## ews The PhilN

Issue 10 ~ August 14, 2009 Final Issue

Dear Philmont,

I am sorry to tell you this but I must end this relationship of ours. Don't worry it's me not you. I just think we should see other people right now. But I must be off to watch TV, take long hot showers, cook my own food, pet my cat, have cell phone service and drink Starbucks coffee. Someday we shall meet again but for now, bye-bye!

I will miss you, Tawny Slaughter

P.S. Sorry Atty for getting your name wrong.

<u>News &amp; Photo Staff</u> <u>Editor-in-Chief</u> Owen McCulloch <u>NPS Manager</u> Henry Watson	<u>Photography Department</u> Martin Stamat-Mgr. Anita Altschul Patrick Bonz Rebecca Bost	<u>Video Department</u> Bryan Hayek-Mgr Margaret Hedderman Jennifer Wendel					
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<u>Writers</u> Chloe Euston Justin Lyon Jordon Shinn	Adrienne Lalli Andrea McCurdy Steve Wurtzel						
Cover Photo: "Cactus" By John Scherschel, Plants and Flowers 1st Place							

## Mark's Minute

## **Rich Are The Memories!**

Another tremendous summer in the history of Philmont Scout Ranch is coming to a close. More than 22,000 youth and adults took part in the adventures of the backcountry in regular Expeditions, Cavalcades, Mountain Treks, Rayado, ROCS, Trail Crew Trek, Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, Ranch Hands and PSA Treks.

Each of these participants left with a backpack full of memories! This would not have happened with out the dedication and persistence of each member of the 2009 Philmont Staff. THANK YOU!

As you return home, I would encourage you to live the four principles of the **"Fish Experience"** that we have talked about this summer:

- Choose your attitude and make today a great day.
- Find ways to **play**.
- Stay focused in order to **be present** when others most need you.
- Should you feel your energy lapsing, find someone who needs a helping hand, a word of support, or a good ear and make their day.

One of my favorite closings for campfires sums up the season and offers a glimpse of how the future will hold this special time we have had together:

"Comes the last of many days, The last campfire of all too few; Last – but not lost. In the years ahead These times our memories shall renew."

Mark Anderson Director of Program



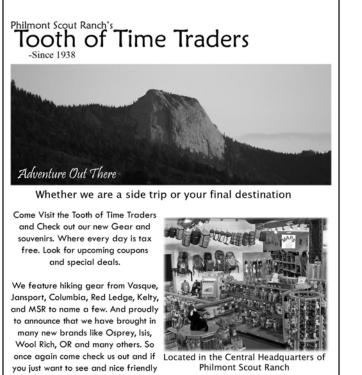
"Orchard Circle" By Heather Davis, Overall 1st Place, Landscape 1st Place



"Cathedral Rock Sunrise" By Heather Davis, Overall 2nd Place, Sunrise or Sunset 1st Place



"Life on Top of the Tooth" By Tye Sanders, Overall 3rd Place, Wildlife 1st Place



face this is the place to find it.

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## **Leaving Philmont**

It is the time of year when many staff are beginning to focus on their departure to school, work, or other endeavors. To help with a smooth departure, there are a few items you need to do before you leave Philmont:

Your last working day is specified on your Terms of Seasonal Employment. You should plan to check out at CHQ and leave Philmont late in the afternoon upon completion of your work assignment, or check out and leave the next morning.

You must secure a Staff Check Out Procedure card from the CHQ registration/personnel office. It will direct you to necessary places to complete all responsibilities of forwarding addresses, returning checked out items, turning in keys, etc.

Make sure your living area is clean, that all items have been removed from it, and that it is ready for occupancy by the next person. Please remove all personal items from the area. Also, make sure no trash/food/smellable items are left, as we are particularly concerned about attracting bears and other wildlife this year.





"Bug's Life" By Ewelina Heil, Plants and Flowers 2nd Place



"Security" By Steve Hentzelman, Plants and Flowers 3rd Place

### STAY INVOLVED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

Keep up-to-date with the latest High Country, regional staff reunions, access to the member's directory, and Philstaff.com



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PAYROLL DEDUCTION (through July 31)

# Life is a Trek

By Dr. William Paul Tarbell Chaplain

Hebrews 12:1 -"Let us run with perseverance. The race that is set before us."

Call it a race, a journey, or a pilgrimage, every one of us is on a life trek. The itinerary is only partly known to us. Precisely what we encounter on our pathways must be glimpsed and planned for in hope.

