

PHILNEWS



JUNE 29TH, 2018

ISSUE THREE

Voices from the Valle: Green Battalion Sounds Off

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

One of the first major deployments of the Philmont Recovery Corps Project took place from June 10th to June 14th in the Carson National Forest's Valle Vidal. Tasked with Timber Stand Improvement, about 152 Philmont staff worked 8 hour days in the forests to prevent future fires. PhilNews caught up with three of Green Battalion's women who were hard at work on their fourth day in the field.

What were you expecting out of this year working on Philmont Staff, and how does what you're doing now compare to that?

Arizona Duff: I was expecting a lot of interpretation, reenacting, and that was a lot of the training we did before the fire. When the fire broke out, I honestly never saw myself working out, felling trees. I've never even cut down a tree before besides my family Christmas tree. I think today, I've done 16 or 17? So, it's definitely not what I was expecting, but, especially with the tree felling, it's clear to see why we're out here.

So, I think that as far as comparing, it's a lot more manual labor than I was anticipating, but I think the value and the work are something I'm glad to contribute and want to put my time and energy into. It's more of a behind-the-scenes approach than being a Program Counselor or being a Ranger with that one-on-one interaction, but what we're doing is still for the participants. They don't see it, they may never know

that we were out here for four days cutting down trees, but we're doing it so that there will still be a Philmont to enjoy.

Haley Otto: It's a lot different. My job normally wouldn't be this physically demanding, but I'm really enjoying it because I've always wanted to do Conservation, but never thought I'd be strong enough to do it. So, it's pretty cool that I get to be out here for a week at a time and experience what it would be like in Conservation that whole time without it being my whole summer. So, you know, I dig it.

The first two days, we were doing TSI, which is cutting down trees, and then yesterday and today, we've been taking out all of the weeds and underbrush as best we can from the meadow area over by Crystal Creek. We've also been taking out invasive species as we find them so the native plants can grow.

I actually didn't know what we would actually be doing when I first got assigned here! I had less than 24 hours' notice, I only found out the day before. I was kind of just like "Oh, okay!"

Tek Kriedler: This is SO much better than I expected. They didn't really give us a lot of information because a lot of things were just moving parts and a lot of people seeing where they needed us most. We'd talked in the Conservation department about how we'd be doing a lot of TSI but we didn't know a lot about when we'd end up doing that, or even where or

Continued on page 4



Arizona Duff, a Program Counselor and member of the Green Battalion, works on timber stand improvement while in the Valle Vidal. Alex Zarynow/MPS Photographer

Revitalizing the Villa

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

While hundreds of Philmont staff are working hard to repair and restore the parts of Philmont's Backcountry that were affected by the Ute Park Fire, staff members are pulling their weight in Base Camp too. At the Villa Philmonte, about a dozen staff members from various departments, including the Tooth of Time Traders, Logistics and Villa Tour Staff, have worked to waterproof the Villa's foundations and preserve the building for decades to come.

Kevin Becker, the curator of the Villa Philmonte, was out with the staff on June 15th, picking weeds. Several other staff members worked around him, repairing a fountain or digging up areas of the garden that needed to be repaired. "My plan was to do this in the fall with some hired seasonal staff. Now, however, we have some staff that aren't able to do their normal duties until the Ranch reopens. With this project, we're able to keep them working and get ahead of schedule." Becker explained.

The foundation for the Villa

Philmonte was poured around 92 years ago with concrete that isn't as effective as modern concrete. By updating the foundation, Becker hopes to mitigate any future water damage from the irrigation systems to the inside of the Villa.

"Some Departments have been kind enough to offer up their staff to help with these projects, and we're incredibly grateful," Becker went on to say.

Becker expressed his thanks for those volunteers that were

Continued on page 3

מְלִשׁוּרִי דְתַכְשָׁא-בָא: If I Forget You, O Jerusalem Reflections on Summers Unexpected

Rabbi Geoff Solomon
Jewish Chaplain

Thursday, 6 July 2006

The El Al plane swept through the air above the Mediterranean Sea, its waters mirroring the sky, to merge, blending as I turned to watch behind me, even while we finished our descent into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport. The air was clear and dry. I was home again, if only for part of the summer. I hired a car to take me north, to Haifa University, where I was to study until September. My campus apartment on Mount Carmel was a bit rough, but had a stunning view of Haifa, especially the nightscape.

Preparations for the Shabbat meals were simplicity itself—a bus ride to the shuk (open air market) where everything needed for the traditional Shabbat observance was easily obtainable from small folding tables overseen by charming old ladies who looked exactly like one's grandmother. The gefilte fish still had the bones ground up in it, though. Maybe a little too authentic.

Shabbath dinner that Friday night, with new friends and old classmates. Sunday night I set my camera up for a long exposure, capturing the iconic Haifa cooling towers – long defunct, but lit

brilliantly in the darkness. On Monday classes would begin.

Thursday, 24 May 2018

I have finished my long (1,771 miles, but who's counting...) drive from Florida to Philmont. The last leg, after an overnight in Amarillo, brought me through mile upon mile of seamless scrub and pine covered land, each acre blending into the next, until I saw the Tooth poke up before me. I was home again, even if only for part of the summer. This year, I was to be at Philmont only until July 1st.

I moved my Suburban's load of gear into my dorm, visited Registration and Re-Check, then spent the rest of the day cleaning and organizing. Preparations for Shabbath were easy – what I did not already prepare, my wife Rachel brought with her, when she came up from Albuquerque the next morning, where she and our son Ben had flown in. Friday night dinner with old friends in the Phillel completed my transition to the Philmont state of mind. Sunday would be a hike up the Tooth. Monday training would begin.

