer, about 15 miles round trip, it is also more gradual, more isolated, and arguably more scenic. Park at the Taos Ski Valley: the trailhead is located on the northern end of the village next to a large parking area. The trail starts out steep and rocky and follows the stream at first before leveling out and becoming a wide 4WD road. After 1.8 miles, you'll reach the Bull of the Woods pasture. Continue to follow the signs for Bull of the Woods trail as it curves northeast and then makes a sharp turn southwest at the pass. Enjoy the alpine meadows and the views of Philmont's skyline, Red River, and the Valle Vidal as you continue to follow the ridge. The trail at the top of the ridge is rocky, but easily discernable. You will pass over Mt. Walter, the second tallest peak in New Mexico, and continue along the ridge to Wheeler Peak. Huzzah!

East Fork Trail: The East Fork Trail starts near Red River and is also about a 15-mile round trip. From Red River, take NM 578 southwest approximately six miles to the end of the pavement. Turn left to go to the East Fork trailhead. Follow Forest Road 58A for approximately one mile. There is a small parking area at the trailhead. The trail follows



Courtesy of Jason Mazurowski  
**Mt. Walter, Wheeler Peak, and a bighorn sheep from the Bull of the Woods Trail.**

the East Fork Red River south for about three miles before turning west and entering the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. After about another mile, the trail will split, turn left to continue another half mile to Horseshoe Lake. Enjoy the view but guard your packs closely as marmots and other critters are rather bold in this area. Follow the trail up the ridgeline between Simpson Peak and Wheeler to about 12,900 ft. From here, continue along the ridge to the summit of Wheeler Peak.

Now that you've conquered

Wheeler Peak, feel free to explore the rest of the Wheeler Peak Wilderness. Eight of New Mexico's tallest peaks are located within the Wilderness area, along with dozens of mountain lakes, waterfalls, pine and aspen forests, and opportunities for solitude. It is truly one of the hidden gems in the southwest, offering the same spectacular views and challenging hikes as Colorado, but much closer to home and with far less people crowding the trails and peaks. Enjoy and safe travels!

## Dallas On Days Off: Rocky Mountain National Park

Dallas Elmore  
Staff Writer

Road warriors with a three day weekend will enjoy the five and half hour trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. With opportunities to pass through Denver, Colorado Springs and Estes Park, the trip offers the best of spectacular natural beauty and cosmopolitan taste.

The National Park itself offers over 300 miles of trails in 415 square miles of protected wilderness. Dominated by Longs Peak at 14,259 feet, the park contains over 70 named peaks over 12,000 feet as well. Split by the Continental Divide, backpackers can wander through lush forests and dry grasslands depending which side of the park they are on. Anyone looking to backpack in the Park should make reservations for sites in advance.

If you are in the mood for a scenic drive, Trail Ridge Road will cover 48 miles and as many ecosystems. Over 11 miles of the trip are above the treeline, offering stunning vistas of the Rocky Mountains in every direction. During the summer, the wildflowers will be in full bloom, showing off their full extravagance of color.

When staff members aren't enjoying the wilderness, they can stop at whichever cultural center they wish. Colorado Springs has the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Olympic Center, Garden of the Gods, and Pikes Peak. Denver 16th Street is home to dozens of restaurants and sports teams, as well as the beautiful Union Station in downtown. Estes Park, the human hub of Rocky Mountain National Park, is home to another kind of attraction. In

addition to the restaurants, festivals and museums, the town contains a supernatural element. Ghost hunters should look into the haunted Stanley Hotel. The hotel inspired Stephen Kings otherworldly 'The Shining.'

Staff should take I-25 north through Colorado Springs and Denver, then get off on highway 66 till it takes you to Estes Park.



Dominic Baima / Marketing Staff

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# Chaplain's Corner

## Meet the Chaplains

### Elder John Merkling LDS Chaplain

Hello, Philmont. I am John Merkling, Patent Attorney. But for two weeks, I'll be Elder Merkling, Philmont Chaplain. This seems strange to me because, as you all know, a "Mormon Elder" is young, handsome, wears a white shirt and tie, and comes in pairs. I don't meet any of those qualifications. I was "Elder Merkling" once before, which is why I speak German. That was in a galaxy long ago and far away.

I have been a Scout or Scouter for a long time. I began my Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Tokyo, Japan. Military housing was next to Meiji Park, a huge garden in the center of

Tokyo. Like Baden-Powell, I could climb the wall, sneak into the Park, and pursue adventures in a secret wonderland. Those houses were returned to Japan for the Tokyo Olympics, so my secret was safe.

I am married, and my wife, Kate, is here with me. She put me through Law school by writing accounting programs for the construction of power plants on a machine with 5K of available memory. That's right, hackers. Five Kilobytes. How many angels can you get to dance on the head of a pin? We have five sons, and as the first turned eight, I returned to scouting as a Cub Master, or more properly, Chief Perpetrator of Organized Silliness. I have walked behind each of my sons on Philmont

treks, and they all became Eagle Scouts. Four of them returned to Philmont as staff. I am proud to walk in their footsteps again.