Life treks are roughly similar to Philmont treks. When crews arrive at the ranch, celebration breaks out. Everyone looks forward to the adventures of the trail. Then the hiking begins and reality sets in. The dreaded third day arrives with its confusion, frustration and exhaustion. But now, the crew and its individual members develop a rhythm matching their surroundings. On they go, enjoying sights, engaging in programs and meeting challenges until they stand atop the Tooth of Time.

There they survey all they have been through and the destination that awaits them. Finally, they enter Camping Headquarters. Once again, celebration breaks out. Their trek complete, they join with others at the closing campfire and loudly proclaim, "We all made it!"

For most of us, our life treks resemble the Philmont experience. Proud parents welcome us with joy and happily teach us to take our baby steps. Thereafter, we progress into childhood, traveling the first few miles of our journey. Adolescence and young adulthood pack the same negative wallop as "third day woes." Nevertheless, confusion gives way to a series of ups and downs centered around career, family and other interests, until the highest heights of our life treks are reached and honored. Then, we embark on the descending trail to base.

There are several essentials to remember when going on a life trek. First, we will encounter tough times. We must expect things to be difficult once in a while. Recently, at Zastrow a bear got into one tent and ran over the top of another. About the same time, while hiking, a crew ran into an intense hail storm which left them cold and soaked to the skin. Throughout our personal journey, toothy things with claws will cross our path. Others will seek to freeze our souls by raining sorrow and pain on us. Troubles of all kinds plague the trail.

Second, cherish the blessings, all the signs of divine goodness. Three decades ago, four of us struggled mightily to reach the summit of Grand Pass in the Olympic Mountains of Washington state. As we broke over the top, a stunning vision greeted us. The hearts of the Olympic range rose before us. The highest peaks gleamed with ermine coats of snow while a brilliant blue sky and row upon row of deep green ridges formed a colossal, unending background just to our right and a small glacier provided water for a tiny, turquoise lake shimmering in the sun. That night, exhausted from the steep drop into Cameron Valley, we fell asleep knowing that our Olympic vision would remain in our hearts forever. We need to hold onto the signs of the divine.

Third, keep the crew concept in our life trek. At Philmont we know that a trail crew is at its best when all the members are in tune with each other. When an injury or illness occurs, everyone cooperates to take care of the needy. If someone is slower than the rest, the entire crew adjusts their speed accordingly. Our travel plans must include our partners in every phase of our trek.

Fourth, carry our own pack. Carry the weight of our own responsibilities. As important as cooperation is, the crew cannot function without its members performing their individual tasks as fully as possible.

Fifth, watch out for the "Mount Baldy Syndrome." In 2009 a strange phenomenon developed among some crews on Baldy. Compasses ceased to work, maps had no meaning and directions reversed until a few trail groups found themselves on front porches not on Philmont property. Staying true on a life trek requires faithfulness to wisdom from scripture, tradition and experience. And if, as often happens, we find ourselves on a trail going nowhere, God's grace can return us to the necessary heading for our journey.

Sixth, let Star Trek set the pace for our life trek. Realizing that everyone's journey is a unique venture, we ought to "Boldly go where no one has gone before." The boldness we need comes form the certain knowledge that we travel in the company of a Divine Guide who never leaves our side.

Seventh, remember that life treks not only have a beginning; they also have an end. We all have a time to come off the trail. Sometimes, of necessity, we come off early. Recent events have at Philmont and elsewhere emphasized that early departure happens. Yet, whether we have a short trek or a long one, we must all come into base.

