

PHILNEWS



JUNE 22TH, 2018

ISSUE TWO



A group of local residents and Philmont staff gather to discuss the effects of the Ute Park Fire at the Cimarron Village Forum at Cimarron High School on June 6, 2018. Ryan Soldanel/MPS Photographer

Cimarron Forum Gives Hope

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

The village of Cimarron and Philmont Scout Ranch are, for all intents and purposes, family. Whatever happens in the area affects us both. The highs, the lows, and everything in between happens to both Philmont and Cimarron. The Ute Park fire was no exception. Sisters-in-arms, Philmont and Cimarron weathered the fire and face the difficult task of rebuilding together. The Cimarron Village forum that took place on June 5th reaffirmed the dedication the two sister locations had for each other and gave Cimarron citizens and Philmont staffers a sense of hope.

Well over 200 citizens and scouts gathered in the gymnasium of Cimarron High School to discuss their plan of action.

Sandra Lopez, one of the Public Information Officers working to relay information from the front lines to the people of Cimarron, Philmont, and beyond introduced a slew of guests from all the parties fighting the fire: local law enforcement, fire divisions, and Philmont Scout Ranch, among others. Speakers like Paul DeMerico, the Fire Operations Section Chief with the Southwest Area Incident Management Team reported on how the firefighters handled the fire.

“We were on the defensive until that rain storm came through.” DeMerico reported. “But due to that rain and the higher humidity, we were able to get on the offensive and fight it more on our terms.”

Attendees also heard from local Police Chief Ryan Gates, who

informed them that the Cimarron Police, with the aid of several other agencies patrolled the village for 24 hours during the evacuation, ensuring the town was secure. The New Mexico State Police and New Mexico Game and Fish both helped with that task.

Many of the other speakers at the forum conveyed a spirit of hope along with crucial information about the fire. The Colfax County Emergency Management Office’s representative Thomas Vigil welcomed his friends and family home before diving into the thick of the fire’s impact.

“This fire’s gonna affect us for a long, long time,” he said. “We’re looking at a 25-year plan, minimum.”

Part of that plan has to do with

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A Tribute to Scouting’s Past

Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.
Staff Writer

When officials of the Boy Scouts of America announced in 2016 that the National Scouting Museum would be moved from its home at the organization’s national headquarters in Irving, Texas to Philmont Scout Ranch, expectations were high. And even though the move itself took more than 18 months, the grand opening was a move that was cheered on by hundreds of Philmont staff members as well as officials of the Boy Scouts and other local dignitaries.

When the doors opened to sunny skies there was still much to do, with empty shelves and display cases showing little more than lots of promise, but if the predecessors in New Jersey and Irving would be any indicator of the future of the Philmont location, the new site promises to do much

to preserve the 106-year history of the organization.

Despite the questions that many have about moving the museum to Philmont due to its somewhat remote location, most authorities agree that the move to the area will accomplish an increase in the already promising numbers that are expected to learn about the history of Scouting.

Just as is the case with most museums, the new National Scouting Museum will display only a small fraction of the total collection that includes more than 600,000 artifacts. These artifacts include more than 48 original Norman Rockwell paintings, which tell the story of the early history of Scouting, and notebooks created and maintained by Scouting’s founder, Lt. Gen. Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden Powell.

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The ribbon is cut to open the National Scouting Museum’s new building in Cimarron. Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer

The Many Roles of Logistics

Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.
Staff Writer

There's an old joke in the military that's told about logistics, "Sometimes you aim high, sometimes you miss." It's a funny joke to be sure, but in the case of Philmont's logistics communications coordinator, Matthew Hill, missing is not an option. Hill's job, as he sees it, is to aim high and hit his target every time. No time outs, no substitutions. The clock begins running the second a radio call is made, and a situation doesn't end until there is a successful completion of the mission.

This is Hill's fifth year at Philmont, and as he sees it, the previous years of his service have all been leading up to this one. He's done different jobs each year, but working in logistics has been particularly interesting to him.

"Doing my job excites me," Hill explained in his office, full of maps, machines, and high-tech gizmos.

In front of Hill is a large telephone console, with a single phone sitting beside it. Above him, on his left, is a large bookcase with thick binders filled with resources, including maps and fire lookout information. On his right sits the Radio Operator who is in constant contact with all the players when a situation develops.

Just as is the case with nearly all unexpected events, the Ute Park Fire led to a number of changes in the operating methodology of the Logistics Department of Philmont. Though their system worked to evacuate all of Base Camp in just a few short hours, Logistics is constantly looking for tweaks that could make the system even more effective.

"Whenever you have a system and it runs into real-life, you get the opportunity to see better where your system can be improved," Hill said. "The Ute Park fire is no exception."

The Logistics department has been busy working on those changes, while also working with crews who are affected by the change in the summer schedule. They've been contacting each crew that was scheduled to come out in the first half of the summer and letting them know their different options before passing them on to

Registration staff.

Each crew has several options: they can reschedule their trek later in summer 2018, schedule a trek for 2019, receive a refund or go to a different camp or High Adventure Base. Camps in Colorado and Texas, in addition to the other High Adventure Bases, have offered to host some of the Philmont crews who can't make it to a trek this summer. Philmont has also been sending staff members to some of those other camps to help with the increase in participants attending each one.

Figuring out the right option for each crew is no easy task, but at the same time, they've developed a plan to ensure they know where all the staff members are while working in the backcountry. Each group that goes out to work is required to take a radio with them and have it on.

"After the Ute Park fire started," Hill explained, "we discovered that our systems could be improved in regard to our accountability methods. For the next month or so, when there is a work crew who goes into the backcountry, they must sign both in and out to make sure that they are accounted for as long as they are working. No matter what they're doing or how long they'll be gone, they must tell us when they leave, when they plan to return, and when they actually return. Until this happens, they are unaccounted for, a situation you don't want to occur."

Though those procedures will continue to change and develop as the summer goes on and the environment changes, they're an important aspect of keeping

everyone safe and accounted for.

