High Adventure Bases

By Nicole Butler, PhilNews Writer

The Boy Scouts of America aims to encourage character development, citizenship and personal fitness. One way that this goal is achieved is through the BSA’s high-adventure bases. The three national high-adventure bases—Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier National High Adventure Base and the soon-to-be-opened Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve—lead Scouts and Venturers to grow in each of these capacities as they deliver wilderness experiences that last a lifetime. “Each offers its own flavor of high adventure,” says Owen McCulloch, Associate Director of Program at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Northern Tier National High Adventure Base

The Northern Tier National High Adventure Base, located in the Boundary Waters between Minnesota and Canada, was established in 1923, making it the oldest high-adventure base. The camp offers canoe expeditions, which typically cover 50 to 150 miles in a single trek, with the “largest canoe fleet in North America [more than 750 canoes],” according to Northern Tier’s Director of Program Carl Boyles. The base also offers cold weather camping experiences that are found at no other base.

Today the base has three locations, the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base in Ely, Minn., the Don Rogert Canoe Base in Ontario, Canada and the Northern Expeditions Canoe Base in Manitoba, Canada.

Crews that choose the Northern Expeditions Canoe Base start their trips with a floatplane ride into the Canadian wilderness before embarking on their trek. The Don Rogert Canoe Base allows Scouts to participate in programs such as the Kayaking Trek or the Canadian Fishing Expedition, a fishing trip through the waters of northwestern Ontario. At the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base, Scouts can start their canoe trip or they can participate in programs such as the Forest Corps, a 12-day coed experience that trains Scouts in ecology, conservation, sustainability and leadership. Sommers is also home to the National Cold Weather Camping Development Center, which teaches Scouts and leaders techniques for winter and cold-weather camping and hiking.

During the winter months, Northern Tier offers Okpik (Inuit for “Snowy Owl”). Okpik programs include Cabin Stay, an outdoor program for younger Scouts, Skiing or Snowshoe Expeditions that have crews carry gear to remote campsites using sleds while learning to ski, snowshoe or ice fish, Dog Sled Expeditions and Musher Camp, both of which integrate sled dogs into crews’ treks.

Philmont Scout Ranch

Philmont Scout Ranch is the largest of the high-adventure bases at over 137,000 acres. Since it opened in 1939 as Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp, the Ranch has served more than 930,000 Scouts. Philmont currently offers programs throughout the summer, along with Autumn Adventures and Winter Adventures programs. The base offers Scouts the opportunity to experience the Sangre de Cristo mountains and the history of Cimarron through backpacking treks, interpretive camps that embrace the area’s mining and logging history, mountain biking, horseback riding, ranch programs and rock climbing.

Philmont challenges Scouts to learn leadership, teamwork and perseverance and to grow as individuals and as crews.

Scouts fortunate enough to complete a high-adventure trek at all three of the bases can earn the prestigious Triple Crown Award. According to Clyde Clark, Logistics Assistant Manager who has also worked at Florida Sea Base for the past four years, the Triple Crown Award has increased staff and Scout exchanges between bases considerably.

Attention All Staff

The Valle Vidal in Carson National Forest has gone into Stage 3 fire restrictions and has been evacuated until further notice. According to Logistics Manager Sid Covington, nine camper itineraries have been modified because of these restrictions. Camp and conservation sites will be added to Old Camp to accommodate the new itineraries.

There are no fires in the Valle Vidal or on the Ranch at this time; however, staff are to be extremely vigilant after thunderstorms and to report any signs of fire immediately. Staff are also reminded that no fireworks of any kind may be used on the Ranch. See Page 4 for details.

PHILMONT: Stephen Aulbach, head Rock at Cimarroncito, teaches a staff member how to belay a climber at Philmont Scout Ranch on Thursday, June 2.
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# Submit to PhilNews

Have a thought, story, comic, drawing, photo or idea that you’d like to share with the Philmont community? PhilNews welcomes submissions and letters to the editor. Please I-Camp your submission to PhilNews, email it to philmontnps@scouting.org or drop it by the NPS office. All submissions must include your full name, contact number, location and the date! Photographs must also include a description of the photo. For a submission to be considered for the next issue, please have it to us by Friday at 5:00 p.m. All submissions become property of Philmont Scout Ranch.

We are continuously striving to better meet your needs. If you have suggestions for future articles or ways that we might better serve you, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

# Corrections

pg. 2: The PTC events schedule for June 25 through July 6 was not adjusted for LDS week.
pg. 20: On the crossword puzzle, seven down had an extra box.