I mentioned that I am a patent attorney. This means I work with inventors and dreamers to capture their dreams and inventions in words, and "give to airy nothingness a local habitation and a name", as Shakespeare said. Creators are perpetually young, and I am glad to serve them. Now I am Chief Patent Counsel for Terumo BCT, a maker of blood processing machines, machines that save numerous lives every day. Our parent company's corporate headquarters is in Tokyo, Japan. I'll be going to visit. I wonder if that loose stone is still missing in the wall of Meiji Park?



Elder John Merkling, LDS Chaplain.

# PHILMONT MUSEUMS

### **Philmont Museum - Seton Memorial Library**

Exhibits include Partners on the Ponil, Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp and Selected Works of E.T. Seton. The Seton Memorial Library houses the personal library and artwork of Ernest Thompson Seton. Native American jewelry, art, collectibles and one of the largest book selections in the county can be found in the Museum Gift Shop. **Open Daily 8—5:30**

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# US/Canada News

## Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian held in Iran

BBC

An American reporter for the Washington Post and his wife have been detained in Tehran, an Iranian official confirmed.

Jason Rezaian, a 38-year-old dual Iran-US citizen, and his Iranian wife Yeganeh Salehi, were taken into custody on Tuesday evening, the paper said.

Two freelance photographers, also US citizens, were being held too.

Western news organizations, including the BBC, have great difficulty operating in Iran, with journalists facing detention and surveillance.

“We are deeply troubled by this news and are concerned for the welfare of Jason, Yeganeh and two others said to have been detained with them,” Washington Post foreign editor Douglas Jehl said in a statement.

## Wikipedia blocks ‘disruptive’ page edits from US Congress

BBC

Wikipedia administrators have imposed a ban on page edits from computers at the US House of Representatives, following “persistent disruptive editing”.

The 10-day block comes after anonymous changes were made to entries on politicians and businesses, as well as events like the Kennedy assassination.

The biography of former US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld was edited to say that he was an “alien lizard”.

One staffer said they were being banned for the “actions of two or three”.

Edits from computers using the IP address belonging to the House of Representatives have been banned before, following similar acts of vandalism.

## Obama accuses firms of “cherry-picking” over tax rules

BBC

US President Barack Obama has urged lawmakers to end a tax loophole that allows US companies to avoid paying US corporate taxes.

He accused firms of “cherry picking” the rules, by moving their tax base overseas, while keeping most of their business in the US.

Know as inversion, nine companies so far this year have used the practice.

“My attitude is I don’t care if it’s legal - it’s wrong,” the president said in a speech in Los Angeles.

The potential savings of inversion were widely seen as part of the reason why US pharmaceuticals firm Pfizer attempted to buy Britain’s AstraZeneca earlier this year.

## Obama: Migrant youths without claims will be sent home

BBC

President Barack Obama has told Central American leaders that migrant children flooding into the US without legitimate legal claims will be sent home.

The presidents of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador met Mr. Obama at the White House on Friday to discuss the crisis at the US southern border.

More than 50,000 children, many unaccompanied, have been detained at the border since October.

Mr. Obama said they must deter more children from attempting the journey.

“All of us recognize that we have a shared responsibility to address this problem,” Mr. Obama told reporters at the White House on Friday, flanked by Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina, Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and El Salvador President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.

## California manhunt for tuberculosis-positive patient

BBC

Authorities in California are searching for a fugitive homeless man who has refused treatment for tuberculosis and may be contagious.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Eduardo Rosas Cruz, 25, of Mexico.

Mr. Cruz was diagnosed with the illness at a local emergency room in March but fled when asked to remain in the area for treatment.

Health officials are concerned he may be infected with a drug-resistant strain of the illness.

“We need help getting him in,” San Joaquin County public health officer Dr. Alvaro Garza told US media. “We’ve not been able to find him in places he’s told us he’s going to be.”

# World News

## Mexico charges six over Michoacan children’s home abuse

BBC

A federal judge in Mexico has charged six employees of a children’s home raided by police last week.

More than 450 children and teenagers were rescued from the The Big Family Home, where they had been living in appalling conditions.

Prosecutors believe some of the children were subjected to beatings and sexual abuse.

The owner of the home, 79-year-old Rosa Verduzco, has been deemed too old and mentally unfit to stand trial.

The six employees - five men and a woman - were charged with criminal association, abduction and human trafficking.

Police raided the home in the city of Zamora on 15 July, after protests by parents that their children were being held against their will and abused.

## Ukraine conflict: Russia accuses US of ‘smear campaign’

BBC

Russia has accused the US of launching a “smear campaign” over its alleged involvement in the conflict in Ukraine.

The foreign ministry in Moscow said on Friday it rejects “unfounded public insinuations” from the US government.