Wednesday, 12 July 2006

Rumors in the cafeteria speak about rockets fired from Lebanon,

Israeli soldiers, some killed, some captured by Hezbollah. Local and overseas students both express some anxiety - we are quite close to the border with Lebanon.

Thursday, 13 July 2006

Artillery shells and rockets begin to rain down on Haifa. I watch as the rockets strike the city below me. I set up my camera to take a new picture, but framing the same cityscape. My hopes are that I can catch a rocket strike and explosion, to juxtapose it with the nightscape still I had captured. I never get the chance, as MP's have begun herding all the overseas students into bomb shelters – the local students having been sent home to find refuge in their family's built-in shelters.

Friday, 14 July 2006

After spending the night in the bomb shelters, the overseas students are gathered in a conference hall. The director of overseas studies informs us of the casualties amongst civilians and the continuing bombardment of the border towns. We are given a choice – overseas students may be sent to Tel Aviv to return home as soon as possible. Those wishing to stay will be evacuated on Sunday, after the Shabbath, to Jerusalem. No – we don't know yet where you'll stay. No – we don't know yet when or if classes will resume. We will send some instructors and borrow some from Hebrew University.

The debrief over, we confer amongst ourselves. We are frightened, uncertain, anxious, angry. Some say, "I came here to study, not to be caught in a war zone. I'm going home." Most of us are of the mind to say rather, "Yes, I came here to study. But more so – I came here to be in Israel. Haifa? Jerusalem? Studying? Working? No matter – just don't make me leave." Friday afternoon we enter the shelters again. Steel rooms encased in concrete. I say goodbye to Rachel

before I go in – cell phones don't work in the shelters. I won't be able to speak with her again until Sunday morning, just before we get on the busses for Jerusalem.

Sunday, 16 July. We arrive in Jerusalem and are housed in unused dorms at the old campus of Hebrew University on Har HaTsofim. Unused, apparently, for the last 30 years. Dank and dark, we feel like we're back in the time of the Ottomans. But we are still here, still in Jerusalem. By now we're are just a few of the 250,000 refugees who've already been evacuated from the north. But we're here, in Jerusalem, our work before us.

Thursday, 31 May 2018

Rachel has gone home on Monday. All the staff have been training and preparing for the advent of the season. Early afternoon and I am in Commissary when staff begin to talk of a fire near 'Cito. I step outside and see a small column of smoke.

By 8 p.m. it is no longer a small column, but rather huge billowing clouds that swept through the air, the setting sun casting a reddish glow on their tops, mirrored by a glow beneath that bespeaks only of uncertainty. I snap that photo – I now have one more documentary photograph. Friday morning comes with Base filled with smoke. By late morning the flames were visible. By 3 we were evacuating, on our way to what would become Springer Break. I said goodbye to Rachel as the evacuees sought shelter. Then in Springer, Shabbath dinner with old friends and new. Philmont East – but our time in Springer brought staff together as a family faster than ever before.

Sunday, 3 June 2018

After a return to Philmont, accomplished with an efficiency that would make any outfit proud, we were gathered for general and break-out meetings. During the break-out I attended, it was made

clear that those who wished to stay – their jobs were assured, we would be vital to the future of Philmont; but those who wished to leave Philmont early and return to their homes could do so – Philmont would assist, and it would be no black mark on their record for the future. Some would say to me, in the coming days, "I didn't come to Philmont for this. I didn't come to clean bathrooms or paint walls or cut timber. I didn't come to deal with fires. I'm going home."

All the while my heart was crying out, "Leave? I don't understand! Don't make me leave!" I changed my departure date from July to August. I would see this unexpected Philmont adventure through.

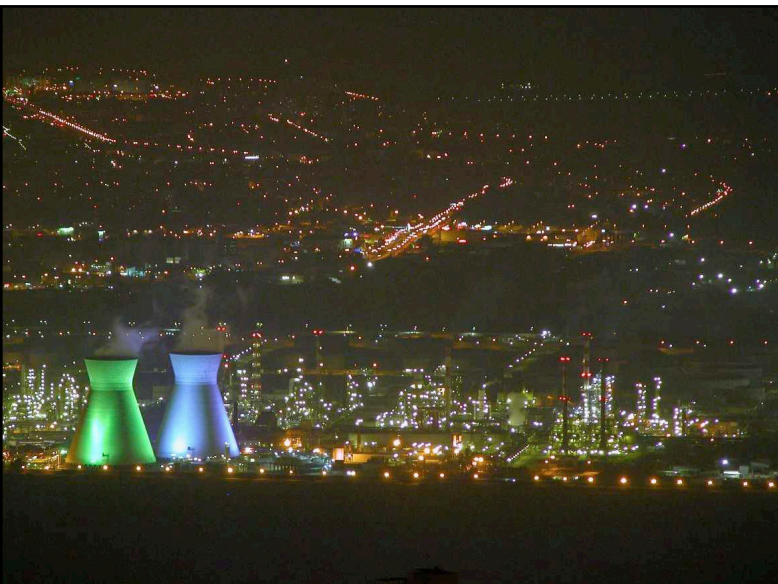
Sunday, 17 June 2018

We've all lived these two intervening weeks of worry and work. It was Thursday last, Shabbath preparations complete, and I am speaking with Rachel, who is in Florida. She had picked up one of our Cub Scouts from day camp and had spoken to the camp director there. Of course, the camp director, as was true of everyone back in our home council, true of everyone in BSA, was aware of what had occurred and was still occurring at Philmont. We had their worry, their prayers, their support. But they were so far away.

It struck me then. "Rachel," I said, "remember that summer in Haifa – the missiles, the Lebanese war, the evacuations?"