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# Activities Calendar June 30–July 13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 30</th>
<th>Friday 1</th>
<th>Saturday 2</th>
<th>Sunday 3</th>
<th>Monday 4</th>
<th>Tuesday 5</th>
<th>Wednesday 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m - 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Brat Day!!! @ Baldy Pavilion</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: Astronomy in the RO</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Transformers 1 Movie Night in the S’AC</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: Geology in the RO</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Program @ PTC</td>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Transformers 2 Movie Night in the S’AC</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>*Closing Program @ PTC</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: Geology in the RO</td>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>*Handicraft Night @ PTC</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Yoga w/ Jason @ the Fitness Center</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Program @ PTC</td>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Yoga w/ Jason @ the Fitness Center</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Gattaca Movie Night @ the S’AC</td>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Swing Dance and Smores Night in the S’AC</td>
<td>9 p.m.</td>
<td>Fireworks show at Eagle’s Nest</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday 7</th>
<th>Friday 8</th>
<th>Saturday 9</th>
<th>Sunday 10</th>
<th>Monday 11</th>
<th>Tuesday 12</th>
<th>Wednesday 13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: A Guide to Philmont Hiking Challenges</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: A Guide to Philmont Hiking Challenges</td>
<td>11 a.m. - 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Brad Day!!! @ Baldy Pavilion</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>*Closing Program @ PTC</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: A Guide to Philmont Hiking Challenges</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>*Interfaith Chapel Service @ PTC</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>*Tron and Tron: Legacy Movie Night in the S’AC</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Day Hike to Lover’s Leap</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
<td>*Wanna-Be Band</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 - 9:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Yoga w/ Jason @ the Fitness Center</td>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Ranger CT: How to Explain Philmont on Your Resume</td>
<td>7-9 p.m.</td>
<td>*Handicraft Night @ PTC</td>
<td>7:9 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Volleyball Tournament</td>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Program @ PTC</td>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Root Beer Float Night in the S’AC</td>
<td>Time to be Announced</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 11</th>
<th>Friday 12</th>
<th>Saturday 13</th>
<th>Sunday 14</th>
<th>Monday 15</th>
<th>Tuesday 16</th>
<th>Wednesday 17</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We ask that staff members wear full uniform at PTC events (Staff may, however, wear western attire at Western Night). We also ask that they be considerate of our participants during the programs (ex: to wait for participants and family members to be served cobbler first).
### Weather Forecast June 30 – July 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 30</th>
<th>Friday 1</th>
<th>Saturday 2</th>
<th>Sunday 3</th>
<th>Monday 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly Sunny</td>
<td>Isolated Thunderstorms</td>
<td>Isolated Thunderstorms</td>
<td>Mostly Sunny</td>
<td>Isolated Thunderstorms</td>
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<tr>
<td>High: 93</td>
<td>High: 88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low: 56</td>
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<td>Low: 54</td>
<td>Low: 54</td>
<td>Low: 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind: SW at 18</td>
<td>Wind: S at 12</td>
<td>Wind: S at 15</td>
<td>Wind: S at 12</td>
<td>Wind: S at 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precip: 10%</td>
<td>Rain: 30%</td>
<td>Rain: 30%</td>
<td>Precip: 10%</td>
<td>Rain: 30%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 5</th>
<th>Wednesday 6</th>
<th>Thursday 7</th>
<th>Friday 8</th>
<th>Saturday 9</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isolated</td>
<td>Scattered Thunderstorms</td>
<td>Scattered Thunderstorms</td>
<td>Partly Cloudy</td>
<td>Historically on This Day:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunderstorms</td>
<td>High: 86</td>
<td>High: 86</td>
<td>High: 87</td>
<td>Averages</td>
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<tr>
<td>High: 86</td>
<td>Low: 54</td>
<td>Low: 54</td>
<td>Low: 54</td>
<td>High: 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low: 54</td>
<td>Wind: SSW at 15</td>
<td>Wind: SSW at 15</td>
<td>Wind: SW at 14</td>
<td>Low: 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain: 30%</td>
<td>Rain: 40%</td>
<td>Rain: 60%</td>
<td>Rain: 20%</td>
<td>Records</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High: 96</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low: 41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Historically on This Day:**

- **Averages**
  - High: 84
  - Low: 51

- **Records**
  - High: 96
  - Low: 41

---

**Weather Forecast:**

- **Sunday 30 – Monday 4**
  - Mostly Sunny
  - High: 93
  - Low: 56
  - Wind: SW at 18
  - Precip: 10%

- **Tuesday 5**
  - Isolated Thunderstorms
  - High: 86
  - Low: 54
  - Wind: SSW at 15
  - Rain: 30%

- **Wednesday 6**
  - Scattered Thunderstorms
  - High: 85
  - Low: 53
  - Wind: SSW at 15
  - Rain: 40%

- **Thursday 7**
  - Scattered Thunderstorms
  - High: 86
  - Low: 54
  - Wind: SW at 15
  - Rain: 60%

- **Friday 8**
  - Partly Cloudy
  - High: 87
  - Low: 54
  - Wind: SW at 14
  - Rain: 20%

- **Saturday 9**
  - Isolated Thunderstorms
  - High: 88
  - Low: 54
  - Wind: S at 14
  - Rain: 30%

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JUST LOOK FOR ALL THE FLAGS
Mark’s Minute
Ears! Ears! Ears!
Who’s Listening!

By Mark Anderson, Director of Program

As we approach the end of June, I realize that the summer is racing by. The stream of people continues to move through the Ranch with Crews arriving and departing each day and groups cycling through the Philmont Training Center.

During our training at the first of the summer, we spent some time considering some ideas about customer service. One of the concepts was “customers are best heard through many ears.”

“Commit to finding time to have conversations with our participants.... If the conversations point out something that might help your team or department improve, please take time at the end of the day to discuss implementation with your co-workers. Take action!”

Each day I review evaluations from advisors and crew leaders, and each week I also review the weekly evaluation forms at the Philmont Training Center. Many wonderful comments are found on the evaluations as well as a number of helpful suggestions and critiques. All comments help us fulfill the expectations of each participant and visitor and they help us improve our operations.