But Hill considers the most important part of his job the sheath of laminated papers, called Pull Cards, that describe in excruciating detail what to do in a given situation—one of which is a fire plan. Under the desk is a drawer full of forms that allows him to record complete details of each event as it unfolds.

"One of the most interesting things about my job is that I never know what is going to happen from one minute to the next," Hill explained. "We have those days when it seems like everything we get is what we call a 'cloud sighting,' which is nothing of consequence. On the other hand—and you never know when it will happen—something like a fire or some other serious situation can materialize."

By checking the Pull Cards, Hill and the rest of the Logistics staff know instantly what they need to do to make sure all bases of a scenario are covered. The cards also list who needs to be contacted to remedy a problem.

Hill relies on a mix of experience and the information on the Pull Cards to make sure that any time a call comes through on the radio, he can give the right people the right information. From then on, it's a matter of making careful records of what happened, where, and why.

"That way, we not only know what we did right and wrong this time, but we will have refined our methods better for the next time a situation arises," Hill said. "That's how you grow in this business."



Matthew Hill and Aidan Saggars go over accountability plans in Logistics. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer



Members of Cabin Restoration work to uncover the original stone patio at Chase Ranch. Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer

Working to Restore

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

Cabin Restoration is one of Philmont's lesser-known departments, but in the wake of the Ute Park fire, they're quickly moving to take on a number of different projects to help the Ranch. Spearheaded by Sheen (Shawn) Carroll, Cabin Restoration foreman, the department is usually tasked with restoring and repairing Philmont's cabins, especially those modeled after historical sites.

The department's original plan for the summer, however, has changed.

"Originally, we had planned to do new structure work up at French Henry for special treks and other programs," Carroll said. "But after the fire, it was pretty evident that we had more pressing issues to deal with."

The team is hoping to pursue many projects in the Baldy Mountain area when it becomes accessible to them. There are several other projects that may be options as well. One project Carroll hoped to work on was at Clayton Cabins, located in the Valle Vidal.

"Clayton Cabins is the reason I came back as foreman. It's such a beautiful place and could be such an asset to Philmont," he said.

Though Cabin Restoration doesn't know the details of all of the projects yet, they're taking things one project at a time. While waiting for more information on what backcountry restorations they may be working on later this summer, they're starting off with a

project closer to Base Camp: The Chase Ranch Porch.

Chase Ranch was the first camp the team was able to access, so they are tearing up the sod that was covering the original stone patio that stretched along the house's east side. The team is also taking down the northeast wall of the back patio and then replacing it to match the original structure.

The goal of their work is to make the Ranch House as accurate as possible for Staffers and Participants who want to take the Chase Ranch's house tour.

"Our biggest concern is to make the building look historically appropriate to their time period," Carroll explained.

The team has a summer of hard work ahead of them, but are still looking for more projects to pursue. Carroll reports that Cabin Restoration is trying to plan out many different projects, both for this summer and for further into the future.

"If any of the staff camps, especially the historical camps, have any ideas about work they want done at their camps, they can talk with me about it," he said. "We're looking to plan work for the next few years and would love input. We'd love some week-long projects to do a few times a month."

Sheen Carroll's team stands ready to tackle hard work in Philmont's finest hour. If any camps need aid with their cabins and structures, they're just chomping at the bit to lend their aid and expertise to whoever asks.

Ranch Leadership: Laws of Teamwork

Steve Nelson
Director of Camping
Services

Wow, what a couple of weeks it has been. Together we have experienced so many things during the past few weeks. The beginning of the fire, the evacuation to Springer, the return from Springer, the announcement for the summer season, the project planning and the activities to bring us together. One thing that has impressed me is the solidarity of you as a team. It has been a roller coaster of emotions for all of us. Yet through it all you have supported each other and encouraged each other in our assignments. Thank you for the great example you have been to me.

A couple of weeks ago at our Leadership Conference we discussed the “17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork” by John C. Maxwell. It was a fascinating discussion with a lot of input from the leaders of the Ranch. From that conference and the experiences of the past few days a couple of those laws have been on my mind.

First, The Law of Mount Everest. To look at this law let me share a small part of the Everest Story. Some of you may have heard of Tenzing Norgay. He was a Sherpa born in the

high altitudes of Nepal. He had been drawn to Mount Everest from the time that Westerners began visiting the area and planning expeditions to summit the great mountain. His first experience up the mountain was in 1920 when he worked as a porter for a British expedition. For 32 years, between 1920 and 1952, seven major expeditions tried and failed to make it to the top of Everest. Norgay was on six of those expeditions. In 1953, Norgay embarked on his seventh expedition to Everest. He was not only a member of the expedition team he was also responsible to hire and lead all the Sherpas hauling supplies up the mountain. This was truly a team expedition. One part of the team would exhaust themselves just to get equipment up the mountain for the next group. Two-man teams would work their way up the mountain, finding a path, cutting steps, securing ropes. And then they would be finished, having spent themselves so that the next team could go farther up the mountain. Finally, they were in the position to push for the summit. Two teams would try; if one team failed then the other team would try. The first team failed but came back and gave all the information they could to the last team. That last team was made



Philmont staffers headed to Northern Tier say “see you later” to Philmont. Ryan Soldanel/MPS Photographer

up of Edmund Hillary and Norgay. Because of all the preparation that they had made and all of the work of the hundreds of others on the team, on May 29, 1953, Hillary and Norgay stood on top of the world.

The Law of Mount Everest states, “As the challenge escalates, the need for teamwork elevates.” The question then is could Hillary and Norgay have made it alone? Of course not, it took the entire team. As here at Philmont it takes the entire team. As we went through the experiences of the fire it was clearly evident this team is able to rise to the challenge. Evacuating camp and setting up a small city in the space of a few hours is nothing short of miraculous. And to do all

of that with such a positive attitude and spirit makes it that much more special. There is nothing that we cannot do working together as a team. We have proven that as the challenge escalates we can and will work together as a team.