But the Pentagon says it believes the movement of Russian heavy-calibre artillery systems across the border into Ukraine is “imminent.”

The row comes as more bodies of victims from flight MH17, which crashed in Ukraine, arrived in the Netherlands.

Separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine have been accused of shooting down the Malaysia Airlines plane.

## Gaza conflict: Israel and Hamas begin 12-hour window

BBC

Israel and Hamas have begun a 12-hour humanitarian window in Gaza.

Israel said it would continue to “locate and neutralize” Hamas tunnels during the pause, which began at 0800 local time (0500 GMT), and vowed to respond if it came under attack.

International efforts to negotiate a longer seven-day ceasefire are still ongoing.

Israeli strikes killed 19 Palestinians overnight, medical sources said. Two Israeli soldiers were also killed.

Over 870 Palestinians, mostly civilians, and 38 Israelis have died since the conflict started on 8 July.

Foreign ministers from the US, UK, Turkey and Qatar are among those meeting in France later on Saturday to try to negotiate a longer-term truce.

## Air Algeria AH5017: ‘No survivors’ from crash in Mali

BBC

There are no survivors from the Air Algeria AH5017 passenger jet that crashed in Mali, says the French President, Francois Hollande.

Mr Hollande said one flight data recorder had been recovered, after French troops reached the crash site near Mali’s border with Burkina Faso.

Air traffic controllers lost contact with the plane early on Thursday after pilots reported severe storms.

Almost half of the 116 people on board were French, including a family of 10.

The McDonnell Douglas MD-83 had been chartered from Spanish airline, Swiftair. It was flying from Burkina Faso’s capital, Ouagadougou, to Algiers.

## Butler ‘crushed to death by lift’ at Burghley House

BBC

Police are investigating the death of a butler who was injured while working at a Tudor mansion in Lincolnshire.

Arthur Mellor was seriously injured at Burghley House in Stamford on 12 July, and later died in hospital.

His partner, Gerwin Castillo, told journalists that the “kind and generous” 47-year-old was crushed by a lift.

The circumstances are being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive and Cambridgeshire Police.

A spokesman for the force said: “We were called to reports that a man in his 40s had suffered serious injuries at Burghley House on Saturday 12 July.



# Entertainment

## Of Mice and Men to be National Theatre's first live Broadway screening

BBC

The National Theatre has announced that Of Mice and Men will be their first Broadway production to be screened live in cinemas around the world.

The New York staging of John Steinbeck's classic, starring James Franco and Chris O'Dowd, has been playing at the Longacre Theatre.

The NT said it was "thrilled" to add US theatre to its roster of live screenings, which began five years ago.

The play's producer, David Binder, said he was "humbled" to be chosen.

"I can't think of a greater honour that could be bestowed on this production of Steinbeck's masterwork than to have an opportunity for millions of theatre lovers around the world to see our production under the auspices of National Theatre Live," he added.

## Pop star Tulisa found guilty of V Festival assault

BBC

Singer Tulisa Contostavlos has been found guilty of assaulting a man at a music festival.

The 26-year-old denied hitting celebrity blogger Savvas Morgan at the V Festival in Chelmsford, Essex, in August last year.

She was ordered to pay £3,020, including £2,700 of legal costs, a £200 fine and £100 compensation.

The former X Factor judge's assistant, Gareth Varey, was cleared of using threatening behaviour.

The trial had previously heard how Mr. Morgan suffered swelling to his eye after the assault.

He told the court Contostavlos raised her fists in the air and was swinging her arms in a backstage area at the festival.

## Mark Hamill calls Star Wars return 'a gift'

BBC

Original Star Wars actor Mark Hamill has called his return to the franchise after more than 30 years an "unexpected gift".

"It was certainly unexpected. I already had a beginning, middle and end. I never thought we'd come back," he told the BBC's Lizo Mzimba.

"To go on to those sets that evoked so many memories. It is just astonishing."

He added that Harrison Ford was recovering well after breaking his leg on set in June.

"I was not on set. It was really terrible but I hear he's doing really well. It will take more than that to stop Harrison Ford," said Hamill, who was speaking on the red carpet of the UK premiere of Guardians of the Galaxy.

The 62-year-old starred in the three original Star Wars films, the first of which was released in 1977.

## Venice Film Festival: Birdman leads gala line-up

BBC

Birdman will head this year's line-up for the Venice Film Festival, which has been announced by organizers.

The film, starring Michael Keaton and made by Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, will open the gala with its world premiere on the 27th of August.

Other movies vying for the Golden Lion award include Andrew Niccol's Good Kill and Abel Ferrera's film about Italian director Paolo Passolini.

The festival runs in the Italian city from August 27 to September 6.

The competition features a selection of cinematic work from around the world, which will be shown to public audiences for the first time.

## Amazing Spider-Man 3 and Sinister Six get release update

BBC

The Amazing Spider-Man spin-off film, Sinister Six, has been given a release date.