I also hear many comments as I stand in line or visit with participants. These are extremely valuable comments. Each of you can also gain from these conversations! I would ask you to commit to finding time to have conversations with our participants. These can be on the porch of your cabin, during program, while a crew is waiting to complete a step in Basecamp procedures, waiting in line at the dining halls, sitting on a park bench or anywhere!

If the conversations point out something that might help your team or department improve, please take time at the end of the day to discuss implementation with your co-workers. Take action!

This past week we had another opportunity to be evaluated through the National Visitation. We had 25 people look at all aspects of our operation from the Horse Department, to the Philmont Training Center, to Administration, to Camping Headquarters and all Backcountry Camps. The result was that Philmont Scout Ranch qualifies as a nationally accredited high-adventure program for 2011.

Through the evaluation we received some great feedback and some helpful suggestions. The visitors were very complimentary of each staff member and their contribution to the experience. THANK YOU! John Green, Group Leader for Outdoor Programs of the Boy Scouts of America, commented that the “staff hit a home run with their efforts during the visitation.”

As we move into July, tune in to conversations and listen to the comments, then take action!

I am proud to be a member of the 2011 Philmont Staff Team!

Owen’s Corner
Current Fire Restrictions and Information for Philmont Scout Ranch

By Owen McCulloch, Associate Director of Program

Updated Tuesday, June 28, 2011 11:30 a.m.

There are no fires at Philmont at this time. The Philmont staff and management remain vigilant. Due to the low moisture conditions at Philmont, fire restrictions are in place that include the prohibition of campfires by crews.

The Ranch is complying with all state and national fire restrictions. We have been in contact with State Forestry Officials to review our emergency action plans. Philmont Scout Ranch will continue to monitor all conditions to be prepared for all emergencies.

**Burn Ban**

Philmont is currently at Fire Danger Level 5: Extreme Fire Danger. Open fires and fireworks are prohibited; no crew campfires are allowed in the backcountry; smoking is restricted to enclosed or designated areas; use of fireplaces and wood-burning stoves is prohibited.

**Valle Vidal**

The Valle Vidal National Forest enters Stage III Fire restrictions effective midnight, June 29, 2011 (Wednesday night). Stage III Fire Restriction closes the Valle Vidal to the public and to groups with a special-use permits. Philmont Backcountry camps located in this area, including staff camps at Whiteman Vega, Sealy Canyon and Ring Place, will be closed Wednesday, June 29 until further notice. Philmont crews with itineraries in the Valle Vidal will have itineraries modified upon their arrival at Philmont; no crews will be cancelled due to these modifications.

**The Las Conchas Wildfire—3 miles south of Los Alamos, N.M.**

As of 8:30 a.m., June 28, 2011, approximately 60,740 acres are involved: seven Hotshot crews (Type 1 crews), 12 Type 2 Crews, 31 engines, 3 water tenders, 5 dozers and 20 aircraft (12 air tankers and 8 helicopters). Numerous resources are on-scene and more are en route. As of the time of the report, the fire was 0% contained. Mandatory evacuations in the Los Alamos area are underway, with voluntary evacuations in the perimeter areas. The fire is approximately 1 mile southwest of the boundary of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The fire has not entered Laboratory property at this time. All radioactive material is appropriately accounted for and protected. Smoke impacts are expected to generally remain concentrated near active fire areas.

We are concerned about the Las Conchas Fire and have been assured by state officials of the safety practices at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. Much of this area was also impacted by a wildfire in 2000, which has created a buffer to some areas of the laboratory.

**The Track Fire—NE of Raton, N.M.**

The “Track” fire is burning in the Raton Pass vicinity. This is 50 miles northeast of Philmont along the New Mexico/Colorado border. The fire has burned approximately 27,792 acres with no growth and is 98% contained. The firefighting efforts are essentially in a mop-up stage at this time.

**Smoke**

Philmont has not been impacted strongly by smoke from the regional fires. The Ranch monitors air quality and will modify operations should conditions change due to increased levels of smoke. Since the fires began southwest of the Ranch at the beginning of June in Arizona and New Mexico, we have only had a few days of increased smoke levels.
Stay involved throughout the year!

Keep up-to-date with the latest High Country, regional reunions, access to the member’s directory, cool stuff, and much more...

SIGN UP NOW!!!
It’s just $15.00 for a year’s membership!

I-Camp Randy Saunders with the form below or stop by our office (next to the Beaubien Room) at PTC.
www.philstaff.com

Name: ________________________________
Position/Department: ________________________________
Permanent Address: ________________________________
City, State, ZIP: ________________________________
Birthday: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________
Signature: ________________________________

Payment method (Check appropriate box):
CASH _____ CHECK _____

CREDIT CARD: #_______________________ EXP. DATE: ______
PAYROLL DEDUCTION (through July 31) ______

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Chaplain’s Corner
Treasure Your Time at Philmont!
By Gordon Gross, Protestant Chaplain

My wife, Evelyn, and I just got here last weekend for the 12th time, after skipping two summers. That’s just too long to be away from Philmont! It is great to be back!

However, don’t wait until you get back home, or back to school, to appreciate this place. I’m not kidding you. In a flash it is going to be August, and you’ll be checking out of here. It happens to me every year; I’d just really get settled in, and it’s time to go home. A lot happens. (That is what makes time go so fast.) You will look back over the season and say, “Wha’ happened?” TAKE TIME NOW TO TREASURE THE MOMENTS AT PHILMONT!!!