The other law I want to share with you is The Law of the Catalyst. This law states that “winning teams have players who make things happen.” Think of teams that you may know that have one person who is the go-to guy- the one that makes the crucial play or goes the extra mile to help the team be successful. I think of Michael Jordan or perhaps Nick Foles, the quarterback of the Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, or maybe Kevin Durrant or LeBron James. All stars who are able to lift their teams to new high level of performance. Let me share about some of the stars of Philmont. Down the hall from my office is a conference room. During the past several days a group of leaders have been meeting for hours and hours to develop the plan to save this land. They have worked, discussed and made detailed plans that will allow all of us to give back and work towards the healing of our home. I wish you could all see the hard work that they have done, the detail in the plans. We will all have a role in the Philmont Recovery Corps. The team that will give back a little bit of what this place has given to us.

Again, I am so impressed by each of you and your dedication and commitment. Together as members of the Philmont Recovery Corps we can, as Mike Crockett so eloquently spoke at our recent campfire, “Save This Land”.



A group of Philmont staff wave goodbye to their coworkers headed to Northern Tier for the month.. Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer

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PhilNews Editor
 Elizabeth Harper

PhilNews Writers
 Mark Cordeiro
 Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.

Photography Managers
 Clay Helfrick
 Shane Mrozek

Photographers
 Nick Castelli
 Whitney Dumford
 Jess McClelland
 Thomas Meade
 Ryan Soldanel
 Alex Zarynow

Lead Marketing Specialist
 Liam Inbody

Graphic Designer
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Videographers
 Ian Chamberlin
 Blake Ellis
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Ranger Mile: The Villa Philmonte

**Luke Proffitt
Ranger**

As you approach Philmont Scout Ranch from the town of Cimarron, you will pass many interesting historical buildings. But off to the left side of the road there is one building that will stand out beyond the rest for both its beauty and its significance to Philmont. It is the Villa Philmonte: former summer home of Waite Phillips, the man responsible for the generous donation of Philmont Scout Ranch to the Boy Scouts of America. The Villa is one of Philmont's most unique gems, from its lawn to its architecture to the items held within it, and of course, its rich history; all of which have been preserved extraordinarily well by Philmont Scout Ranch. The Villa is always open for tours for crews and staff alike. It is a must-see attraction for all those who love Philmont and want to learn more about its origins.

Waite Phillips was born in rural Iowa on January 19th, 1883. He and his twin brother Wiate were natural adventurers and when they were sixteen years old, they were inspired by their older brothers Frank and L.E. to leave home to explore the west. The two brothers traveled around the country working odd jobs and saving up only enough money to fund their explorations. When Wiate suddenly fell ill and passed away from appendicitis, Waite returned home to Iowa. In order to help move his life forward, his brothers sent Waite to business school and brought him on to help with their oil business. Waite eventually set out on his own to create the Waite

Phillips Company. After some time, Waite sold his company for twenty-five million dollars, one of the largest oil deals in the country at the time. With his fortune, Waite purchased an enormous ranch in New Mexico and constructed the Villa for his family. He would go on to donate an incredible 127,000 acres to the Boy Scouts of America and the Villa itself.

The Villa is surrounded by the most beautiful gardens at Philmont. The lush lawn, colorful floral arrangements, and famous Virginia Creeper vines alone can captivate you for an afternoon with their beauty and shade. Inside, you will be taken through a space with such great attention to detail, you may momentarily think you have been transported to the Mediterranean. The décor is almost 100% authentic inside the Villa, and features many marvels: paintings belonging to the Taos Society of Art, pottery from the Anasazi Indians and a painted glass image of St. George (the patron saint of Scouting), have the rooms bursting at the seams with wonder.

The Villa is a standing tribute to the generosity of Waite Phillips; a physical reminder of the reason Philmont is enjoyed by so many people today. Visiting the Villa Philmonte is an essential part of the Philmont experience and should be on the itinerary for all who hike Philmont's trails. Waite's commitment to establishing a place where young people can come to develop faith, self-reliance, integrity, and the principles of freedom set down by our founding fathers, continues to be the foundation of the ideals of Philmont to this day.



The front of the Villa Philmonte around midday on June 8, 2018.
Nick Castelli/MPS
Photographer

Soak Up the Sun (Safely)

**Ray Kreienkamp
Medic, St. Louis University**

With the warm and sunny weather at Philmont these last few weeks, the risks of dehydration and heat-related illnesses have been repeatedly iterated. However, another major health concern associated with sunny weather is sun exposure, which can cause sunburn and impair our ability to enjoy our jobs or time on the trail. At the Infirmary, we have seen multiple patients who have been negatively affected by sunburn due to spending time in the sun without proper protection.

Why is sunburn a concern? At the cellular level, sunburn occurs when DNA, which carries the genetic material to guide cellular function, is damaged in skin cells. This damage results from excessive ultraviolet (UV) radiation, generated by the sun. This damage can cause pain, irritation, swelling and cell death. All of us have likely experienced a sunburn at some point, with healing after a few days. What makes sunburn or repeated sunburns dangerous?

Sun-driven DNA damage leads to aging of the skin and can, over time, lead to cancer. Fortunately, our bodies are equipped with a multitude of mechanisms to repair DNA damage. In fact, our bodies repair ~1017 DNA breaks per day!

However, when these DNA repair mechanisms are overwhelmed or fidelity of DNA repair is impaired, DNA damage can accumulate, accelerating aging and can lead to uncontrolled cellular proliferation, also called cancer. Skin cancer remains the most common cancer, by far, in the United States. Currently, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime, leading to a significant impact on quality of life.