"It is the same as now – but it is Philmont that is BSA's Jerusalem, BSA's heart. The people here could no more abandon Philmont to the flames than we could flee Israel from before the rockets. The rebuilding of Philmont too, is G-d's work.

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her strength...if I remember you not. (Ps.137)



The nightscape in Haifa, Israel in 2006, during the Second Lebanese War. Rabbi Geoff Solomon/Jewish Chaplain

Outfitting Helps Outfit Local School

Mark Cordeiro
Staff Writer

On June 14th, members of Philmont's Outfitting Service Department took a quick trip over to the village of Cimarron's elementary and middle school to volunteer their time helping teachers move in to a new building. Marie Salas, Cimarron's 2nd grade teacher, was ready to meet them and explain why the school needed Outfitting's help.

"The building that we were in was built in, I believe, the 1960's. Of course, during that time, lead and asbestos were used in buildings. Though it's been contained, the building was also damaged in an earthquake in the early 1990's. With those factors in mind, and with the State generally wanting to downsize buildings everywhere, we had some funding to do some renovations," Salas said.

This area of the building previously stood abandoned, consisting of old, unused classrooms and storage rooms. Salas' new classroom used to be a locker room, though it would be almost impossible to tell due to the extensive renovations. Cimarron's Elementary and Middle School has been long overdue for an upgrade, as evidenced by its incredible level

of achievement and performance.

"We've been an 'A' ranked school for several years now, and I just attribute that to our team. We all work hard to make sure our kids are getting what they need," Salas explained.

When asked why Marie Salas reached out to Philmont for aid, she cited her own history with the Ranch. Her grandparents used to be cooks in the Villa Philmonte's kitchen. Her parents worked with Philmont's commissary and her brother worked there for years as well. She also did a few years on Philmont's staff in her early years, so it's safe to say that Salas knows the Philmont staff well.

"Philmont's always helped us. They've been a great part of our community," Salas shared. "I know Philmont's people, and I know how ready they are to help our community. We want to support them too."

This commitment was shared by Carter Smith, the Outfitting Services Manager that led the volunteers sent to the School.

"Working with different people is fun and a good way to give back to the community," Carter said. "Instead of just doing Philmont stuff, we have an opportunity to lend them help in a unique way."



Alexa Franks and Jake Gillette give back to the community of Cimarron by helping teachers at Cimarron Elementary School move in to their new building. Many projects like this have taken place in the past few weeks as Philmont awaits the start of participant arrivals. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer

Smith and his half-dozen volunteers spent hours at the school, moving tables, chairs, and a variety of other designated objects between the buildings, speeding the

process of moving up significantly and helping the school in their time of need.

Revitalizing the Villa continued

Continued from page 1

assigned to aid his project. Chris Westwood, a first year Villa Tour Guide, echoed his statement.

"A few of us were doing the repairs yesterday by ourselves, and it was some pretty hard work. It's nice having a bunch of hands around to help us out," Westwood said.

Westwood and much of the other Villa Philmonte staff have been occupied with their studies of the museum and haven't gotten a lot of time to get out and work the grounds. Now, many of them are excited to actually help maintain their buildings and grounds with the others.

Prepping the Villa for monsoon

season is hard work, and waterproofing the foundations of the building requires a 6ft deep trench to be dug to the bottom of the foundation to complete the work.

"We've got a few more projects coming up, like some to repair the fountains around and some to spruce up the exhibits and gallery," Westwood said, eager to begin.

"Anyone that wants to come help is welcome," Kevin Becker said. He encouraged any department that have staff to spare to look into helping the ongoing maintenance projects being undertaken by the Villa staff.



Quinn Calendine removes stumps from around the foundation of the Villa courtyard. Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer

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Voices from the Valle cont.

Continued from page 1

how.

After working in the Ranger Department for three years, which I had a total blast in and learned so much from, one of the things I learned was how this ranch operates. The Conservation Department does so much work behind the scenes to keep the Ranch going smoothly. Like, the Ute Park Fire? One of the major reasons it didn't burn into the south country and didn't burn sites like Clark's Fork and Cito is because of the TSI that the Conservation Department has done in that area to thin out the trees and prevent toe fire from turning into a crown fire. After those three years, I decided that I wanted to give back to the Ranch and give other individuals the chance to have as great an experience in the Ranger Department as I had. So, now, I get to do the Conservation work as a "Thank You" to Philmont.

Did you ever have a moment after hearing that the Ranch was pushing back its opening that you thought "Maybe I should go and try to do something else this

summer?"

Arizona Duff: I definitely had a moment where I thought, "Alright, so what capacity am I going to fill at Philmont? How am I going to be contributing?" but never thought about leaving for good. As soon as the Managers said, "We need people with talents; we need leaders." I knew that I wouldn't leave. I think as soon as that idea of "We have so much work to do" came around, that's when I knew I should stay. This job might not be what I was expecting, and I may be a little more tired at the end of the day than I thought I'd be, but this is what I came here for. I came here to offer something to Philmont. There's this phrase, something like "You come to Philmont for one of two reasons: either because Philmont has something to offer you, or because you have something to offer Philmont." This summer, I thought I'd be offering my interpretation and music skills at Cypher's Mine, but when the rug is yanked out from under you like this, you've got to find that other thing you can contribute.

Haley Otto: I didn't even really think about leaving. I love Philmont too much. I'd rather be here, doing things to help the Ranch and get it ready for participants faster than being somewhere else and not having any control over the work being done here.

Tek Kriedler: Absolutely not. I have so many friends who couldn't make it out this year, and so I was even more excited to come out and help because I got a lot of messages and calls from people saying that they were scared for the Ranch and how uncertain they were about what the summer was going to look like and what they'd be doing, and I was so excited to get here and help however I could. I figured that if there was a huge fire, then probably the first kind of work that we'd be able to do would be Conservation work, so I was more than stoked to come out here.