There are a lot of secrets about what happens on a Rayado trek, but there is one that I think that Rayado is the big stop.

Along with your thoughts... STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! and reflect... Take time out to think... Go back over the events of the past day or days... Relive them in your mind. Your feelings... Your thoughts... Your struggles... Your sense of victory and accomplishment... Your friends... Log these thoughts, feelings and observations. Save them as you savor them.

Also take time to say a little prayer of thanks to God who put Philmont out here for your care, your work, your enjoyment and your challenge. In His infinite love you have the privilege of “doing” Philmont hand in hand with the Artist who created Philmont!

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Quitting Tobacco Use
Annual Deaths in US Attributable to Cigarette Smoking

Graphic by Rory Chapman, NPS Manager

Cancer — A disease in which cells in part of the body start to grow out of control. Unlike normal cells, cancer cells do not die; instead, they continue to grow and form new cancer cells.

Lung Cancer — A type of cancer that starts in the lungs. There are two main types of lung cancer: small-cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer. Of the two types of lung cancer, 9 out of 10 cases are non-small cell lung cancer.

Ischemic Heart Disease — A disease that reduces the heart’s ability to pump blood to the body. This is often due to coronary artery disease and patients often have congestive heart failure.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) — A disease affecting the lungs that makes it hard for a person to breathe. The most common cause of COPD is cigarette smoking.

Stroke — A disease affecting the arteries leading to and within the brain. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain bursts or is blocked by a blood clot.

www.smokefree.gov  1-800-quit-now
Recycling is quickly becoming a big part of the Ranch’s sustainability plans. The process of collecting and dropping off valuable recyclable materials is a solution to reducing our waste. As stewards of our land, it’s important to be conscious of the impacts caused by sending waste to a permanent location like a landfill.

Corrugated cardboard is collected Ranch-wide: it is bundled up and sent in by Backcountry camps, dropped off daily by the Trading Post, collected by Services and sorted daily by the Commissary. Participants use the Recycling Trailer next to the Services building to dispose of their mailing boxes from stoves, gear and other essentials they have waiting for them in the Mailroom. Our cardboard compactor crushes the material with 62,200 pounds of force, eventually producing an 800-900 pound bale that is stored until a scheduled pick-up by an Albuquerque paper company. Market prices for cardboard fluctuate like any other recyclable material, but the average pay-out per ton is $140. Therefore, our use of the compactor to make bales for pickup is costing Philmont less in the here and now than dumpster fees. As of this edition of the PhilNews, we have six tons of OCC (old corrugated cardboard) ready for a recycling vendor, largely reducing the cost of disposing the waste in dumpster loads.

Philmont is charged dumpster fees each month based on the number and type we have. If we can reduce the number of dumpsters needed in locations such as the dining halls or commissary even further, we can continue to reduce the costs associated with our trash hauler.

Our newest project, recycling our plastic trail meal bags, is off to a successful start this summer. With the help of Rangers and Backcountry staff, participants are doing a good job of separating their clean bags from their trash. Several camps have already seen a noticeable difference in the bulk of their trash collected from campers. As the plastic bags come back to Basecamp, they are condensed as much as possible and stored until they can be delivered to a plastics recycler in Albuquerque that pays Philmont for this resource.

The valuable reuse of both cardboard and plastic bags is efficient not only in production of new paper and plastic products, but also in reducing the amount of waste we send to our landfill site in Wagon Mound, N.M. In the state of New Mexico this year, seven out of 35 landfills will be closing. One of the locations scheduled to close is near the Ranch in Raton. In an attempt to counteract the effects of this closing, the city has been awarded grant money from the state and federal government to assist in opening a recycling center in Raton. One advantage of opening a recycling center is job creation. Recycling processes create a job chain from drop-off of the material all the way through processing and resale of the recycled product.

A new initiative that Philmont Staff will notice around CHQ, PTC and Administration is reminder stickers placed on napkin and paper towel dispensers. “These Come From Trees” is an initiative begun by an individual who was interested in how many paper products could be saved through a simple reminder sticker. So look for the sticker and think twice about grabbing that fistful of napkins or paper towels, rather than just taking a single one as needed. See more at www.theseecomefromtrees.com.

Everyone on Philmont Staff can do their part to help our sustainability. Reduce what you’re using or taking—use fewer napkins in the dining hall or only the utensil(s) you’ll need for your meal instead of automatically grabbing a fork, knife and spoon. Think twice before you hit print or copy, especially for large quantities. Reuse what you can—commissary boxes, with tape peeled off, can be returned to the commissary for reuse, or your department can use them for projects or organization. Print on the backside of paper! Sustainability starts far ahead of recycling, so please join our movement here at Philmont.

The Philmont Food Service has served 10 out of 12 banquet meals on reusable dishes, cups and utensils this summer 2011. That’s 557 out of 700 banquet meals so far! When your department requests a banquet meal, you will receive a pack-out tub with reusable items automatically, unless it is later in the summer during the busy times of PhilFiestas. Instead, bring your own dish or take out container.