So we should just totally avoid the sun, hang out in the cafeteria and not go hiking, right? Absolutely not! However, skin protection with sunscreen, whenever possible, is important. Sunscreen is effective at preventing UV damage to skin, reducing sunburn, Infirmary visits, and ultimately reducing your risk of cancer.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends applying SPF 30 or higher SPF sunscreen. However, SPF 30 should be the minimum, with SPF 40 or SPF 50 being better. This sunscreen should be applied liberally and re-applied every few hours. The use of protective clothing such as pants, lip balm, and sunglasses all are helpful. While ball caps can provide some protection, they are much inferior to wide-brimmed hats. Even on cloudy days, UV rays

can penetrate clouds and cause damage, so skin protection on these days is important too. It is important to coat all sun-exposed surfaces. Body areas like the ears, nose, neck, and back of knees and legs are often forgotten. Spray sunscreens are the least effective way of applying sunscreen and are often not applied in adequate amounts. Therefore, sunscreens that are rubbed on skin are recommended.

The use of sunscreen and other protective measures are particularly important at Philmont for a few reasons. First, researchers have found that sunburn at younger ages increases the risk for developing cancer later in life. In fact, individuals who experienced five or more blistering sunburns before age 20 had an 80% higher risk of developing melanoma, a form of skin cancer. Additionally, elevation increases UV exposure. Therefore, it is important to apply sunscreen and to encourage those who will be in the sun most of the summer to apply sunscreen.

Being out in the sun and exploring nature at Philmont is an awesome opportunity and experience. Give yourself the greatest opportunity to enjoy the experience. Wear sunscreen. Your skin will thank you! (And so will the Infirmary staff!)

A Tribute to Scouting cont.

Continued from page 1

It is planned that the estimated 32,000 people who visit Philmont each year will serve to increase the number of people who visit the National Scouting Museum, a problem that has plagued the Texas headquarters location almost since its inception.

But the change in the physical location of the facility will only serve to partly fix the problem. Other features that will help increase visitor numbers are the addition of user-friendly attractions such as the addition of a digital section of the library. Another draw will include two other related museums that are already located at the location, the

Seton Memorial Library and the Villa Philmonte. Officials also wish to enhance the mission of the museum by preserving physical and digital archives, conducting research, and presenting and sharing BSA history with local councils.

Officials have plans to expand the reach of the museum's collection by introducing programs to share exhibits with other museums and other adventure bases.

The move to Philmont will mark the fourth location in the museum's history. Originally opened in 1959 as the Johnston National Museum in New Brunswick, N.J.

In 1986, the museum was moved to Murray State University in western Kentucky.

Finally, in 2002, the National Scouting Museum was relocated to the grounds of the national office of the Boy Scouts of America in Irving, TX.

With this latest move, the National Scouting Museum will join the Kit Carson Museum as well as a collection at Villa Philmonte to create a fuller picture of both Scouting as well as the Philmont story to create more than 13,000-square feet of educational resources that will be unmatched in the history of the organization.

Cimarron Village Forum Gives Hope continued

Continued from page 1

Cimarron's water supply.

"In the short term, I have no issue with saying that we won't

have any troubles supplying the village with water."

The long-term is a different story, however. The other

watersheds reportedly got hit hard by the fire and will need a lot of work to get it back to where they once were.

Vigil also urged locals to help out with their local volunteer EMTs and firefighters and with aid organizations like the Red Cross. He closed with a reminder to the people of New Mexico and beyond: "Highway 64 is closed, but Cimarron is open. Come see us!"

The Cabinet Secretary from the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Jay Mitchell, also spoke, praising emergency services for their work.

"This fire is the fastest reaction the emergency services of the State of New Mexico have ever had," he said.

Nearly the entire emergency response force the New Mexico State government mobilized was in position and ready to assist within 24-48 hours of the fire first being reported.

He went on to praise the village of Cimarron itself: "All emergencies are local. Your local community has been executing for this emergency in one of the best ways I've seen in my 10 years' experience."

Kevin Dowling, Philmont's General Manager, later addressed the people of Cimarron, thanking them on behalf of the entire camp.

"We're going to do everything in our power to stay here with our staff and be here to support the village of Cimarron," he told the audience. "We're here in this together, and we all live in this

community. Philmont has been intertwined in this community for as long as Scouts have hiked our trails. This is our home together. We are dedicated to working together with our village to promote our corner of Colfax County."

A short while later, the meeting adjourned, and the people of Cimarron left to go back to their homes, their businesses, or their positions in the backcountry, fighting the fire that raged in the heart of Philmont. What they took with them was an even greater respect for those brave men and women who worked tirelessly to save their village, and the knowledge that Philmont had their backs, through thick and thin, hot and cold, wet and dry.



Kevin Dowling, Philmont's General Manager, addresses the audience at the Cimarron Village Forum. Ryan Soldanel/MPS Photographer

Anticipating New Growth for Wildlife Post-Fire

Chambers English Conservation Wildlife Specialist

The forests and woodlands of the Southwest evolved with the natural, seasonal force of low intensity fire sweeping through the landscape every two to ten years. For over a hundred years, land managers across the United States have suppressed natural and human-caused fire which "cleaned" the forest floor. Timber harvest has not mimicked the thinning action fire once played over the Ponderosa Pine forests, rather establishing homogeneous and dense second-growth forests. The shaded thickets choke out grasses, forbs, and shrubs and limit nutrients needed by native wildlife. Through the Ute Park Fire itself and new objectives for the summer, Philmont recognizes the need for restoration of the natural ecosystem despite obvious destruction.

While the fire has undoubtedly brought negative short-term effects to the creatures in the backcountry, in the long-term the populations will benefit. The immediate desolation of our blaze certainly displaced many animals in the path of the flames, pushing them to unaffected areas. Scientists in

similar habitats in New Mexico and Arizona have observed bears migrating out of high altitude burn areas to lower elevations and different mountainous regions, but bears will stay in unburned forest on the edge of burn country to feed in the early morning as vegetation returns (Cunningham and Ballard 2004). Wildfire releases minerals like Phosphorous and Nitrogen from standing trees and litter on the forest floor and encourages a diversity of new growth packed with protein particularly needed by calving elk to grow and feed healthy young (Halbritter and Bender 2011). Over the next few years, Philmont's elk and deer populations will thrive on this growth, especially in the high country near streams and lakes. If the elegant white trunks of aspen stands were blackened in the fire, find solace in the fact that new growth from aspens will feed generations of animals with densely packed nutrients in the shoots and leaves.