What're you looking forward to in these next couple weeks of work before operations resume like normal?



During a Timber Stand Improvement project on June 15, 2018, Gillian Suhre, Forestry Work Crew Foreman, works on some logging, taking felled trees from the fire block build and breaking them down into firewood to be used in future campfires and wood burning stoves in the backcountry. Whitney Dumford/MPS Photographer



Tyler Wertz, a Program Counselor at Black Mountain, carries a felled tree while doing Timber Stand Improvement at Ring Place. Alex Zarynow/MPS Photographer

Arizona Duff: That personal feeling of persevering through all the hardships is something that I'm looking forward to. I think that it'll be really interesting to see what we'll be able to do in the burn area once we get in there, too. Like, we're not even in Philmont, we're out in the Valle Vidal, the Carson National Forest. It's really cool that we can do this for our neighbors while also protecting ourselves, but I think I'm really looking forward to being on Philmont and looking at those trails that I hiked and those places I saw as a participant and start the healing process there. So, I'm looking forward to piecing together and finding out what we can do on Philmont this summer and prepare, protect and preserve these places that we know so much and love.

Haley Otto: Honestly, I'm not sure what we'll be doing, I think we're doing projects around base and in the backcountry, but whatever they ask of me, I'm down

to serve Philmont however I can.

Tek Kriedler: I think Conservation's plans will change due to the fire, but there's always Cons work to be done. Now that we have tangible proof that TSI works out here at fire prevention, we'll be doing a lot more TSI. It'd be really cool if my project coming up becomes teaching TSI, using handsaws of course. For the rest of the summer, though, I'm really excited to get a chainsaw in my hands and get completely field trained so I can be more effective at helping heal the Ranch.

By the end of their 5 day shift in the Valle Vidal, Green Battalion estimates that they put in over 6,000 man-hours of fire prevention and conservation work for the Carson National Forest. Green, Red, and Tan Battalions will be working in the Philmont Backcountry in the coming weeks to heal the fire area and prepare for participants starting July 15th.

Teachers Wanted in Red River, NM



Teaching positions available for 2018-19 school year at Red River Valley Charter School in Red River, New Mexico (near Cimarron and Philmont).

Red River Valley Charter School serves students in grades Pre-K through Eighth.

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Cimarron Blue Moon



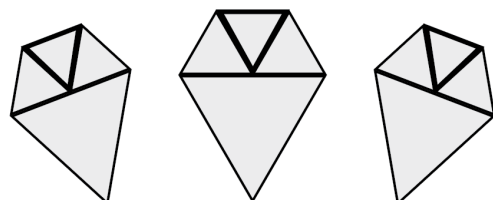
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Ranger Mile: Not Your Typical Colorado Adventure

Morgan Berryman-Maciel Associate Chief Ranger

With the Philmont Recovery Corps in full swing, we probably have the most consistent days off schedule in Philmont history! Two consecutive days off opens up many possibilities for adventure. A lot of people take this as an opportunity to climb some 14ers, do laundry, or relax. If you've exhausted your 14er options/don't like waiting in a line to take your picture on the summit of a 14er and if you have given up on doing laundry because your clothes are always covered in sap, there are some excellent opportunities for hiking in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. One trail in particular, the South Zapata Lake Trail,

is just south of the Great Sand Dunes (about a three hour drive from Philmont). The trail offers rugged mountain scenery, minimal foot traffic, an alpine lake, and a stunning waterfall. The waterfall is only a 10-minute jaunt from the trail head, and is definitely worth the detour if you are headed to the Great Sand Dunes. If you want to stretch out your legs a bit more, the 10ish mile out-and-back hike to the lake is a steep and rewarding trek. As you gain the 3,000 feet from the trailhead to the lake, you pass some old miners cabins, and some beautiful rock formations. Then, you descend to a creek and continue to climb up past tree line. From there, you will scramble across loose rock and

frolick through some meadows, passing some smaller alpine pools. Depending on snowpack, the trail may or may not exist, so please do not attempt this hike unless you are confident in your route-finding abilities. In April, I was post-holing (sinking into the snow) up to my hips in some sections! Don't forget to bring plenty of water, food, a method to purify water, and some hiking poles if you want to save your knees. As you are driving safely back to the ranch, stop at the Wildcat's Den in Questa for a spicy green chile bacon cheeseburger, or take a slightly longer way back to the Ranch and stop at the Farmhouse Café in Taos for a farm-to-table style meal. Happy Trails!

Be Smart About Bears

Casey Myers Wildlife Biologist

As we begin to bring our lives back to some state of normality after the fire I would like to share some helpful reminders with all of you, so we may reduce the number of bear occurrences in base. Please make sure to properly dispose of all waste in the appropriate locations, never leave trash laying outside as this will only encourage bears to come into base and associate this area with easy food rewards. At the end of the day please take down all bird feeders and bring

any pet food and bowls in at night. Wild bears have a natural fear of humans, allowing them to associate food rewards with human presence will cause that fear to dissipate and make them more willing to come around where there are humans. A bear's natural diet consists of berries, grasses and meat in the wild which means their systems are not developed to handle all the types of food we as humans eat. If a bear gets into garbage or manages to get any sort of personal hygiene product they will become conditioned to these "handouts" and then get categorized as a

nuisance bear. Once a bear becomes categorized as a nuisance bear there is only one solution that allows for us to maintain safety of all our staff, participants and visitors which is an awful way for a bear to go out. To close out I would ask that we all do our part to keep out living quarters clean, free of food, secure all personal hygiene products and make sure to utilize the proper areas to dispose of waste. If you notice bear activity in base please contact logistics and have them notify Casey Myers (Wildlife Biologist) or Dave Kenneke (Director of Ranching and Conservation).