Since beginning a rechargeable battery collection project last August through the national company Call2Recycle, Philmont has sent away 700 pounds of batteries for recycling. You can find these collection boxes around CHQ, PTC and Administration. Old cell phones and cell phone batteries can be dropped off in these boxes as well.
Outdoor Nation Congress Meets in NYC

By Christine Salisbury, Chief Ranger

Although there are at least 22,780 Scouts experiencing the outdoors this summer at Philmont, not all young individuals have the opportunities or make the decision to enjoy the outdoors. From June 23 to June 25 Christine Salisbury, Chief Ranger, represented the Boy Scouts of America in New York City at the Outdoor Nation Congress. Outdoor Nation is committed to engage all of America's youth in the outdoors; work with communities; create outdoor jobs; partner with schools; advocate with local, state and national governments and inspire volunteerism and service learning. Outdoor Nation is hosting Youth Summits in New York City, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Denver and San Francisco through June and July this summer.

The Outdoor Nation Congress consisted of 50 delegates from all over the U.S. representing various outdoor industry organizations including Outdoor Nation ambassadors, The North Face, State Park Services and the Boy Scouts of America. Each representative provided his or her perspective towards issues and opportunities in the outdoor industry in urban, suburban and rural locations. At the Congress, we discussed youth’s (anyone under 30 years of age) rights and responsibilities towards the outdoors, top current issues preventing youth from exploring the outdoors and presented solutions to the issues.

Of course there were opportunities for the 50 delegates to explore New York City. They were also able to camp out at Central Park in Manhattan and Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. Yes, camping in Central Park was safe as we were accompanied by the National Park Service. For more information about Outdoor Nation or the upcoming Youth Summits, visit www.outdoornation.org or contact Christine at the Ranger Office (ext 1222).

OUTDOOR NATION: Outdoor Nation Congress of 50 delegates discuss current issues in the outdoor industry in New York City.
Burrito Banquet Review

By Bo Bordas, NPS Marketing Staff

From where I come from, better than fast food chains, better than even the tiny family owned restaurants, are those little places that come to life after dark. Around the time people are going to sleep, my friends and I decide we are hungry and cruise in search of the tiny flashing signs letting us know that the taco bus has returned for the night.

So imagine my pure elation when I came to Cimarron and found that we have one of those meals on wheels right here in town—the Burrito Banquet! Founded in 1985 when owner Nancy McBrayer was looking for a job, her husband saw the trailer and bought it for her, and using the money her father gave her, the famous little restaurant was born. Before this, Nancy worked as a waitress and learned marketing from her days making burritos for a volunteer fire department.

Open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the summer can be enjoyed with a Burrito Banquet favorite, the Green Chili Totale Burrito—green chili made with beef, tomatoes and lettuce with chips and salsa. The restaurant’s salsa was among the top three finalists in the New Mexico Magazine Salsa contest in 2011. It’s got the perfect nip of spice and is deliciously chunky.

For all the vegetarians out there, Burrito Banquet also offers meatless options, substituting meat with diced green chili, [a New Mexico favorite to add to any meal]. Everything is made fresh, from the homemade tortillas to the guacamole, and she even grows the alfalfa sprouts herself!

The scene is homey as you watch her make your meal before you. The small-town chats are peaceful, and the tables behind the trailer are the perfect places to socialize. Open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., it is the perfect place to grab a quick, delicious bite to eat on your days off or even for lunch on a workday!

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Burrito Banquet Review

PHILMONT'S 2011

Volleyball Tournament and Barbeque

When: July 9th 5:00–7:00 and 8:00–11:00 as needed (don’t worry about missing dinner, we’ll have the grill going, beach party style!)

Where: Volleyball courts by the health lodge

How: Come sign up your team in the SSSAC. Sign ups end July 8th at 11:00 p.m.

This tournament is gonna be HUGE! Don’t miss out on some good competitive fun!
Scouting: A Profession

By Danielle Edwards, PhilNews Writer

In the Villa Philmonte garden, there was a Professional Scouting reception held on Thursday, June 16, for those who were interested in a career in Scouting.

The majority of people trickled in around 6:00 p.m. and mingled, meeting others from the Philmont staff that they had not already met and various Scout Executives from across the United States.

Owen McCulloch, Associate Director of Program, said that the intent of this reception was to “meet and greet.”

According to Scouting: A Profession With a Purpose, professional Scouters are the ones who “inspire, recruit, train and support the BSA’s volunteers, in addition to working with community leaders and rallying public support for Scouting’s activities.”

Philmont staff in attendance were able to talk to various Scout Executives about pursuing a possible career in Scouting.

“You often hear about Scouting jobs being called a calling. It’s not just a job, but it’s a profession with a purpose,” said McCulloch when addressing the assembly of Scout Executives and Philmont staff.

If someone is interested in becoming a Professional Scouter, they must have a 4-year degree. “It really doesn’t matter what it’s in...because different people bring different skill sets,” said McCulloch.

However, people may be in the process of completing their 4-year degree and still take steps that are necessary to become a Professional Scouter. The first step is to be interested, and the second step is to make an appointment with Owen. He will talk with people about their interest and the next steps to take. He will also gather information such as a resume and transcripts. Then there is a screening interview and the SRI test is given. “It’s like a personality profile. If you ever did Myers Briggs, it’s kind of similar to that,” said McCulloch. Then it will all be packaged together, sent to the National Personnel office and then they will be added to the “pool.”The “pool” is filled with pre-qualified applicants for positions with the Boy Scouts.

John Harding, Scout Executive over the Buffalo Trace Council—which covers 15 counties in Southwestern Indiana and Southeastern Illinois—said that he looks for future employees who are “well-rounded people.”

