Members of the Philmont Recovery Corps remove the protective wraps that helped save backcountry structures from damage from the Ute Park Fire.

Crews who have Treks scheduled for 2019 can find their new departure dates in the Philmont Lottery for 2020 has been moved back a few days. It will now run from October 30 to December 2.

Understandably, many crews who had their Treks cancelled in 2018 had their Treks scheduled for 2019 will be receiving their planning materials in the Spring. Itinerary changes in the materials will reflect the areas affected by the fires. The selection process is the same.

Crews select their top three choices, and the odds are excellent they will get to do and see what they want. Because of all the extra activities going on at the ranch this season, the Philmont Lottery for 2020 has been moved back a few days. It will now run from October 30 to December 2.

Unfortu...
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 manipulated 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 design. Philmont uses fire as an essential tool to enhance biodiversity. 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 destruction of our blazes 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.

Wildfire releases minerals like Phosphorus and Nitrogen from standing dead timber. Fire encourages a diversity of new growth patterns with protein particularly needed by calves to grow and feed healthy young. Over the next few decades, the fire and de- populations will thrive on this growth, especially in the high country near streams and lakes.

If the elegant white trunks of aspen still stand in the fire, the first solace in the fact that new growth from aspens will feed generations of animals. Fire has been a long-time partner in the shoots and leaves. The Philmont Recovery Corps plans to execute appropriate fire- provement around Philmont over the next few years. They will make sure there are enough resources and values like roads, streams and backcountry camps from future fires.

This disturbance will have additional rewards for our wildlife populations, somewhat similar to historical, healthy fires by removing small trees and moving closer to the savanna-like understory of the past. Thinned for ests in the Sacramento Mountains to reduce the number of burned fuels yielded richer abundance, and activity of mammals of all sizes compared to dense, overgrown forests.

Additionally, research on Vermejo Park Ranch, one of Philmont’s neighbors, showed elk and deer utilized the increased understory growth after thinning and prescribed burning. Fire and open forests are the natural friends of our wildlife and help bal ance a healthy ecosystem. Before the Conservation Department was established, before Walt Philips bestowed the Ranch to Scouting, and before the first white settlers arrived here, fire was the one force that executed the primary land management in the San Juan of Rio Grande. Regular fire came with summer storms and brought a balance to the forest floor while protecting towering Ponderosas.

Today, the Ranch steps towards a new objective, which fire once brought the land - for the safety of humans, the benefit of wildlife, and the integrity of the land. (From Phil News, June 22, 2018)
Waite Phillips Explains His Gift of Philmont Ranch

Philmont Family Adventure Week is no longer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience the Philmont Scout Ranch like never before. It's been extended into 2019 and looks like it will continue to be a vital part of the PTC program. Open to all registered members of the BSA and their families, Scouts will have a chance to participate in all of the incredible activities offered at Philmont and make memories with families that will last a lifetime.

The program was such a success that it's being expanded to a four-week opportunity in 2019. Next year's program will run during Weeks 3, 4, and 9 (6/23-6/29, 7/30-8/06, 7/28-8/03 and 8/04-8/10).

Over 80% of attendees in 2018 had never been to Philmont before. Therefore, this is a great opportunity for Ambassadors to encourage Scouts to experience the wonders of Philmont and then encourage them to return to attend a PTC conference.

The Philmont Scout Ranch Family Adventure is designed to meet the needs of families and build bonds through exciting and interactive programs. The program operates in an open enrollment format where Scouters and family members have the chance to choose activities that appeal to them. The day will start with meal for morning and afternoon program sessions daily where they choose their activities. Additionally, there are day-long activities such as hiking to Inspiration Point and rock climbing at Cimarronito. A parent must accompany their youth on all programs.

Inspiration Point Hike
Guided by a Program Counselor team from the Philmont Training Center, families have the opportunity to hike to a spectacular view on the side of Urraca Mesa. A trail lunch is provided in each lunch at the dining hall.