Columbia Pictures has announced that the movie will be released in November 2016, during San Diego's Comic-Con.

Sinister Six will focus on the six super villains from the Marvel universe and will be directed by Drew Goddard.

It has also been announced that The Amazing Spider-Man 3 will be released in 2018.

Sinister Six, which will be directed by Drew Goddard, is one of two spin-offs planned for the Spider-Man franchise.

The original Sinister Six, made up of Doctor Octopus, Electro, Kraven the Hunter, Mysterio, Sandman and Vulture, first appeared in Marvel Comics in 1964.

# Sports

## Giants acquire righty Jake Peavy from Red Sox

AP

The San Francisco Giants acquired right-hander Jake Peavy from the Boston Red Sox on Saturday for a pair of minor league pitchers.

He will start Sunday night's series finale against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Giants held a half-game division lead in the NL West against their rival going into Saturday night's middle game at AT&T Park.

San Francisco is sending right-hander Heath Hembree and lefty Edwin Escobar to the World Series champion Red Sox in the swap.

## Kevin Love withdraws from Team USA

AP

With no idea where he will be playing in the NBA next season, Kevin Love has

## American League

AL East	W	L	GB
Baltimore	57	45	-
NY Yankees	54	48	3
Toronto	54	50	4
Boston	47	56	10.5
Tampa Bay	50	53	7.5
AL Central			
Detroit	57	43	-
Cleveland	51	52	7.5
Kansas City	52	50	6
Chicago Sox	50	54	9
Minnesota	46	56	12
AL West			
Oakland	63	39	-
LA Angels	61	41	2
Seattle	53	50	10.5
Houston	42	61	21.5
Texas	41	62	22.5

withdrawn from this summer's Team USA basketball roster.

Love is in limbo while the Minnesota Timberwolves field offers for their three-time All-Star, a process that was complicated and likely lengthened when Cleveland

Cavaliers rookie Andrew Wiggins signed his contract this week.

Love is the latest All-Star to pull out of Team USA, which begins its training camp in Las Vegas next week to prepare for the FIBA World Cup in Spain.

## National League

East	W	L	GB
Washington	56	44	-
Atlanta	55	48	2.5
NY Mets	49	54	8.5
Miami	49	53	8
Philadelphia	45	58	12.5
Central			
St. Louis	54	48	3
Milwaukee	58	46	-
Pittsburgh	54	48	3
Cincinnati	51	51	6
Chicago Cubs	42	59	14.5
West			
San Francisco	57	46	-
LA Dodgers	57	47	0.5
San Diego	46	56	10.5
Arizona	44	59	13
Colorado	42	60	14.5

## Packers re-sign WR Jordy Nelson after 1st practice

AP

The Packers have signed receiver Jordy Nelson to a contract extension, securing their top player at a position that has had several high-profile

departures in recent years.

Green Bay announced the deal Saturday after the first practice of training camp. Terms of the contract were not announced by the team, and NFL.com reported it was a four-year, \$39 million deal with an \$11.5 million signing bonus.

# Technology

## Cheering robots replace real fans at Korean baseball

BBC

A struggling Korean baseball team have invented a novel way to improve atmosphere at their matches - by bringing in a crowd of robot fans.

Hanwha Eagles supporters not able to get to the stadium can control the robot over the internet.

The bots can cheer, chant and perform a Mexican wave - but presumably not invade the pitch.

One expert said giving more fans a chance to “attend” was important for professional clubs.

This was especially the case with top football teams, Matt Cutler, editor of SportBusiness International, told the BBC.

“If you look at all the big clubs, you can’t just get a season ticket - you have to sit on a waiting list.

“There is also potential monetisation. You can charge, even if it’s a small amount, to give fans a different kind of viewpoint.”

## Google Glass rival with neck battery shown off by Lenovo

BBC

Chinese computing giant Lenovo has shown off what it hopes will be a rival to Google Glass.

The device, as yet unnamed, hopes to eliminate Glass’s problem of short battery life by adding a separate power device around the wearer’s neck.

The company has created NBD - a system for connected devices - to encourage other companies to make devices on its platform.

In 2013, Lenovo overtook HP as the world’s biggest seller of PCs.

But the company acknowledged it needed help from other companies if the future of having an “internet of things” was to be realized.

“Right now there are too many kinds of devices you can develop for the Internet of Things. It’s too rich. Not one company can do it all,” said Chen Xudong, Lenovo’s senior vice president, as quoted by PCWorld magazine.

## Mobile phone app sheds new light on risk taking behaviour

BBC

New research shows that risky behaviour and impulsiveness can be reliably tested with specially designed mobile phone games.

Scientists found that four puzzles in The Great Brain Experiment app can reliably measure several different aspects of cognitive function.

Other games test our visual perception and our ability to remember things.

Scientists hope that results from thousands of participants will help them address population differences.

The research has been published in the journal Plos One.

By playing games participants can compare themselves to the other players while sending data back to the scientists.