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Adapting to Change: Altering, Adjusting, Modifying, Revising, Innovating, Transforming

Shelley O’Neill
Director of Business
Operations

The title says it all, so I won’t beleaguer this with what we have had to do the last 17 days. I can say I have laughed and I have cried and I have not slept and I have worried and I have feared. All of us have run through the gamut of emotions no matter the position we hold. We have had to do things we never thought we would do and never thought would be part of our job, but we did it and are doing it. Forbes and Inc Magazine gave six key steps when an organization faces adaptive challenges:

Give Direction, Provide Protection, Clarify Roles, Manage Conflict, Shape the Norms and Communicate. That is all great, and I am sure there is a book and operations manual to go with that. But what they don’t have is the Philmont staff.

What they didn’t talk about was having a staff in place that could deal with the six steps. All arriving here by May 29th, a mere three days before the fire started, and leaping to adaptive change in seconds amid a disaster. That is what we are about, who we are

and it’s the legacy of the Philmont Staff. My bff sent this to me and I thought it worth sharing:

Wild Joy
*There are times of pure joy.
Those moments that fill us up
where nothing else is present
but that sense of light
flowing through and around us.*
*It’s glorious.
It bolsters and renews our spirits.
Grounding us firmly in the
moment.
Reminding us to revel and to
savor.*

*And...it’s rare.
Because most of the time
we hold a complex slurry
of emotions, experiences,
struggles, stories, hopes--
all wrapped in the beauty and
mess of living.*

*With practice and the strong arms
of friends
we come back to ourselves.
No longer striving for that gleeful
light,
but rolling in it, arms stretched
out,
belly to the sky, when it finds us.*

*At its essence, joy is far more than
feeling happy.
Joy dares to go where happiness
will never tread.
Joy takes us deep,
beckoning us to see the whole
picture
and not turn away.*

*Joy resides in unlikely places.
The breathtaking bloom
surrounded by thorns.
The way this earth renews itself
through loss.
The sense of belonging that takes
root
when we come together around a
cause.
The exquisite connection formed
by shared experience.*

*Far from fairy tales,
joy is found in the grit, the
celebration,
and the resilience of daring to say
Yes to all of it.
Leaving nothing out.
To live in Wild joy.*

~Chris Heeter

We are all coping with change and doing an absolutely incredible job. The stories of the hard work the staff is doing are unbelievable, and this is definitely the finest hour of the Philmont Scout Ranch staff. I am more than proud to be part of this 2018 staff and to work with all of you. Thank you for adapting, transforming, revising, adjusting, altering and thank you for your continued adaptations as we all go through a time we have never faced before. We are all part of the Philmont Recovery Corps, hand in hand with each other and this land as it now faces its adaptive change too.



A Wrangler practices roping while at the Colfax County Fairgrounds during the evacuation in early June. Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer

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The Wildlife Window



A young mule deer buck pauses on a high ridge in the North Country. Photos curated by Conservation Wildlife Specialists as part of ongoing wildlife monitoring and research.

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

npsphilnewsdepartment@gmail.com.

Or stop by the MPS office to inquire in person

Deadline: Saturdays @ 5 p.m.

Enjoying the Night Skies at Philmont

Michael W. Michelsen, Jr.
Staff Writer

If you happen to be enjoying the night sky at Philmont and you want to find the ideal observation point to look at the stars, you are in luck. It so happens that the dark skies of the area of Northern New Mexico is one of the most exquisite in the nation. With the combination of velvety black skies and a natural tendency for the earth to play all sorts of colorful games with its atmosphere, you will probably wonder before long if you are looking at a movie set as opposed to a desert. To be successful, however, not to mention meaningful, you need a guide to what you are looking at. In this case, Mary Brady is happy to be your guide. Brady is the Camp Director of Ring Place, a backcountry camp that specializes in astronomy of the area. Brady is a third year member of the Philmont staff.

On virtually any clear night you will find that two of the brightest points of light are not stars at all.

They are, in fact, planets—Jupiter and Venus. On most nights, in most other areas where they aren't as picky as New Mexicans are about light pollution, these features are bleached out, but here there are some excellent opportunities for viewing and astrophotography.

"One of the neatest things about astronomy in this area is the fact that the darkness makes seeing a lot of things very easy, even without a telescope or other equipment," Brady explained. "Of course, there are other features, such as the moons around Jupiter that require telescopes to be seen, but there are many sights that can be seen without visual aids."

Another sight that is spectacular, even from Base Camp is the Milky Way, which can be seen with some aid. "As long as you are using a telescope or some other viewing device, the opportunities to see the Milky Way are very good, and from there on, everything is spectacular."

New Mexico's skies frequently lend themselves to a phenomenon

called lunar mesa, which is a group of low-hanging clouds that tend to gather around the horizon, creating some very dramatic effects. When the sky is otherwise clear, it's time to bring out your camera because you are in for a special treat.

"Lunar mesa is a naturally-occurring phenomenon that really is something to see when you have the opportunity," Brady explained. When you think of all the expanse of sky, even from Base Camp, and you can see all of the stars and the clouds, it really is quite unique. The visual is stunning. When opportunities like these present themselves, and you have the weather we do, which is usually very cooperative, the scene is set for some fantastic viewing."

"Bring camera," is usually on a Scout's list before coming to Philmont. Unfortunately, this is normally considered an option for the scenery itself. On the bright side, if you really want to see an attraction that is truly extraordinary, just look up.