The Philmont Recovery Corps plans to execute large scale timber stand improvement around Philmont over the next month to protect significant resources and values like roads, streams and backcountry camps from future

fires. This disturbance will have additional rewards for our wildlife populations somewhat similarly to historical, healthy fires by removing small trees and moving closer to the savanna-like understory of the past. Thinned forests in the Sacramento Mountains to the south of Philmont have yielded higher richness, abundance, and activity of mammals of all sizes compared to dense, overgrown forests (Wampler et al. 2008). Additionally,

research on Vermejo Park Ranch, one of Philmont's neighbors, showed elk and deer utilize the increased understory growth after thinning and prescribed burning (Thomas 2015). Fire and open forests are the natural friends of our wildlife and help balance a healthy ecosystem.

Before the Conservation Department was established, before Waite Phillips bestowed the Ranch to Scouting, and before

the first white settlers arrived here, one force executed the primary land management in the Sangre de Cristos. Regular fire came with summer storms and brought a balance of new growth to the forest floor while protecting towering Ponderosas. Today, the Ranch steps towards a budding health which fire once brought the land - for the safety of humans, the benefit of wildlife, and the integrity of the land."



Smoke from the Ute Park Fire rises over Horse Ridge. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer

The Wildlife Window: Caught on Camera

Chambers English Wildlife Specialist

Photos curated by Conservation Wildlife Specialists as part of ongoing wildlife monitoring and research.



A ragged bull elk travels above Cimarroncita days before the Ute Park Fire showing new velvet antler growth. Of all species at Philmont, these ungulates will likely benefit the most from new growth encouraged by the fire.



Why did the turkey cross the trail? A hen turkey plods along the forests of Upper Dean Canyon.

The Toilet Paper: Upcoming Activities

The Toilet Paper

Things to do around Base, June 22 – June 28, 2018

See the Activities Staff in the S³AC for more details!

622 Friday	623 Saturday	624 Sunday	625 Monday	626 Tuesday	627 Wednesday	628 Thursday
Magic the Gathering Tournament @ SSSAC 8 p.m.	Phil-chella (dancing) @ Baldy Pavilion: 8 p.m.	Paper Airplane Contest @ Baldy Pavilion: 8 p.m.	Movie Night @ Baldy Pavilion: 8 p.m.	Ultimate Frisbee @ Location TBD: 6:30 p.m.	Jam Session @ SSSAC Porch: 8 p.m.	Open Mic Night @ Baldy Pavilion: 8 p.m.

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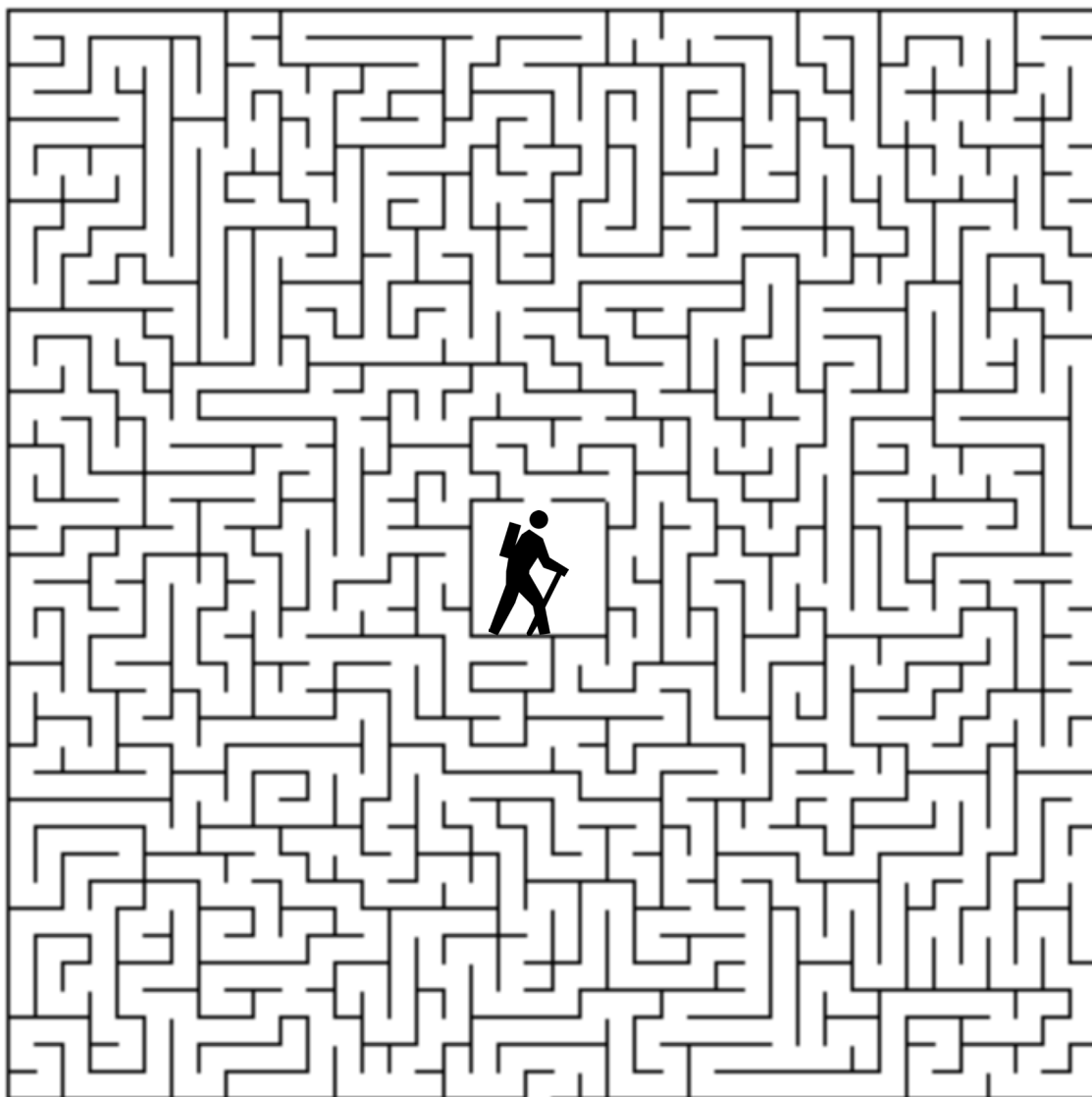
341 East 9th Street
P.O. Box 322
Cimarron, NM 87714