## Twitter’s staff male-dominated

BBC

Twitter has become the latest tech firm to admit that most of its staff members are men.

Releasing its gender and ethnic diversity data, the firm said it had “a lot of work to do”.

It joins Facebook, Google and Yahoo in admitting that women are in the minority in their workforces.

An expert warned that the industry needed to address the issue as a matter of urgency.

Matthew Gwyther, editor of Management Today, said it was surprising that a social media platform that was popular across gender and ethnic divides would have issues with representation in its staffing.

“But maybe it is not that surprising after all because, as we have seen, the industry has this issue and it had better put it in order before it becomes embarrassing,” he said.

## Electronic Arts earnings surge 51%

BBC

US video game publisher Electronic Arts (EA) has reported a 51% jump in profit for the April-to-June quarter, boosted by strong sales of titles like Titanfall and FIFA 2014.

Net profit rose to \$335m (£196m) for the period, up from \$222m a year ago,

EA has also benefitted from the launch of gaming consoles, which has driven up demand for its video game titles.

However, the firm said it was delaying the launch of its title Battlefield Hardline from October to early 2015.

It said it was looking to make improvements to the game based on user suggestions and feedback on the test version.

The firm also reported that its revenue from gaming on mobile devices, including smartphones and tablets, rose.

# Health

## Sierra Leone hunts Ebola patient kidnapped in Freetown

BBC

A hunt has been launched in Sierra Leone’s capital, Freetown, for a woman with Ebola who was forcibly removed from hospital by her relatives.

Radio stations around the country are appealing for help to find the 32-year-old who is being described as a “risk to all”.

She is the first Freetown resident to have tested positive for the virus.

Meanwhile, Nigeria’s health minister has confirmed that a Liberian man has died of Ebola in Lagos.

According to the Reuters news agency, he collapsed on arrival in Lagos on Sunday and was taken from the airport and put in quarantine at a hospital in the Nigerian city.

Since February, more than 660 people have died of Ebola in West Africa - the world’s deadliest outbreak to date.

## Newly-found gut virus ‘abundant in humans’

BBC

Scientists have discovered a previously unknown virus living in the human gut, according to a study in Nature Communications.

Exploring genetic material found in intestinal samples, the international team uncovered the CrAssphage virus.

They say the virus could influence the behaviour of some of the most common bacteria in our gut.

Experts say these types of viruses, called bacteriophages, have been shown to play a role in chronic diseases.

Led by a team at San Diego State University in the USA, scientists scoured genetic information stored in three large international databases.

They stumbled upon a piece of DNA, some 100,000 letters long, present in more than half of all samples from the gut.

## Bedtime light ‘may stop cancer drug working’

BBC

Even low levels of light in bedrooms may stop breast cancer drugs from working, US researchers have warned.

Animal tests showed light, equivalent to that from street lamps, could lead to tumours becoming resistant to the widely used drug Tamoxifen.

The study, published in the journal Cancer Research, showed the light affected sleep hormones, which in turn altered cancer cell function.

UK experts said it was an intriguing finding, but not proven in people.

Tamoxifen has transformed the treatment of breast cancer by extending lives and increasing survival times.

## India doctors remove 232 teeth from boy’s mouth

BBC

Doctors in India have extracted 232 teeth from the mouth of a 17-year-old boy in a seven-hour operation.

Ashik Gavai was brought in with a swelling in his right jaw, Dr Sunanda Dhiware, head of Mumbai’s JJ Hospital’s dental department, told the BBC.

The teenager had been suffering for 18 months and traveled to the city from his village after local doctors failed to identify the cause of the problem.

Doctors have described his condition as “very rare” and “a world record”.

“Ashik’s malaise was diagnosed as a complex composite odontoma where a single gum forms lots of teeth. It’s a sort of benign tumour,” Dr Dhiware said.

## ‘Eighty new genes linked to schizophrenia’

BBC

Scientists have uncovered 80 previously unknown genes which may put people at risk of developing schizophrenia, research in Nature suggests.

The team says the world’s largest genetic study of the disease shows it can have biological causes - putting it on a par with other medical conditions.

Led by Cardiff University, the international group believes this could be a launch pad for new therapies.

Charities say that holistic approaches to the illness must continue.

Scientists have debated the relative role genes play in schizophrenia - a condition which affects more than 24 million people worldwide - for many years.



# Environment/Science

## Global decline of wildlife linked to child slavery

BBC

New research suggests the global decline in wildlife is connected to an increase in human trafficking and child slavery.

Ecologists say the shortage of wild animals means that in many countries more labour is now needed to find food.

Children are often used to fill this need for cheap workers, especially in the fishing industry.

The decline in species is also helping the proliferation of terrorism and the destabilisation of regions.

According to a study in the journal, Science, the harvesting of wild animals from the sea and the land is worth \$400bn annually and supports the livelihoods of 15% of the world's population.