Mark Switzer, Director of Field Service, talked about his experience in Scouting and said, “Once I was involved, it was a perfect match.” He has been in Scouting now for almost 11 years.

If anyone is interested in a profession with the Boy Scouts of America, talk to Owen McCulloch about starting the process.

REFRESHMENTS: Food and friendly faces are abundant at the professional Scouting informational meet-and-greet at the Villa Philmonte garden on June 16.

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Cowboys Drive Cattle North

By Nicole Butler, PhilNews Writer

Each year as the summer season begins, the Ranch Department at Philmont moves its livestock from their winter pastures to their summer pastures across the Ranch. The time is often recognized by the herds of burros or horses that are seen galloping through Basecamp and Cimarron, but the horses and burros are not the only livestock to be moved. The cattle are also moved through the camp.

Philmont generally houses herds of approximately 200 cows, 50 heifers and 15 bulls. The purpose of the cattle drive is to rotate animals from their winter pastures to their summer pastures. Winter pastures are lower in elevation, typically below 7,500 feet, while summer pastures are usually between 7,500 and 10,000 feet. This year, 170 cattle and about 160 calves were moved by the department at Philmont moves the herd from Fowler Pass and over Fowler Mesa. The path is extremely steep, and is beautiful to see as the cattle make their way through the canyons. The herd leaves Fowler Pass and heads down to Lower Bonita Canyon where the cowboys will circle around the herd and pair the mamas with their calves.

In order to get the cattle to their destination, the drivers use the Stock Drive, which leads up to Fowler Pass and over Fowler Mesa. The path is extremely steep, and is beautiful to see as the cattle make their way through the canyons. The herd leaves Fowler Pass and heads down to Lower Bonita Canyon where the cowboys will circle around the herd and pair the mamas with their calves.

In order to drive the cattle, it takes “experienced horseback skills,” and one has “to use the horse as a tool to move [the cattle]” says Ricklefs. The group must watch the cattle and act as a moving fence to herd them in the right direction. Many of the cows are 10 to 12 years old and already know the way to the pastures. The calves and younger cows, on the other hand, can be the most difficult part of the drive, as some wander “off into the bush and lose themselves,” says Ricklefs.

The drive starts early in the morning at 3:30 a.m. when the saddle horses are fed, followed by 4 a.m. breakfast provided by Rod Taylor’s wife. “We feed the horses and then we feed ourselves,” says Taylor. By 5 a.m. the cowboys are on horseback and beginning to gather the cattle in the Stockade pasture, also known as the Gravel Pit. “The hardest part is gathering all the cattle together at the beginning,” says Taylor. Once the cattle are gathered and the cowboys have divided themselves along the right, left and behind as drags, the drive begins. The cattle are pushed toward the Lovers’ Leap gate, where the herd is usually established. From there, the herd is driven along the road toward Crater Lake, which is one of the most difficult aspects of the drive, according to Taylor, because the cattle are often “inclined to go down into the canyon.” By 9 a.m. they arrive at Crater Lake, where they usually stop the cattle for an hour to rest. This year, however, the cattle did not need the break and kept going through the cattle gate at Crater rather than stopping. Within an hour, the cattle were successfully driven to the Bonito Canyon pasture.

In order to get the cattle to their destination, the drivers use the Stock Drive, which leads up to Fowler Pass and over Fowler Mesa. The path is extremely steep, and is beautiful to see as the cattle make their way through the canyons. The herd leaves Fowler Pass and heads down to Lower Bonita Canyon where the cowboys will circle around the herd and pair the mamas with their calves.

Once in Bonito, the cowboys pair up the cows and their calves to make sure that the young know where their mothers are and that the mothers know that their calves are there and safe.

“IT’s a fun day,” says Ricklefs, who has done more than 30 drives here at the Ranch. “You get to see old friends.” Many of the professional cowboys brought in are former Philmont staff. In fact, the CS and UU Bar professional cowboys who participated this year were both former Philmont Wranglers. A lot of Wranglers become professional cowboys or study horsemanship, explains Ricklefs.

The cattle drives are just part of “the normal rotation routine of things,” says Taylor. “We’ll do the same thing in the fall when we move them back.” The cattle will all be moved back again in late August. During the fall, the Ranch Department will weigh each of the calves individually, wean and sell the calves and vaccinate the herd. In January and February, the department will start calving, and by April the newborn calves will be branded and vaccinated. The cycle then repeats as the herd is prepared to be moved back to summer pastures.
Florida Sea Base

The Florida Sea Base is the national aquatic high-adventure site for the Boy Scouts of America. The base allows visiting Scouts to swim, snorkel, scuba dive, fish, kayak, sail and camp.

The Florida Sea Base was founded in the early 1970s as a local program in the Florida Keys by Sam Wampler, a professional Scouter from the South Florida Council. The BSA acquired a permanent facility in 1979 on Lower Matecumbe Key; and it was opened to Scouts the following year. In 1984, the BSA received the gift of Big Munson Island from Homer Formsby, allowing opportunities for primitive camping. In 2001, the Brinton Environmental Center opened, providing a much-needed second facility. Today, Florida Sea Base operates 12 different programs out of the three separate locations.