Phone: 575-376-9040

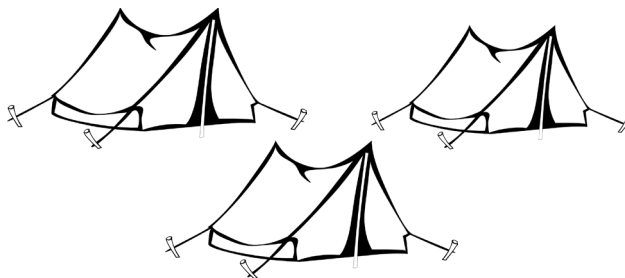
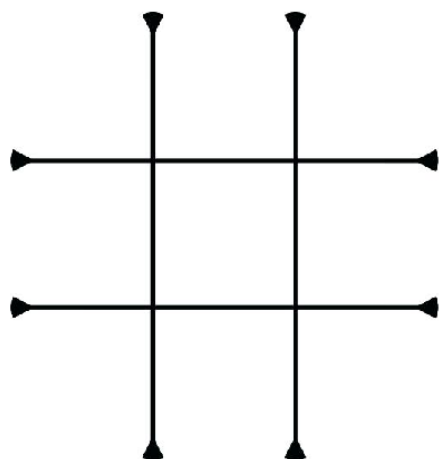
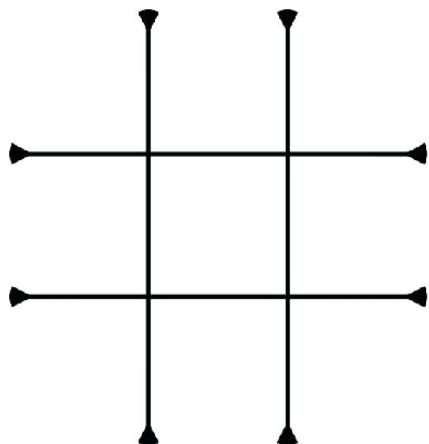
The Puzzle Page

Grab a pen and play some games, either by yourself or with friends!

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



Tic Tac Toe



The Maze Game

This hiker wasn't paying attention and got separated from his friends. Help him find his way back to their campsite!

Issue 1 Sudoku Solutions

9	5	2	3	8	6	4	1	7
8	1	4	9	7	5	3	2	6
6	3	7	1	2	4	5	8	9
1	4	8	2	9	7	6	5	3
2	6	3	4	5	8	7	9	1
5	7	9	6	3	1	8	4	2
7	2	1	8	4	3	9	6	5
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Chaplain's Corner: Why Philmont is God's Country

Father Steve Hoffer Catholic Chaplain

I love coming to Philmont to experience being in God's Country. Philmont is located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which means Blood of Christ in Spanish. And if you have ever seen a sunrise or sunset hitting these mountains and hills, you will know that they turn blood red, hence the name. When we think of Philmont, we think of the beautiful trees, views, vistas, lakes and streams. Yes, they are nice, but they are not what make Philmont so beautiful. What makes Philmont so special is the staff, both permanent and seasonal. The staff is what makes the magical experience for the Scouts and Scouters to come alive. Without the staff, Philmont would be just another place to hike and camp.

A portion of our home has been destroyed. It will take years to recover, and some places may never recover to their former state. We experienced a fire that has affected all of our lives—from the evacuation, to programs having to change, probably some treks rerouted. But the fire is good. Fire is part of the natural cycle of regeneration. What the fire does is burn up the litter (branches, plants, shrubs, leaves, etc.) that accumulates over time. Out of a fire comes new growth.

The Ponil Fire in 2002 burned a lot of areas. Right after the fire, it looked like a bomb hit. But now, 16 years later, you can start to see signs of new growth, the plants and trees are starting to regrow. Some areas are recovering remarkably well.

It is the same with our current fire. There will be a massive amount of destruction, but eventually there will be new growth. The fire is a part of the plan of regeneration for any area. It is part of the cycle of life that the forest has to experience destruction before new life can occur. In Michigan, there is a tree called the Jack Pine that need to have a fire to release the seeds from the pine cones so they can start to grow and replace the older tree.

So how can the fire relate to us? At times, God uses things to help us to grow. Sometimes we have to experience pain and discomfort before we experience growth. When we came to Philmont, did you expect to be displaced by a Type 1 fire? I know I didn't. But through the evacuation and subsequent return, I feel we, as a Philmont staff, have grown together. We did incredible things, from the 1 hour and 15 minute evacuation of 1100 people from base camp, to the 2 hour and 10 minute striking camp and beginning to

return home, a horseless rodeo, the Springer Annex of the Silver Sage, the mobile chaplain's office, just to name a few things. These things will bring us and have brought us together as a staff and family. Everyone pitched in and worked together. It impressed the Red Cross when they came and thought we needed help. It was impressive to see.


Yes, things might not be the same as last year; they might not be what we expected when we signed up to work at Philmont this summer. I think the fire helps us appreciate the beauty of the Philmont program, its staff. We are what make Philmont so special. As we return to a sense of normalcy, we need to continue to develop our relationship with others around us. Take time to experience the beauty of Philmont. Experience the program in the backcountry or at the PTC. Take time to pray and develop your relationship with God. Take time to appreciate the beauty of Philmont and each other. This is God's Country. May we all continue to experience the wonders of Philmont, with all its twists and turns. May we all use this summer's experience to grow into the man or woman that God wants us to be. We are HOmE, We are Philmont! We are #PhilmontStrong!!