## 'Fluffy and feathery' dinosaurs were widespread

BBC

All dinosaurs were covered with feathers or had the potential to grow feathers, a study suggests.

The discovery of 150-million-year-old fossils in Siberia indicates that feathers were much more widespread among dinosaurs than previously thought.

The find "has completely changed our vision of dinosaurs", the lead researcher told BBC News.

The details have been published in the journal Science.

The creature, called Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus, was about 1m long, with a short snout, long hind legs, short arms, and five strong fingers.

Its teeth show clear adaptations for chewing plants.

Until now, fossilised evidence of feathery dinosaurs has come from China and from a meat eating group called theropods.

## Dozens placed in quarantine after China plague death

BBC

Part of a city in north-west China has been sealed off and dozens of people placed in quarantine after a man died of bubonic plague, state media say.

The man died in Yumen city, Gansu province, on July 16.

A total of 151 people have been placed under observation, Xinhua news agency says. Authorities have isolated a part of the city centre and three sections of Chijin town which is an hour away.

The man was believed to have caught the infection after contact with a marmot.

Marmots are large, squirrel-type rodents that live in mountainous areas.

The victim is reported to be a 38-year-old man who had fed a

## Nasa seeks help with Earth-Mars data links

BBC

Nasa is asking for help to get data back from its science missions orbiting Mars or roaming its surface.

The US space agency is acting now to close a potential communications gap that is set to occur in 2020.

It currently has no plans to launch orbiters capable of taking over data relay duties from existing, ageing spacecraft.

Nasa is seeking input from universities and companies about better ways to relay the data back to Earth.

Nasa currently relies on two craft orbiting Mars, Odyssey and the Reconnaissance Orbiter, to pass on data beamed to them from the Curiosity rover.

The two spacecraft can send data back to Earth at a rate of about 2Mbps - much faster than the 500bps the rover can manage by itself.

## Africa 'missing out on biotech green revolution'

BBC

Sub-Saharan Africa's agricultural sector needs to harvest the fruits of biotechnology in order to establish sustainable development, says a report.

A key challenge is to attract funding for biotechnology projects on staple crops, such as cassava, it added.

These crops were often ignored by commercial funders because they had a limited market, the authors suggested.

Africa missed out on the previous green revolution that boosted food output in many Asian and Latin American nations.

The report, On Trial: GM Crops in Africa, published by think tank Chatham House, said: "Increasing agricultural productivity and adapting farming to climate change are central to Africa's development prospects."

# Business

## Russia's surprise interest rate rise 'to curb inflation'

BBC

Russia's central bank has unexpectedly raised its key bank interest rate over concerns about inflation and "geopolitical tension".

The bank's board decided to raise the interest rate by 50 basis points, or half a percent, to 8% per year.

Analysts said that they had not expected the move.

The rate hike will come after Western sanctions over the crisis in the Ukraine were boosted.

Domestic stocks and the rouble tumbled earlier this year after sanctions were implemented.

The Central Bank of Russia said on Friday that it will raise the interest rate on Monday to ease inflationary pressure.

## Brazilian central bank frees up \$13bn to boost economy

BBC

Brazil's central bank has announced plans to reduce the amount of money commercial banks keep in reserve, in a bid to boost economic growth.

The bank says the measure will free up some \$13bn (£7.6bn), which banks could lend to businesses and individuals.

The Brazilian economy is expected to expand by 1% this year - the fourth consecutive year of sluggish growth.

The central bank announcement comes less than three months before presidential elections.

President Dilma Rousseff will seek a second four-year term in October.

In 2010, when she was elected, Brazilian gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 7.5%.

## Ghana protests over high cost of living

BBC

Thousands of workers across Ghana have taken to the streets to protest about the rise in the cost of living.

The nationwide strike was organised by the country's largest trade union congress.

It says the government is mismanaging the economy as inflation is running at close to 15%.

The protesters called for President John Dramani Mahama to restore the 23% subsidy that has been removed from petroleum products.

The national currency, the cedi, has depreciated against the US dollar by more than 27% this year.

BBC Africa's Sammy Darko in the capital, Accra, says the slump in the currency has led to the price of consumer goods such as sugar and fuel.

## Barclays challenges US 'dark pool' fraud case

BBC

Barclays has said it wants legal action alleging fraud in its US "dark pool" trading operations to be thrown out of court.

In a statement the bank said: "We do not believe that this suit is justified."

New York prosecutors alleged in June that Barclays had misled investors using its alternative trading platform.

"Dark pool" trading operations allow investors to trade large blocks of shares but keep the price private.

The lawsuit alleged Barclays told clients its pool was free of aggressive traders.

However, Barclays had invited "predators" into the pool, the US prosecutor alleged in June.

## McDonald's halts nuggets sales in Hong Kong

BBC

Fast food chain McDonald's has suspended sale of chicken nuggets and some other products in Hong Kong.

It said it had imported chicken and pork from Shanghai Hushi Food, the Chinese firm that allegedly supplied out of date meat to fast food firms.