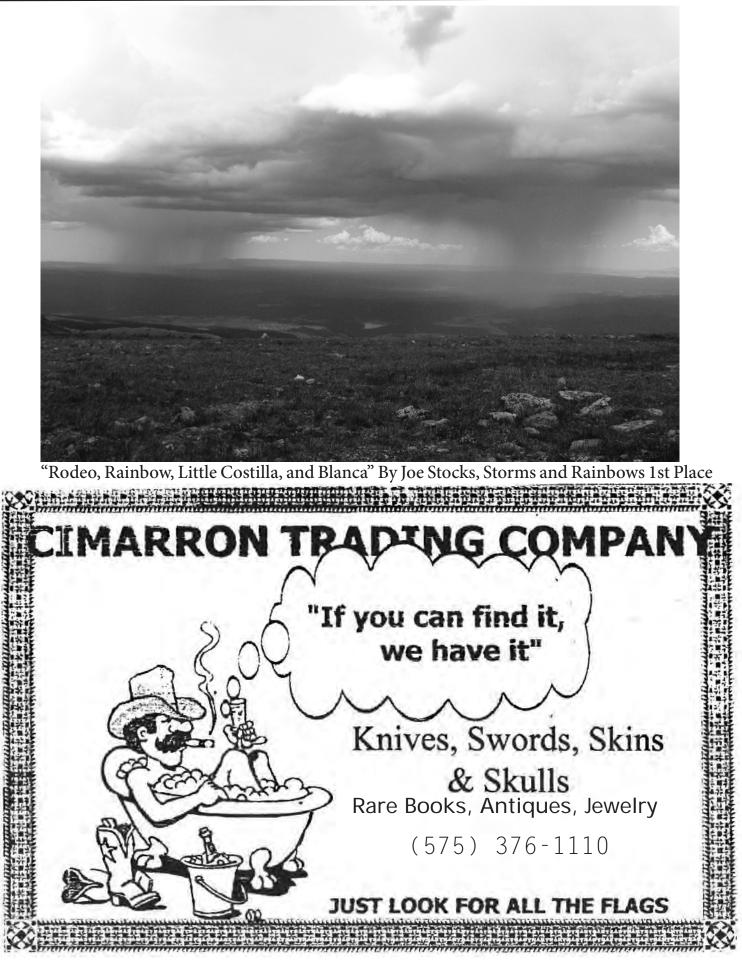
Eighth, look forward to closing campfire. When, in the wisdom of God, the moment has come for the trekking season to

close and humanity is to join in the circle of worship round the flame of God's glory, we shall all come off the trail into eternal camping headquarters. During the inevitable celebration that breaks out, we shall add to the songs of human and heavenly beings the following refrain, "By the mercy, grace and love of God, we all made it!"





cabinetden@q.com



### Once Upon A Time... Tales That Touch The Spirit

By: Rabbi Rock (Rachmiel) Tobesman Chaplain

Someone asked: "With so many stories why do you mainly tell religious ones?" I have told ancient, medieval, American folktales and Jewish stories in the past, but it seemed that the stories of faith were being lost. So many other storytellers tell the vast range of secular stories, and every Jewish storyteller tells the Chasidic tales. I chose to tell the biblical, midrashic and medieval Jewish stories so that they will inspire and touch the heart and soul of the listener.

Stories have touched the hearts, minds and souls of people since the beginning of time. For this reason they have been used continuously for millennia. Too many people stop with Bible stories and have forgotten the art and skill of spiritual storytelling. A holy man once said, "I came to teach you scriptures and you understood it not, therefore I will tell you stories." Spiritual storytelling always has an underlying purpose, which is to inspire people with faith and communicate wisdom and values.

Storytelling has always been a main way for communicating spirituality. Some of the greatest religious teachers were expert storytellers. Then, as time passed, events in their own lives also became stories. In Judaism, some communities emphasize the importance of sacred storytelling and the sacred story.

Philmont is a mystical place and has been called "G-d's Country." What is the difference between religion and mysticism? It is the difference between believing in G-d and actually experiencing the Divine Presence. The stories touch the listener and awaken the yearning for more. They help people to see the wonders around them and allows them to peek into the mysteries of life.

Mysticism is a path to the deepest meaning of life, to the source of joy, and to a closer relationship with G-d. Yet, even non-mystics can tap into these wellsprings of mystic teachings in their search in today's confusing world.

So, I, in the Jewish tradition of the maggid (storytelling rabbis) will continue to tell the stories others don't and have been forgotten.

May all your tales end with Shalom (peace)



## PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarship

What an incredible summer! You have worked hard, learned new skills, bagged a few peaks, and made new friends. No doubt you will want to come back for the summer of 2010. However, there are nine busy months from now untill then. What will you be doing to bridge the gap between your Philmont summers?

Many of you are going to school to pursue a degree. Quite a few of you are going to grad school to get another degree. Regardless of what level of schooling you are pursuing, the Philmont Staff Association has an opportunity available for you to receive some dollars to help achieve that goal.

The Philmont Staff Association will award over \$10,000 in educational scholarships to Philstaffers this fall. You should apply. If you are going to college or grad school or any other type of postsecondary education, please consider completing an application for a PSA Seasonal Staff Scholarship.