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ICE CREAM

COFFEE BAR

SMOOTHIES



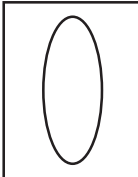
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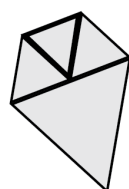
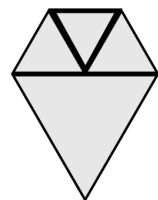
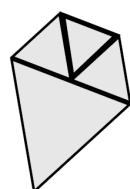
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Chaplain's Bio: Father Steve Hoffer

Father Steve Hoffer Catholic Chaplain

My name is Father Steve Hoffer, and I am one of the Philmont Chaplains. I am a Catholic Priest from Las Vegas, Nevada (not New Mexico). I am originally from Grand Haven, Michigan and graduated with an Master of Science in Forestry from Michigan Technological University.

This is my 12th season at

Philmont. I spent five seasons at Philmont in the Conservation Department. For two years I served as a 28-Day Trail Crew foreman and then I was Associate Director of Conservation for the 28-Day Trail Crew program for two years. In 2000, I served as the Field Surveyor that helped start the GIS program at Philmont.

I entered the seminary in August 2000, just after being on staff at Philmont, and was ordained a

priest in 2005 (13 years ago).

I love hiking and working out. To relax, I enjoy doing stitchery and reading books. I am only here at Philmont until June 10th this year, but several other priests will be rotating in throughout the summer.

One highlight of my time at Philmont, of all the years I served, will have to be celebrating Mass in a grandstand at the Colfax County Fairgrounds during

Springer Break, wearing a bear rope for a cincture (or belt). I will remember our experiences for a long time.

If there is any I or any of the other chaplains can do, just ask.

Father Steve Hoffer, a former Philmont staffer and 2018 Catholic Chaplain, outside the MPS office. Imara Chew/MPS Manager



Chaplain's Bio: Seminarian David Relstab

Seminarian David Relstab Catholic Chaplain

I am David Relstab and I'm serving as one of the Catholic Chaplains this year here at Philmont. I grew up outside of Chicago in a suburb called Palos Hills and am the youngest of 3 boys. Growing up, Scouting was a staple in my family. In first grade, I joined Cub Scouts and advanced through the ranks, making it to Eagle Scout in 2010.

I was fortunate to be part of an active troop with monthly campouts that gave me an appreciation for the outdoors. For summer camp my troop attended Owasippe Scout Reservation in Michigan and it was there where I spent four summers as a participant and then six years working in the Handicraft and Scoutcraft program areas. In 2009 I became a member of Order of the Arrow, Owasippe Lodge #7 and with that I was given many opportunities to attend different events from lodge fellowships to national conferences, along with holding several positions from Chapter Chief to Lodge Vice Chief. It was while attending a section

conclave that the OATC (Order of the Arrow Trail Crew) program was introduced to me. One of my brothers had gone to Philmont with our Troop years before, and it seemed like the perfect time to see where the mountains meet the plains.

I was blessed to have what seemed to be the best two weeks of my life. It was hard work, but being able to be in crews with Arrowmen from around the country was amazing, not to mention the different program element of the trek. That next summer, in 2014, I applied to work on staff and was accepted as a Ranger. It was a very different kind of work than coming from a council camp but that summer again I was able to meet people from around the world and open my view on life. The next two summers I went back to my council camp due to it being shorthanded and worked as the Scoutcraft director, taking some of the knowledge I had learned as a Ranger with me to start a new program for other Scouts.

I started studying Automotive Technology at a community college and worked as a mechanic for a few years before transferring to Ferris

State University in Big Rapids, Michigan, where I graduated with a B.S. in Automotive Engineering Technology in December of 2017. It was at college where I came back into my faith by getting involved with the campus' Catholic student group. By doing that I was able to make many great friends, go on a number of trips and retreats, and most of all learn more about myself and what God had planned for me. While in prayer during a retreat the thought of becoming a priest entered my heart and that led me on a journey of discernment. After looking at my local diocese along and some other religious communities I discovered the Order of Saint Augustine (Augustinians) and it was a perfect match. Their way of life and spirituality was very in line with what I was seeking. So, in January of 2018, I entered the Order and started living and working at St. Rita of Cascia High School, an all boys high school on the Southside of Chicago.

One day, I was thinking of my plans for the summer and Philmont was the first thing that popped into my mind. So, I quickly talked with the National Catholic Committee

on Scouting and was told of the opportunity to serve as a chaplain at Philmont. I am very happy to be back at the Ranch and especially be serving as a Chaplain. This sure has been an interesting time and I really look forward to what

the rest of the summer will hold. I thank God for this incredible opportunity to be here with so many amazing people and I hope that I can meet as many of you before I leave to study at Villanova University in August.



Seminarian David Relstab, a former Philmont Ranger, now a seminarian and Catholic Chaplain. Alex Zarynow/MPS Photographer



PHILMONT STAFF PHOTO CONTEST

Hey Philmont staffers! As you start your summer, remember to take photos, document your adventures, and capture some sweet moments this summer and enter them in the Staff Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted from July 1st to July 21st.