Activities for Scouts include Bahamas Tall Ship Adventure, Bahamas Adventure, Sea Exploring (Keys Tall Ship) and Coral Reef Sailing. These programs allow Scouts to sail through the Bahamas and the Florida Keys on a variety of ships including sailboats, yachts, tall ships and traditional vessels.

Other Sea Base programs include Eco-Adventure, which provides crews the opportunity to live aboard sailboats while they learn about and experience the four ecosystems of the Florida Keys, Open Ocean Adventure, during which a crews live aboard the base’s largest schooner, Halie & Matthew, while they explore the open ocean before docking at Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas, and Florida Fishing.

Scouts also have the option of having a wilderness adventure on land while at sea with Out Island Adventure, during which they can stay on remote Big Munson Island for a primitive camping experience.

For experienced Scouts, Sea Base offers Scuba Adventure, Scuba Live Aboard and the Divemaster Training Academy, all of which cover different aspects of scuba diving and instruction.

The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve

The newest addition to the BSA’s high-adventure bases, the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve will be opened tentatively in 2014 as the action sports base. Located in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains in the New River Gorge area of West Virginia, the Summit spans 10,000 acres and will offer whitewater rafting, kayaking and canoeing, rock climbing on nearly 1,600 climbing routes, mountain biking, skate and BMX programs, target sports, zip lines, challenge courses and hiking. Scouts will first be able to enjoy the camp as the site of the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. The camp’s opening was made possible thanks to generous donations by Stephen D. Bechtel Jr., the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation, Mike and Gillian Goodrich and Consol Energy, who collectively donated more than $90 million for purchasing the land and opening the camp.

Conclusion

The bases “exist as the hook or the reason for Scouts and Venturers to stay in the program,” says McCulloch. They serve as “a peak experience” or “major point” in a Scout’s experience, he adds. Each of the high-adventure bases will receive record numbers of Scouts this year, with Philmont’s participation at nearly 22,800 Scouts, Seabase at more than 12,000 and Northern Tier at more than 6,000 Scouts (in addition to the more than 750 participants in OKPIK). “In a sense we compete,” adds McCulloch, “but not really... crews choose the high adventure they are looking for, [and] each base is very unique and very different.”

ADVENTURE: continued from Page 1

Tales from the Trail

By Ben McNair, PhilNews Writer

During their 10 days on the trail, crews inevitably make memories that last a lifetime. We asked crews fresh off the trail for some stories and notable events from their journeys. Here are some of them.

Emily Ghormley, Jennifer Walk and Lizzy Michaekee, Crews 615-M1 and 615-M2:

We were up at Old Camp, and our little brother, who was Crew Chief, goes “Hey, we gotta go police the area!” and Dylan goes, “There’s cops here? What?”

We got scared by a bear, but it turns out it was a Ranger.

Lynn Dohrmann and Caitlin O’Leary, Crew 615-K1:

At Abreu, we stopped for breakfast, and the leader from our sister crew comes over and says, “Hey guys, you want to milk a goat?” And we were just, like, “Uh, okay?” Our Ranger, Brad, says, “Seize every opportunity you have” and so we’re like, “Sure, why not?”

So we all milked a goat, and we now have a “goat whisperer” and a “double fister” (who milked the goat with both hands). Instead of saying “Hike on!” we always said, “Go milk a goat!” “Anybody not ready? Go milk a goat!”

We saw a giant deer. Caitlin [O’Leary] actually saw it. She said, “Hey guys, look! That deer is so big!” We were like, “Where?” She was like “Behind that tent!” It was a burro...

“It was far away, and I didn’t have my glasses,” O’Leary defends.

One of [our] best memories was how all the staff treated us because we did Trek 29. Whenever we were late they would cater to us, so we still got to rock climb. We got to Urraca late and set up camp and everything and rushed over to the bonfire and just like that everybody got up and left. And we got our own bonfire. It was really nice. It was awesome.

Jay Gubbi, Yogesh Gubbi, Matthew Maciag and Mike Maciag, Crew 615-P2:

We’re at Beaubien at the horseshoe pit. We met another crew from Atlanta, Ga. Really cool guys. And one of the guys from the other crew was wearing a bright orange jacket, at which point he became “Orange Jacket.”

You know, you’re out there and you only see one crew, maybe two crews a day. We saw Orange Jacket every day at least once. Everybody would go nuts. We’d be down, hot, tired, hungry, grumpy, and we’d see Orange Jacket and everybody’d get happy. Orange Jacket would do “the crane” before he threw the horseshoe.

Then we got into a game of any crew coming up the trail when we were going down had to have a new crew name by the time the last guys passed. So we had the “Eternal Peaches.” We met a crew in purple that wouldn’t give us a crew name so we called them “Barney” just to make them mad, and some lady named herself “Dead Woman Walking.”

In Dean Cow, we had the best Ranger we ever had. He would repeat everything, and he would always end with “It’s all good.” “You guys be careful, a bear might come into your tent and maul you tonight. Good stuff.” “You guys be careful, a bear might come into your tent and maul you tonight. Good stuff.” “You guys be careful, a bear might come into your tent and maul you tonight. Good stuff.” We referred to him as Robbie Repeat ever since. Very, very good Ranger.