Nick Castelli, MPS Photographer, looks up at the night sky near Opening Campfire Bowl. Jess McClelland/MPS Photographer

Chaplain's Corner: Still Changing Lives

Father Mike Santangelo Catholic Chaplain

Unfortunately by the time you read this I will have returned to my parish responsibilities at my off-season home. The past few weeks have been a very different Philmont experience for all of us. It will, however, be a very memorable experience. I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers.

When we arrived and began our training for this year, we were called to be aware that we have the opportunity to change lives. When the crews begin to arrive in July that opportunity still remains. There may be some who are disappointed that things aren't going to be how they were planned. You should not let that hinder you from doing what you do best. The single most important aspect of Philmont, the one that will have the most impact, remains you, the staff. The crews coming will learn that truth as well.

There are so many things I can point to since the start of the fire to prove to you just how great a staff you are. The amazing way that management handled things including the evacuation itself. Then there is spirit of the staff through everything. Who else could pull off a horseless rodeo? And of course there is the adaptability and the eagerness of everyone to step up and take on the tasks now necessary. Many of the comments being made on social media sum it up like this: "What do you expect? They are Philmont staff." It is a reputation that is well earned, and one that you will certainly continue to grow.

Last year, I would tell the Crews who came to our chapel service that they should remember to look up and look around. Being in God's country gave them the opportunity to see the beauty of God's creation and to have an experience of being in God's presence. That opportunity still remains, although it may be

harder to see in some places. If I had the chance to talk to Crews this year I would still encourage them to look up and look around. I would let them know if they wanted to see the true beauty, the true heart of Philmont, they should look for the green shirts. You, the staff, are what has always, and will always make Philmont a life changing experience.

So take advantage of the time you still have before the Crews arrive to help rebuild our HOMe. Continue being the amazing people you are and Philmont will be all the better for your efforts. And don't forget, while you are changing lives when the Crews arrive, don't miss out on allowing Philmont to change your life as well. I am already looking forward to the next opportunity I will have to return HOMe.

Godspeed to you all.

Fr. Mike

Chaplain's Bio: Father Mike Santangelo

Fr. Mike was born and raised in New Jersey. As a boy he was involved in Scouting and remains involved today. He serves as Crew Advisor to Crew 500 and as a Committee member to Troop 38. At his current parish he also charts a Cub Pack. Fr. Mike is one of four brothers, all Eagle Scouts.

Fr. Mike was active in his Church from a young age. He went to Rutgers University in New Jersey and earned a degree in Economics with a focus on Finance and Accounting. It was while at Rutgers that he responded to a call to the priesthood. On September 9th, 1995, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey and has served there ever since. On August 1st, 1996, he was appointed Scout Chaplain and still holds that position today.

In April of 1997, he became a member of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. In his time with the NCCS Fr. Mike

has served as the Advisor to the Training Committee, a member of the Executive Board and is currently serving as the Region 3 Chaplain, covering New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Fr. Mike has some experience as a participant (1996, 2001 and 2006), faculty (2007) and Course Director (2008) with the Scouting in the Catholic Church course at PTC. In 2015, he jumped at the opportunity to become the Associate Director of Program for the St. George Trek. Last year, he returned to Philmont in that capacity and was able to stay on Staff for about 5 weeks. This is his second season as one of the Catholic Chaplains. Unfortunately, his responsibilities back home only allow him to be here for a short time (departing the morning of 614). Because he is part of the St. George Trek, Father knows it will only be a matter of time before he can come back HOMe again.

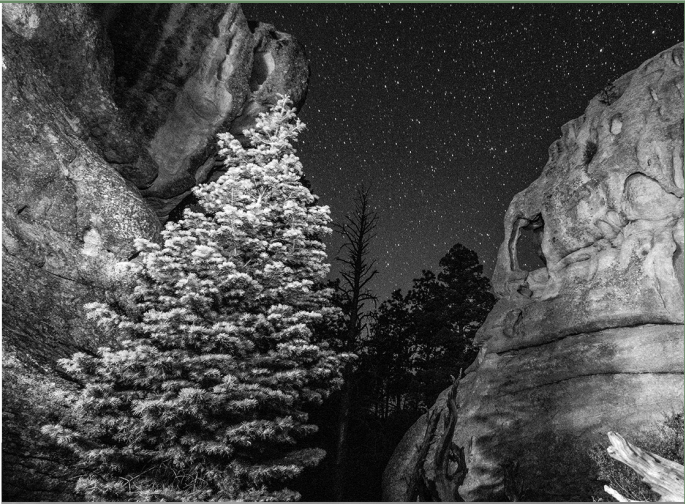


PHILMONT STAFF PHOTO CONTEST

Hey Philmont staffers! It's been a unique summer, so we added a few new categories! Keep taking photos and enter them in the Staff Photo Contest. Entries will be accepted from July 9th to July 30th.

Categories

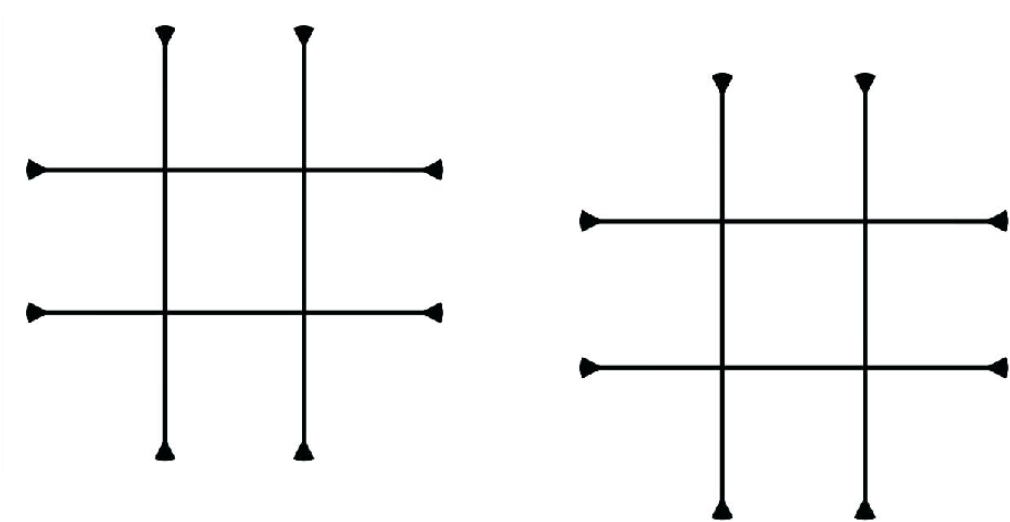
- Staff Activity
- Porch Views
- Landscapes
- Wildlife
- Philmont Skies
- Portraits
- Humor
- Springer Break
- Philmont Recovery Corps
- Wildcard