Categories

- Staff Activity
- Camper Activity
- Porch Views
- Landscapes
- Wildlife
- Philmont Skies
- Plant Life
- Portraits
- Humor
- Black and White

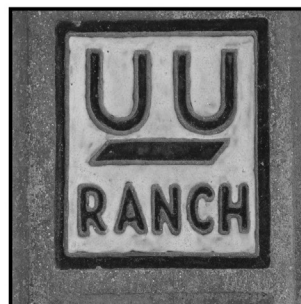
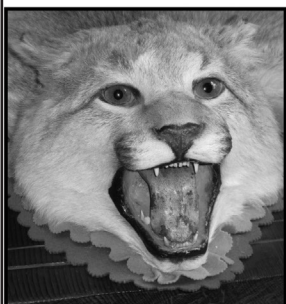


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**Submissions to the
PhilNews are welcome anytime!**

If you would like a chance to contribute to the PhilNews, please send your articles, story ideas, and/or creative writings to the PhilNews Editor at

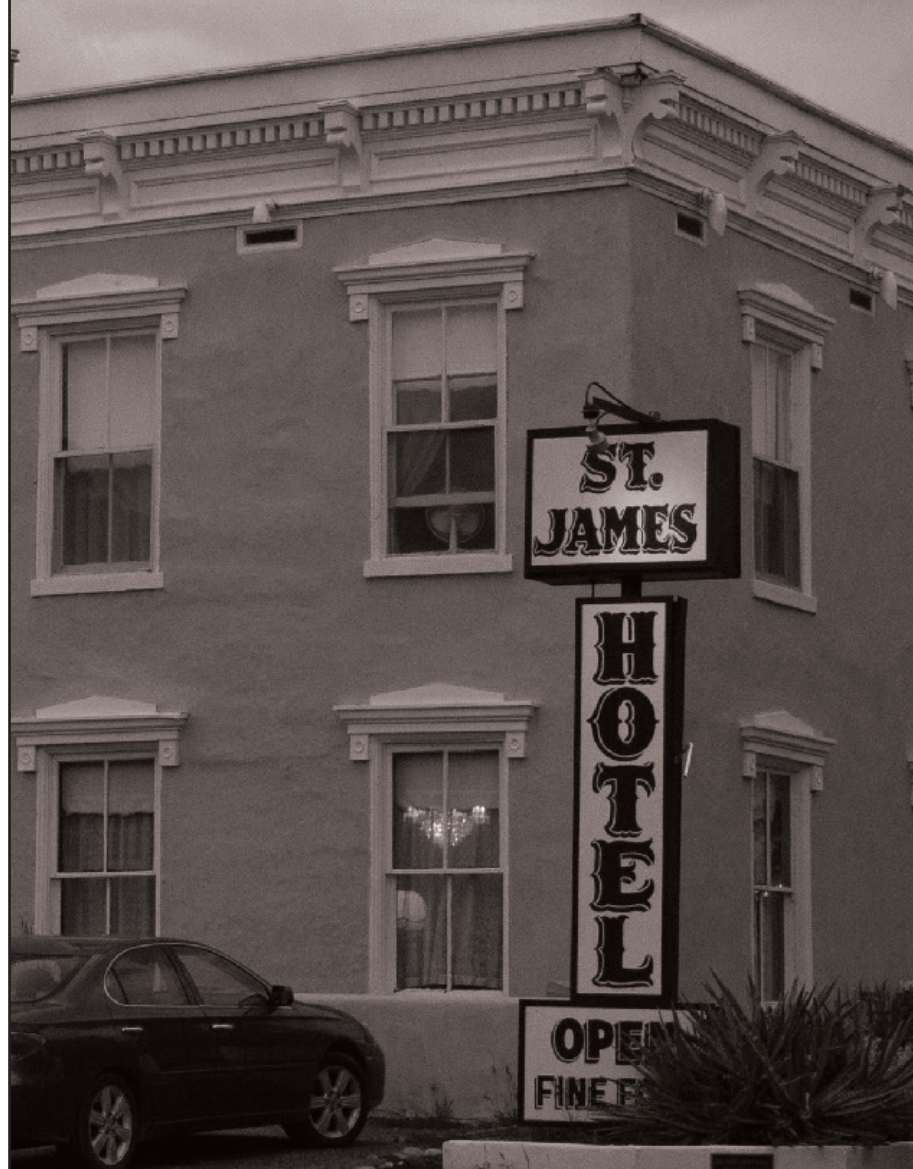
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\$ _____ Total Membership Renewal	

DONATION? <i>All donations are tax deductible.</i>	\$ _____ 2018 Annual Fund \$ _____ Rayado/ROCS Scholarship Fund <i>In honor of _____</i> \$ _____ Seasonal Scholarship \$ _____ Capital Campaign \$ _____ 19.73 Club Monthly donation of \$19.73 goes toward the Annual Fund.
\$ _____ Total Donation	

SHOPPING? <i>All prices include shipping.</i>	_____ "I Wanna Go Back" <i>Story of the Philmont Rangers</i> \$16 each _____ "The Life & Times of Jack Rhea" <i>by Bill Cass</i> \$17 each _____ "Carry On" <i>Joe Davis Biography</i> \$16 each _____ PSA Logo Water Bottle <i>32 oz. Nalgene Wide-Mouth</i> \$15 each <i>please select color: _____ Red _____ Blue</i> _____ PSA Stationary <i>12-5x7 Philmont map cards</i> \$12 set _____ PSA Logo Patch \$5 each
\$ _____ Total Purchases	

PAYMENT <i>3 Ways to Pay</i>	1 Check Payable to Philmont Staff Association	2 Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Name on Card _____ Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Charge Amount _____ Signature _____	3 Online Please go to www.philstaff.com
\$ _____ Total Enclosed			

*Please return this form with your payment, unless renewing online.
 Thank you for your continued membership and support!*



Top: On the night of June 6, 2018 just after 11:00pm the Milky Way rises above the horizon. The glow of Miami and Springer can be seen in the background. Mark Cordeiro/MPSWriter

Middle Left: The Milky Way is clearly visible to the naked eye and streaks across the sky above Opening Campfire Bowl. Alex Zarynow/MPS Photographer

Middle Right: Rangers hike from the St. James Hotel to Basecamp along Highway 21 cleaning up garbage along the way. Nick Castelli/MPS Photographer

Bottom Left: On June 7, 2018, over the course of one hour, the stars above opening campfire track through the sky leaving long trails. Blake Ellis/MPS Videographer

Bottom Right: Teams head out to the Backcountry on June 10, 2018 to work on restoring the Ranch. Eric Martinez high fives the teams as they board the bus. Ryan Soldanel/MPS Photographer