NATURE TRAIL
Families discover different plants and animals that live in this area and explore some of the science that makes our world. This trail is across from the Philmont Training Center.

1-Rock Hike
Philmont is home to one of only two confirmed Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil prints in the world! This hike takes participants to the Philmont North Country to see this cool and rare footprint.

Family Adventure Program Grows to Four Weeks in 2019

Philmont Living History Day
Many visitors are interested in learning about Philmont history from the days of the dinosaur to the present. The Living History Day will begin with a hike to the T-Rex Track and then onto Indian Writings for a lesson about the petroglyphs of the early inhabitants of the North Ponder Canyon.

Craft Center
The open program format at the Craft Center allows participants to show up for instruction for any of the craft activities offered. These include the chance to work with ceramics, wearable art (clothing and accessories), leathercraft, stamp art, Southwestern crafts, and home décor. Please note that Craft Center supplies are an additional purchase based on what crafters would like to make.

Fishing is just one of the numerous activities that draw Scouts and their families to the wonders of Philmont Scout Ranch.

COPE
COPE stands for Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience which consists of initiative games, trust events, and high and low ropes courses. Some activities involve a group challenge while others develop individual skill and agility. This program is offered in the afternoon sessions and gives participants the opportunity to experience new skills and challenges. Some activities will provide an introduction to saddles and tack before taking the group on a trail ride.

Tower Shooting
For families interested in learning about life in the saddle of a Northern New Mexico cowboy, they can make the trip down to Cattle Headquarters. The training provided will provide an introduction to saddles and tack before taking the group on a trail ride.

Mountain Trek
The mountain trek program is specifically designed for youth ages 14-20 who are attending a full week session with their family. Mountain Trek crews hike 20 to 30 miles into the backcountry while participants stay at several camps which offer a variety of exciting programs along with time to relax and enjoy the beauty of Philmont.

On-Your-Own Activities
Although the Philmont Family Adventure program offers a packed schedule of activities for families to enjoy the outdoors together, it should be noted that participants are not required to attend all scheduled events. They may choose to shop at the Tote of Time Traders, enjoy an ice cream cone from the Cantina, check out the Philmont Museum, or explore the surrounding areas such as Cimarron, Eagle Nest, Angel Fire, and Taos.

The Cantina was the home of Lucien Maxwell who built the Aztec Crist Mill. It was built to provide ground grains for the Maxwell Ranch and built to accommodate Apache Indian Reserve as well as Santa Fe Trail travelers. Taos Pueblo is over 1000 years old and spans much as it did when Spanish explorers came to the area in the 1500's.

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FALL 2018
Focus on the Backcountry

Black Mountain Camp

Staffed Camp
Elevation: 9,040 ft.
Activities: Black powder rifle shooting, blacksmithing, mountain living
Water: Stream. Must be treated

Nearby Camp: Beaubien Itineraries with program at Black Mountain (2018)
Trek 4 - Day 7
Trek 6 - Day 4
Trek 9 - Day 6
Trek 32 - Day 10

They’ll cover topics relevant to any unit-, district-, council- or national-level leader who trains his or her fellow volunteers.

Training Your Cub Scout Leaders
You recruited leaders for your pack, now they need to be trained. This conference can help Council, district, and pack trainers, Cubmasters, pack committee members, and commission- ers explore ways to prepare units to welcome families to Scouting, reach new volunteers and leaders, and build and support high-functioning training teams. They’ll learn to use the Journey to Excellence to strengthen packs and make learning fun and purposeful for today’s volunteers. They will also review the training continuum for Cub Scout leaders. Information on instruction-led and online courses will also be covered.

I Am a New District Training Chair. Now What?

For all the new council training chairs as well as those who have been in the position for a while, this conference will help you understand your role in your council’s training program. You will learn both how to fulfill your role for the council and how to maximize the success of your district training chairs. You will learn how to plan, organize and implement unit/district/council training plans as well as how to organize and train your council training committee. The latest information on face-to-face instructor-led and online training will be provided.