The Puzzle Page

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

Tic Tac Toe



Issue 2 Answers

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

PhilSearch

Can you find the names of every Philmont backcountry camp in this word search? If the camp name is more than one word, it will appear in the word search as one word, with no spaces.

- Abreu
 - Apache Springs
 - Baldy Town
 - Beaubien
 - Black Mountain
 - Carson Meadows
 - Chase Ranch
 - Cimarroncito
 - Clarks Fork
 - Clear Creek
 - Crater Lake
 - Crooked Creek
 - Cyphers Mine
 - Dan Beard
 - Dean Cow
 - Fish Camp
 - French Henry
 - Harlan
- Head of Dean
 - Hunting Lodge
 - Indian Writings
 - Metcalf
 - Miners Park
 - Miranda
 - Ponil
 - Phillips Junction
 - Pueblano
 - Rayado
 - Rich Cabins
 - Ring Place
 - Sawmill
 - Seally Canyon
 - Urraca
 - Ute Gulch
 - Whiteman Vega
 - Zastrow

Q P S W J T G E I S
G B U W L G U T D O K W N J
V K T M O P N Q S R N H C Z H G Q M
U N K B D Q I E P U R R H D V D F A P O
M N K Y A K I M F H D R A A P V B M M T Y Y
F C R H E L T E R P K M S R D C A W I V A P S C
W Z K L M G I J E E N H E U D I L A N E D B E P I
J G L N E R Y N O V R R I J E D I E P Z Q R K R M S
K Z R O C W A C M Z A A C G L Y R R D M B Z E O Y A E T
I O S X N T H R P O N I L D T L S H K U Z C U B L R A T
E D R N A R H F B C C Q B S O E P I D R A E B N A D R L X V
J A L I D E Y H S H R G V W Y A K H P S A W M I L L O L I E
C H D O N P K K P N C E N F R W W O A S D F W C C G N Y C B
Z N V R T V Q A W Q I X E K S F O O O E J X T N C A C C L Z
I Z Y V V C X A L H D B O K R G R F Y R D U I M L J I A A M
L H C L U G E T U R I F A E X U T C B Y C A N I V F T N R Z
O I U X O N Z E B E E T J C D E S G F A T R T C T O O Y K H
B E A U B I E N J O U T E V H Z A H N N S I O G T P M O S O
X Q X G N X F M G E B W A M Z C Z R U C N N B W W I P N F U
W R D U F I S H C A M P H R A W I O H R A Y A D O I O M O G
O I E N I M S R E H P Y C C N M R X L E Q S H L M V N R
A C E G D O L G N I T N U H K V N B I D E L W E E O G K
J N F S A F L A C T E M C I M E H E A D O F D E A N
I H A B F X F W Q X C A G H U J G D E A D N A R I M
U K E I C E A N N L O F P W U Z A X Z I M M W W
W S D J G S Q B A N R I N G P L A C E O F C
T T G G Q C H O L D E E W J T T S E H X
H C G Y S G N I R P S E H C A P A Z
I K I S Q B P A R V N Q V Y
I M G N P Q H T N D

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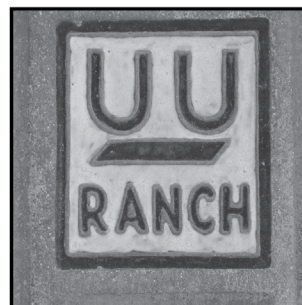
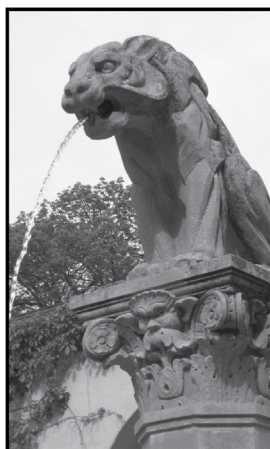
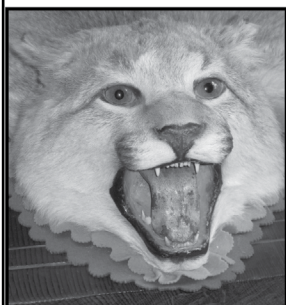
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On the hour and half hour:

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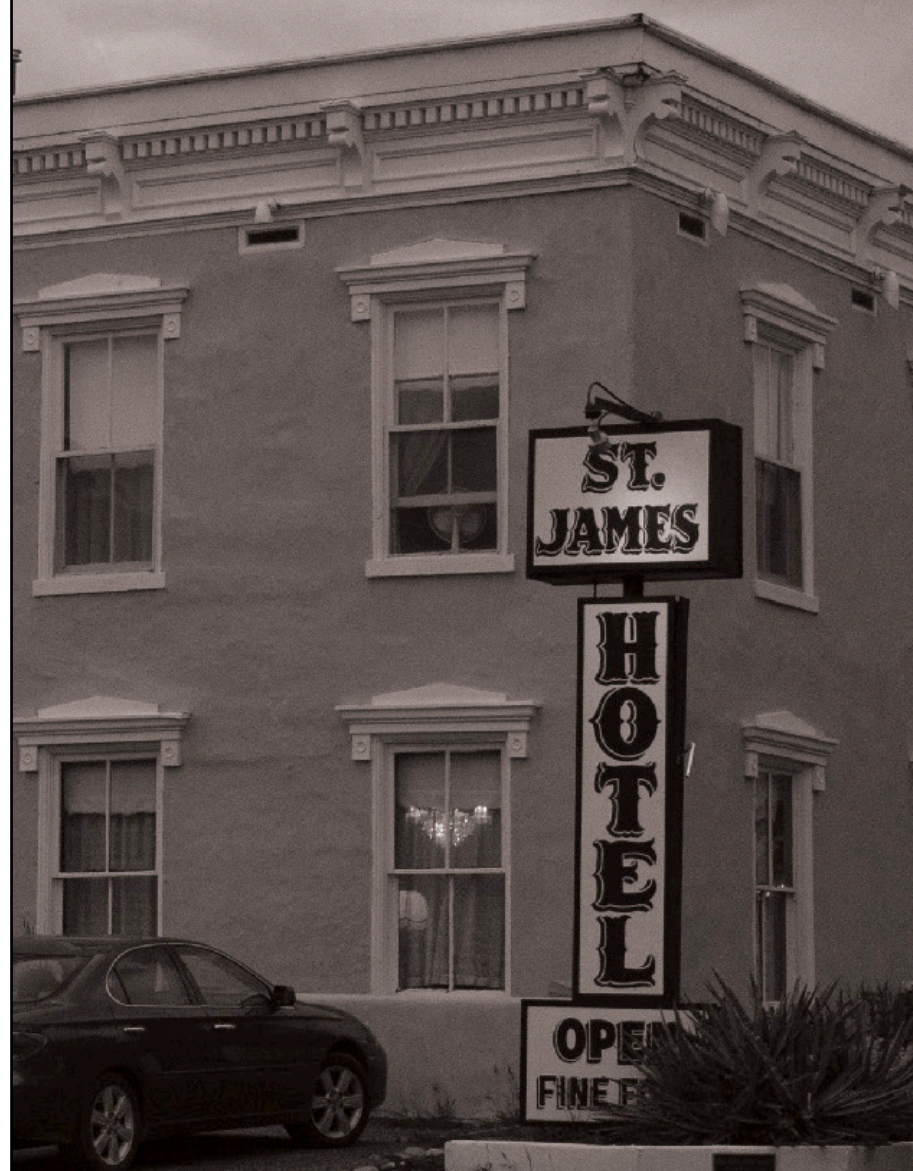
12:30—4:30 pm

(The 11:00 am and 4:30 pm tours are often
abbreviated
to accommodate meal times.)

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PHILMONT STAFF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



<NAME>
<Address>
<City, State Zip>
<Email>

☐ Address change? *Please make corrections above.*

ID# <ID>
Renewal <Date>
<Annual Member>

What is your birthdate?

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

☐ Annual ☐ 1 Year \$32 ☐ 2 Years \$60 ☐ 3 Years \$80

☐ Seasonal 1 Year \$15 *For current Philmont staff*

☐ Family 1 Year \$40 *Add'l family member*

☐ Life \$595 *First payment: \$50. Balance can be paid over 12 months.*

\$ _____ **Total Membership Renewal**

DONATION?

All donations are tax deductible.

\$ _____ 2018 Annual Fund

\$ _____ Rayado/ROCS Scholarship Fund *In honor of _____*

\$ _____ Seasonal Scholarship

\$ _____ Capital Campaign

\$ _____ 19.73 Club Monthly donation of \$19.73 goes toward the Annual Fund.

\$ _____ **Total Donation**

SHOPPING?

All prices include shipping.

_____ "I Wanna Go Back" *Story of the Philmont Rangers* \$16 each

_____ "The Life & Times of Jack Rhea" *by Bill Cass* \$17 each

_____ "Carry On" *Joe Davis Biography* \$16 each

_____ PSA Logo Water Bottle 32 oz. *Nalgene Wide-Mouth* \$15 each

please select color: _____ Red _____ Blue

_____ PSA Stationary 12-5x7 *Philmont map cards* \$12 set

_____ PSA Logo Patch \$5 each

\$ _____ **Total Purchases**

PAYMENT

3 Ways to Pay

1 Check

Payable to Philmont Staff Association

2 Credit Card

☐ MasterCard ☐ 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!



June 16, 2018, a group of staff spent a workday at Black Mountain. Staff helped carry in materials for a maintenance project, and Black Mountain staff were able to set up and practice safety in the camp's shooting range. Whitney Dumford | MPS Photographer



June 17th, Ranching HQ Staff began their day feeding the horses and picking up after them. They also moved horses back into the Ranching HQ area from surrounding fields where they roam for the weekends. Ryan Soldanels | MPS Photographer



June 18, 2018. Rich Cabins practicing songs in the laundry room. Nicolas Castelli | MPS Photographer



John Celley, Conservation Foreman, walks through the burn area behind Ute Gulch during a workday on June 21, 2018. The Conservation team at Ute Gulch has begun a project to cut down burned trees, using the charred trunks and branches to create a barrier to the ground to help better absorb upcoming rainwater. Whitney Dumford | MPS Photographer



June 15th. 2018, PTC staffers John Milburn (left) and Michael Heffernan (right) work their way through the challenges of the High COPE Course. Jessica McClelland | MPS Photographer