China has suspended operations of Shanghai Hushi after local media reports claimed it re-processed expired meat.

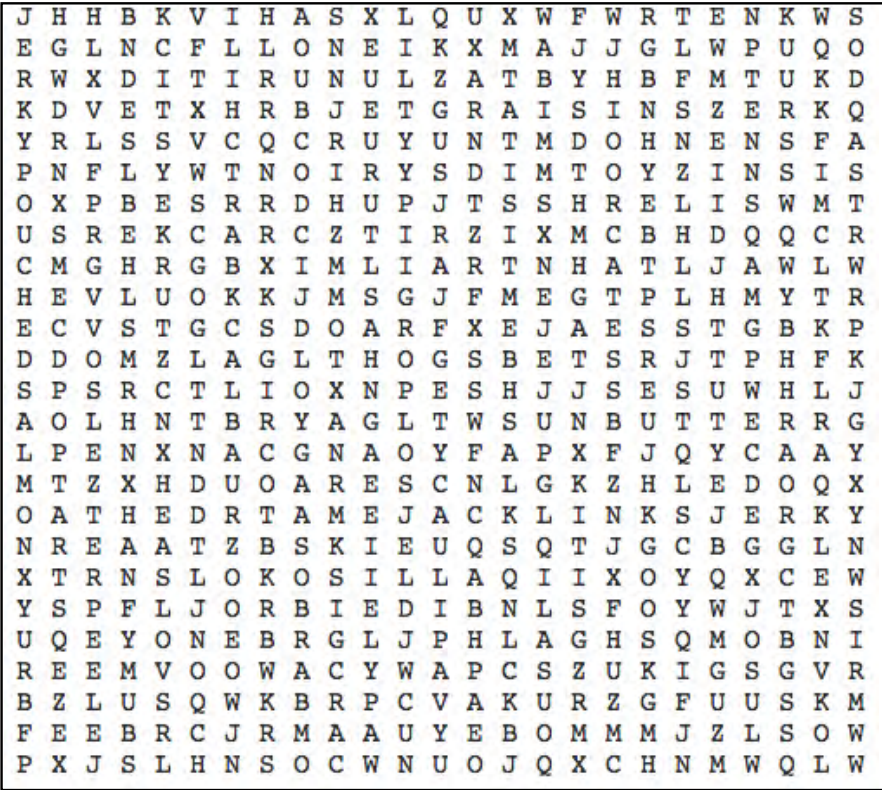
McDonald's had removed nuggets from its menus at its Japanese outlets earlier this week over the same issue.

It said on Wednesday that about 20% of its chicken nuggets sold in Japan came from Shanghai Hushi.

McDonald's said that nearly 500 stores in Japan had removed chicken nuggets from their menu, adding that sales were expected to resume after it switches to other suppliers in China and Thailand.



# Trail Meals



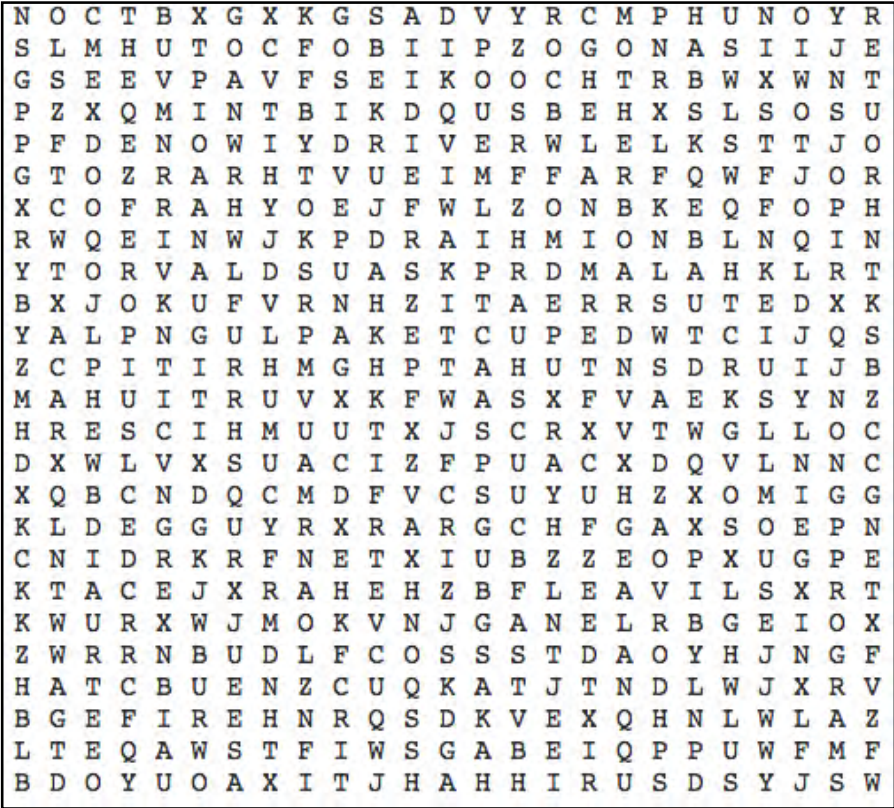
Corn Nuts	Salmon	Tuna	Spam Singles	Turkey Stick
Honey	Wheat Thins	Sun Butter	Trail Mix	Halo Bar
Stingers	Mojo Bar	Cheese	Black Bart	Jack Links
Beef Jerky	Gatorade	Ritz Crackers	Beef	Pretzels
Pop Tarts	Oreos	Raisins	Stroganoff	