Strategic Training Planning for Councils and Districts
This conference is for council and district training chairs and training committee members. You will participate in the Strategic Training Plan, an exercise that analyzes a council composed of districts with various training problems. You will examine the issues and develop a detailed plan for solving those problems. With an understanding of the process, you will apply the lessons learned to develop a plan for your own council/district.

GETTING TRAINED ON THE PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER - WHAT CAN BE MORE NATURAL? Although 2019 courses have not been finalized, many popular conferences described here do repeat from year-to-year.

If you know someone whose Scouting job involves training other leaders, you should show them this article and encourage them to attend these volunteer development conferences, supported by Scouting’s Learning Delivery Team.

John Phelps Helps Cover Mid-America

John Phelps puts in a lot of distance in his efforts to spread the word on Philmont to the Mid-America Council. The Council covers 58 counties in western Iowa, eastern Nebraska and southeast South Dakota. Spread over that vast territory are 18,646 scouts and 5,465 volunteers.

That’s a lot of ground to cover, and John has spent up to 4 hours driving to parts of it. While he mainly covers the Iowa side, his fellow ambassador Charles Argo covers the Nebraska side. Being good Scouts, they share the part of the Council in South Dakota.

He’s been to Philmont many times, starting with a conference in 1995 when he took along his son who went on a Mountain Trek. Both of them fell in love with the area, and they returned in 1998 to do a Trek with their Troop. Returning became a family tradition it seems. His son was on staff for two summers while John has attended 7 conferences.

“A big highlight of my experiences was attending the national pilot course for Wood Badge in the 21st Century at Zastro in 1999,” recalls John.

After attending a conference in 2012, he received a letter from Andrea Watson encouraging him to apply to be an Ambassador. It’s a decision he doesn’t regret.

“I love Philmont and enjoy talking to people about the Ranch,” notes John. “My best experiences have been doing presentations at Roundtables.”

John’s words of wisdom to fellow Ambassadors: “Get to Philmont and attend an Ambassador Conference. You will be renewed. Other that that, just be available. I find that Scouts love learning about Philmont.”

Train the Trainer at Philmont Training Center? What a Concept!

Getting trained on the Philmont Training Center – what can be more natural? Although 2019 courses have not been finalized, many popular conferences described here do repeat from year-to-year.

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As part of this practical exercise, you will consider the percentage of direct contact leaders trained, the number of untrained leaders, the best practices for getting them trained, and the Journey to Excellence matrix. You will also cover many more factors that will help you to maximize your council’s district training success.

BSA Training in the Digital Age
This conference is a general overview of “everything you wanted to know about training in the BSA but didn’t know what to ask.” You will be guided through the BSA Learning Center and you will learn how to navigate My.Scouting tools, including how to run training reports. The conference will cover how a leader becomes qualified to conduct instructor-led training. You will examine the Journey to Excellence goals for training and you will learn where to find the latest information on volunteer training. Best practices for getting leaders trained will be shared. Anyone wanting or needing a broad, general overview of BSA training is welcome.

How Do I Become an Excellent Trainer/Presenter?
Do you have a passion for training but need help to do an excellent job of presenting? Are you excited to be in the training business and want to make sure that you can be interesting, dynamic and effective? Do you need help in preparing to present material? Is death by PowerPoint the only type of presentation you know? Do you have the real desire to improve your presentation skills? Then this conference is for you! Let by experienced BSA trainers, this conference will provide you with both the knowledge and practical experience in presenting material to eager-to-learn participants.

Adapted from the blog Bryan on Scouting. Used by permission.

John points out some of his favorite Philmont spots using one of the gerd maps available to Ambassadors. [To purchase a map, contact Stephen Duke at Stephen_duke@hotmail.com.]

Patch Commemorates Fire Recovery Efforts

To recognize the efforts of the Philmont Recovery Corps, Philmont created this special patch to honor their hard work and dedication to making Philmont safer and help re-cover from the Ute Park Fire. The patch is 4-1/4" diameter and is available in both of Time Trackers for $5.99.