To be eligible: you need to complete the Scholarship application (located at the SSSAC or from the PSA office), join the Philmont Staff Association (\$15 for a one-year membership), and apply for Philmont 2010 summer staff. The deadline is August 31, 2009. For more information, contact the PSA office at psadirector@philstaff.com or (575) 376-1138.



"Crater Lake" By Conrad Stoll, Landscape 2nd Place



"On the Santa Fe Trail" By Ewelina Heil, Landscape 3rd Place



"Black Bear" By Brian Sevald, Wildlife 2nd Place



"Hummingbird" By Judith Bradford, Wildlife 3rd Place

#### Late Contract Staff

For those staff who have extended contracts for tent-takedown and clean-up crews, there is some specific information for you.

We will be taking Sunday, August 23 as a day off, with the exception of our Dining Hall staff who will continue on their regular time-off schedule. All staff will meet at the PTC Staff Dining Hall at 8 AM on Monday, August 24 following breakfast to receive their assignments. On Monday, August 24 you will be asked to provide Philmont with any departure needs. If you will need a shuttle to the airport or train station, this will be the time to let Philmont know your needs so we can schedule accordingly.

#### Additional dates to be aware of:

If you are in tent city housing, you will need to relocate to the Health Lodge Tent City between 8/21 and 8/24, completing your relocation no later than 8/24 (Staff City tents will be taken down).

If you are in roofed housing you may have to move to other units to facilitate the cleaning schedule. Specific information will be provided to those affected.

The last meal served in the Camping Staff Dining Hall is lunch on Saturday, August 22.

Beginning with dinner on Saturday, August 22, all meals will be served in the PTC Dining Hall.

Tent take down and closure staff will also take Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30, as days off, and will resume work Monday, August 31st.

#### **Dining Hall and Commissary Operations**

Dining Hall operations will change for our late-season and Autumn Adventure programs. The last meal served in the Camping Staff Dining Hall is lunch on Saturday, August 22. Beginning with dinner on Saturday, August 22, all meals will be served in the PTC Dining Hall.

#### Other changes include:

The last day for Commissary or Wall draws is Saturday, August 22. The last meals provided for full-time staff are on Saturday, August 22. Meal times are changing starting Sunday, August 23

Breakfast is from 7:00 to 8:00 AM

Lunch is from noon to 1 PM

Dinner is from 5:30 to 6:30 PM



"Little Costilla" By Mic Mullins, Digital Creations 1st Place



"A Burro at Pueblano" By Brian Sevald, Digital Creations 2nd Place





"Room With a View" By Steve Hentzelman, Porch View, 1st Place



"Crooked Living" By Martin Stamat, Porch View, 2nd Place



"Carson Meadows--The End of a Good Day" By Chris Read, Porch View 3rd Place





"Let's Get Ready to Rowdy" By Steve Hentzelman, Staff Activity 1st Place



"Making it Look Easy" By Mic Mullins, Staff Activity 3rd Place

## The Difference is Made

By Justin Lyon, PhilNews Writer

I'm going to come back to Philmont. I don't need to look over my shoulder at that arrowhead shaped rock to know it to be true. I'll be back, time and time again, as often as I can manage it. These mountains have stolen my heart. I'm in love with this place.

It isn't easy to explain why this place means so much to me. I could go on for hours about the beauty of the land, how the sky during the day ranges from the softest cerulean to the deepest royal blue, how the night sky reveals more stars than I could ever hope to count, how you can look off in the distance from the Tooth and not be able to discern exactly where the skyline starts or the mountains end, and how the air is so clean and the peaks so majestic. Yet that only begins to describe my love for this place.

Philmont has a sort of power over people. It forces growth, it breeds camaraderie. Nowhere else have I come across such a conglomerate of truly nice, interesting, and hard working men and women. I've never found it easier to start up conversations, to make friends, and to be accepted. Never more than now have I enjoyed waking up in the morning, earnestly looking forward to the days to come.