# Disney Movies



Aladdin	Finding Nemo	Mulan	Sleeping Beauty	Beauty and the Beast
Bambi	Hercules	Parent Trap	Snow White	
Cinderella	Lion King	Peter Pan	Tarazan	
Dumbo	Little Mermaid	Pinocchio	Alice In Wonderland	Hunchback of Notre Dame
Fantasia	Mary Poppins	Pocahontas		

# Computers & Technology



Hardware	Flash	Bugs	Beta	Programs
Mouse	Router	Newton	Driver	Mother Board
USB	Wozniack	Swift	Screen Saver	Input
RSS	Torvalds	Hotswap	Cathode Ray	Software
Terminal	Cookies	PlugNPlay	FireWire	Memory

# Camping Gear



Dutch Oven	Sleeping Bag	Hat	Trail Meal	Matches
Tent	Stuff Sack	Hiking Boots	Map	Bug Spray
Dining Fly	Bear Bag	Backpack	Compass	Sunscreen
Stove	Flashlight	Rain Gear	Water	Headlamp
Gloves	Socks	Pack Cover	Camera	First Aid Kit



## Easy

	7		1	4	9	3		
5		1					9	8
9	4		5		2	7		6
		9						
				9				
		7	4	5	8			
				2	5			1
				6			3	
	9	2	8		1			

## Medium

				6		5		
		6						
4			1	3				6
					6		8	
				9		6		
6					3	1		4
	6	1		5	4		7	8
2					7			
						4		5

## Difficult

				8				
	8							
		9						7
						8	4	
		2					6	9
		8		2		3		1
								3
				1		4		5
5		4					1	

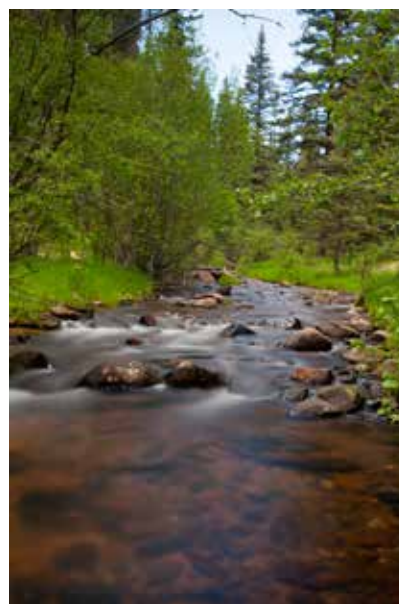
## Expert

	7		3					
	3		6			7		
						6		
	5							
	6		5	3		2		
						3		
		6			5			7

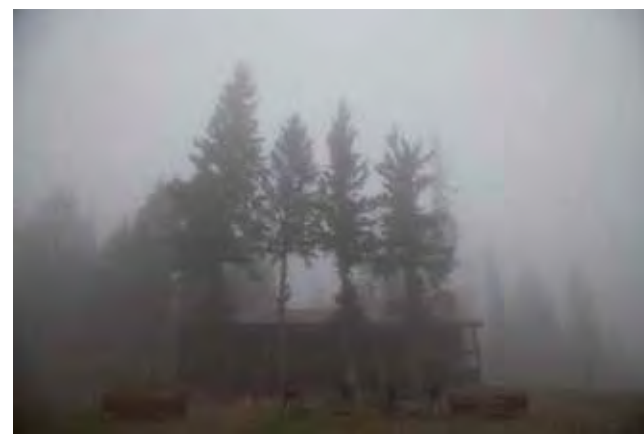




Dominic Baima  
**First place winner for Overall and Camper Activity Categories.**



Dominic Baima  
**First place winner for Landscape Category.**



Zachary Garmoe  
**First place winner for Porch View Category.**



Nathan Glover  
**First place winner for Staff Activity, second Overall.**



Eric Gentry  
**First place winner for Flowers & Plants Category.**



Jess Byam  
**First place winner for Humor Category.**



Mason Tribbett  
**First place winner for Storms & Rainbows Category.**



Jess Byam  
**First place winner for Wildlife Category.**



Steven Hentzelman  
**First place winner for Digital Creations & Black/White, third Overall.**



Matthew Bailey  
**First place winner for Sunrise & Sunset Category.**

**Be sure to check out all the winners  
on the Philmont Scout Ranch  
Facebook Page!**