I want to return here, and I plan to next summer. I still have so much to see and do. I want it all, the entire range of Philmont experiences. That is why I plan to work in a different department each year that I come out here. I loved working with the News and Photo staff and I enjoyed writing for the PhilNews. But as much fun as I've had with the staff here, there is more I want to do. I want to interact

with crews as a Ranger. I want to spend several summers in different backcountry camps. I want to keep CHQ safe as Security. I want to drive all around the mountains in a Philtruck, delivering supplies and transporting staff. I want to build trails with Cons. I want to act in the opening and closing campfires. I want to hand out gear to bright-eyed and highly expectant trailbound crews. I even want to return to News and Photo eventually as either a Photographer or a Videographer. I want every piece of experience I can get out here. I want to learn, to do, to see, to be all I can be. I want it all.

Philmont! You've made your difference! You've affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of Scouts. You turn boys to men; you cause personal growth. I've grown up so much here in only three years, two as a Scout,

and one on staff, and there's still more growth for me here. There's so much more to see in you, Philmont, and only you can show me the entirety of your influence. Mark my words, I'll be back. Philmont is to me, my Scouting paradise.





"The Headbutt" By Martin Stamat, Humor 2nd Place



20

"Baldy Storm" By Alex Surber, Storms and Rainbows 3rd Place



"Approaching Storm" By Martin Stamat, Storms and Rainbows 2nd Place

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### www.swranches.com

#### Dear Philmont,

It has been a pleasure to live and work here this summer. As an outsider to Philmont, Scouting and all things related to the outdoors, I was somehow chosen as a writer for the PhilNews, making me an ambassador of Philmont and for Philmont. I was given the responsibility and the privilege of representing Philmont for an audience that knew more about it than I did.

I have never been an outdoorsy person, and to my surprise, this hasn't been a problem. If anything, this has enhanced my experience here. As a writer I must constantly search for new experiences—chances to do something I've never done before. Philmont is a perfect example of such an opportunity. That's why I came here.

I would like to thank all the camps that I visited this summer and everyone else I interviewed or talked to in my work here. This is clearly a job that can't be done alone. I took a lot of creative license in my writing this summer, often straying away from formal journalism and venturing into a more elaborate style. It is my sincerest hope that at the very least I have done you all justice and given Philmont a fair portrayal of who you are and what you do.

I bid my farewell to the crisp mountain air of Philmont on August 20 and return to the overwhelmingly

humid Baton Rouge, Louisiana for another semester at LSU. I will not return to my homeland in the same state in which I left it. I will return a more experienced hiker and a stronger writer. I now know what it is like to live and work in an environment in which my creativity thrives. For that, I am forever grateful.

I will miss you, Philmont. Take care.

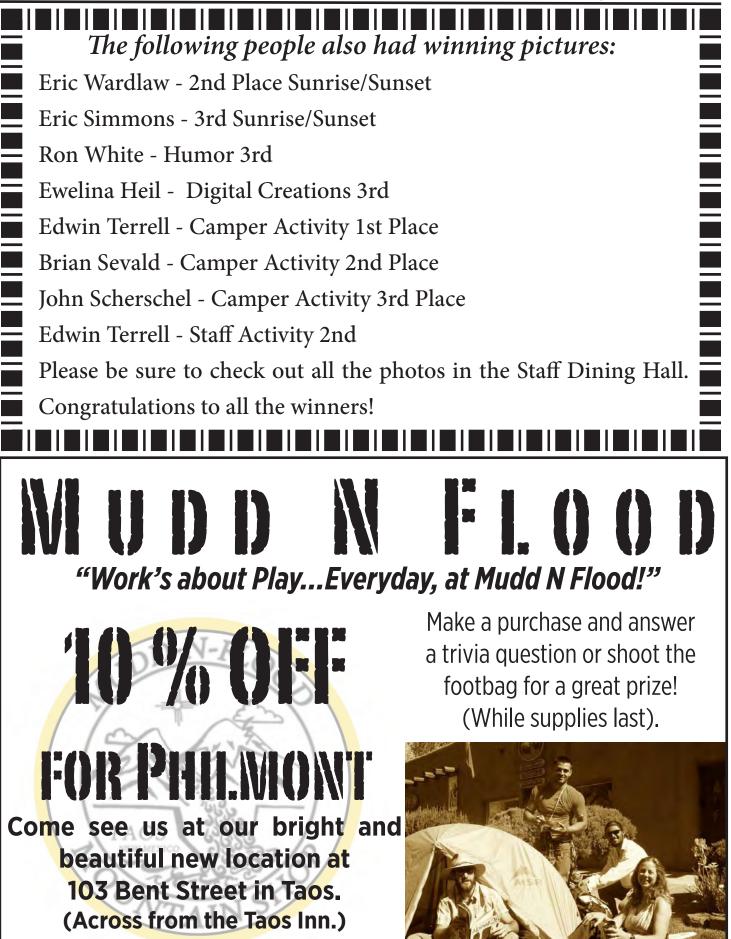
Chloe Euston

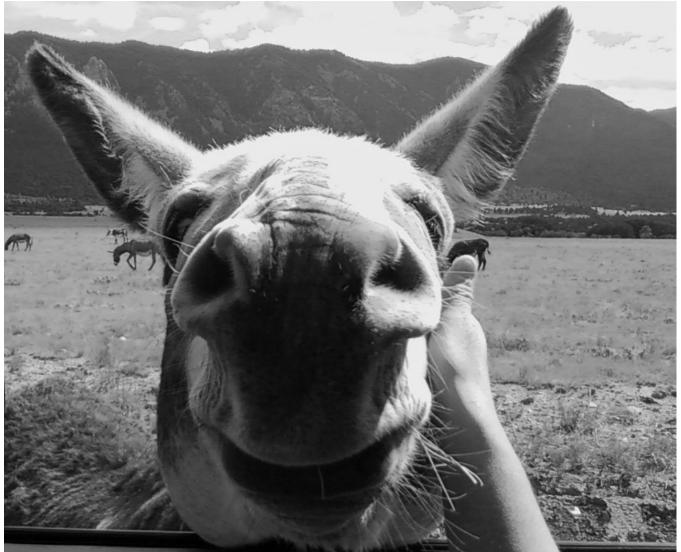


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"Scratch a Little Lower, Please" By Steve Hentzelman, Humor 1st Place

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#### **Blue Hours**

By Jordon Shinn

Blue hours, Tuesday night, fan hums low. All feathered insects flock toward the lamp white glow light on the corner canvas, bluer sheets. Sour pine air and hushed sounds seep through a beige tent flap, a triangle fold—weary neighbors shuffle over gravel in flip flops, scooting dark rocks, scuffing soft toes. A crooked scrub oak rustles leaves for warmth. A cricket creeks painfully in shadow an aching back. Beside me, red sheets the other cot, empty. And me.

### **Ode to the Rainstorm**

By Jordon Shinn

the stringent smell of wet pine how heavy the rain falls churning pink rivers in the dirt where our feet scuffed the grass away and the blue barn swallows squawking under the no-smoking sign at their brother, whose small beak sent him swirling in the rain

#### **War** By Jordon Shinn

lightning in the trees jolting crooked between branches the sky blushed blue, chokes on a frightened sparrow flapping against something ancient —blown back like hail

#### **Philmont Morning**

By Erik Ballard of crew 721-O1

O what a beautiful morning O what a beautiful day We take a look at the sunrise To take our problems away

We gather together In the midst of the morn And we find that nature Is the one we adore

We look forward to starting The trek on the trail And then we realize That we can not fail

Amen

#### **Philmont Night**

By Erik Ballard of crew 721-O1

So begins the night With the light from the stars Shining above

We give prayer, for the care To the Philmont that we Love,

With all the trails we hiked And all the nature we liked All spinning around in our heads

But enough with the talking We're done with the walking Lets all just go to bed.



"Tools of the Trade" By Steve Hentzelman, Black & White 1st Place



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"Blacksmithing" By Conrad Stoll, Black & White 3rd Place



"Warmth of Night" By John Scherschel, Black & White 2nd Place

## Calendar

Friday	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	Thursday
14 Kickball 8 pm by the volleyball courts Pay Day Last Opening Campfire <u>TOTT</u> Sidewalk Sale 10 am - 6:45 pm	15 Volleyball 8 pm Volleyball courts	16PTC:OpeningProgram8:15pmPTC Brunch10:30-12:30ProtestantCommunion6pmProtestantPorch	17 <u>PTC</u> : Wanna Be Band & Cobbler 7-9 pm Storyteller 8 pm South Tent City	18 PTC: Buffalo barbeque 5:30 pm & Western Night 6:30 pm	19 Yoga 8 pm PTC Small Fry	20 <u>PTC</u> : Wanna Be Band & Cobbler 7-9 pm Storyteller 8 pm South Tent City Last Closing Campfire <u>TOTT</u> Sidewalk Sale 10 am - 6:45 pm
Friday	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
21 Last Crews Leave Philmont	22	23	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	27