We liked Urraca. They have a good team. Their song stuck to us. It’s too bad because they’re the first staff camp we went to, and they set the bar very high. They need to put their song on iTunes. [We] would buy it.
Scouts Flock to Mountain Forge
By Danielle Edwards, PhilNews Writer

“Fire in the hole,” yells Jimmy Lowe, Camp Director of Black Mountain, right before he pulls the trigger on a .58 caliber black powder muzzle rifle. He demonstrates to crews how to load, shoot and stifle a flame in the rifle and then each Scout is able to shoot three times at objects on the hillside.

Staff members ask the Scouts if there is anything they would like to shoot. If there is, then the range is open for the Scouts to place their object and return behind the safety line before anyone is allowed to shoot. “The most common things that are shot at are bandannas and hats. Sometimes there are shirts or playing cards but not often,” said Eric Andersen, Program Counselor.

Black Mountain Camp is an interpretive camp that depicts the post-Civil War era in the year 1866. The camp is located at the base of Black Mountain and is one of two camps that can only be reached by hiking into the camp instead of by a vehicle. At this camp, about eight to 11 crews come in daily; some are just passing through, but some stay the night.

When the crews come to the camp, they are able to participate in rifle-shooting and blacksmithing. Logan Smithey teaches a crew of Scouts how to make a J-hook at the blacksmith forge as he says, “This anvil here is named Betsy, and I don’t want to see a scratch on her. You’re all gentlemen, right? You never hit a lady in the face with a hammer.” After demonstrating forging techniques, Smithey lets each crew member put on a leather apron and helps them make their own J-hook to take back home.

When they aren’t busy teaching crews how to shoot a rifle or make a J-hook, they break out into song, make up funny stories and “roll rocks down hills,” says Smithey.

Lowe says that “everything we do here is fun.” Many crews that were at Black Mountain agreed with Lowe’s statement. A crew from Roslin, Ga. that was passing through was able to shoot the rifles and said it was their favorite activity.

The five Eagle Scout men of Black Mountain try to get to know each crew that comes through. “We provide a lasting experience for the participants who come through here and change lives,” says Lowe.

One adviser from a crew out of Woodstock, Ga., said that his crew had really grown up on the trail and had a great time shooting the rifles at Black Mountain.

When visitors arrive at French Henry, they are often met with an unfamiliar voice yelling, “you look nice!” As they draw closer, they realize that voice actually belongs to one of the six French Henry staffers, dressed in their 1920s mining attire. “We like to talk in funny voices,” explains Joe Cooper, Program Counselor at French Henry.

French Henry is an interpretive camp depicting the 1920s and 30s when miners, under the McIntyre brothers, extracted gold from Mt. Baldy. The Aztec Mine, which is located on the camp’s site, produced 1.5 of the four million dollars in gold that was extracted from the mountain. Such “tangible history,” like the mine, is the best part of French Henry according to Jeff Ostendorff, Camp Director at French Henry. Abbey Helton, French Henry Program Counselor, agrees, adding that her favorite part about the camp is the mine.

In order to share Philmont’s rich mining history with Scouts, the camp provides the opportunity to tour the Aztec mine, where they can learn where and how gold forms in the mountain, how the mines were dug through the mountain and how gold was extracted. The tours are very history intensive, says the staff, but they love to scare the campers while they are in the mine to make the experience more fun.

Crews that pass through French Henry also have the opportunity to learn to blacksmith, which is Program Counselor Justin Kernes’s favorite part of the camp. Scouts can learn to make J-hooks at the forge. The staff jokes that their goal for the summer is to go beyond J- and S-hooks and make an Ironman suit to greet campers in. Through the years, the mining and blacksmithing practices at French Henry camp have remained the same, but the staff says that historical accuracy continues to improve.

After participating in these staffed activities, crews may choose to tour the camp’s cabin museum, which gives more information on the history of the area and mining in general, or pan for gold in Ponil Creek. “The blacksmithing and mining can be pretty new experiences [for Scouts] so [the experiences] can be rewarding,” says Cooper.

“Interp is fun,” says Kernes, and that can be seen clearly in the French Henry staff. They embrace their characters, yelling out “Gold!” in 20th century miners’ accents as they lead crews to the mine or as they tell the Scouts “we’ll train you all to be muckers” in the same mining accents during the Porch Talks. However, it can be difficult to stay in character at times, says Ostendorff, especially when “Scouts are asking for modern elements like Micropur, and you have to answer in an accent.”

Nevertheless, the staff continues to have fun and enjoy the camp, whether it be by running down the tailings piles, which are large piles of deposited remains extracted from the mine, or jokingly calling Helton “Stabby Abbey.” Helton of course has no dangerous tendencies; the nickname is just the staff’s way of teasing campers.

While the staff like to have fun, they also are committed to giving the 10 to 20 crews that pass through the most accurate and interesting experience possible.
Cyphers: Dark Mine, Light Humor

By Ben McNair, PhilNews Writer

When Charlie Cyphers is away, the miners will play. That’s the premise of Cyphers Mine, an interpretive camp set in 1912 that shows a glimpse of past life in a real mining community in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The camp’s program includes a mine tour, gold panning and blacksmithing. Every night the staff gathers in Charlie’s cabin for the Stomp, Cyphers Mine’s campfire program, which always promises to be a good time.

Cyphers was a manager for the Colorado Consolidated Verde Mining and Milling Company. Thomas Knott and Charles Wells originally controlled the mine around the 1880s, but Colorado Consolidated bought them out in 1894. Cyphers directly oversaw the Contention Mine, which snakes through Philmont’s Baldy Mountain, from 1900 to 1920.

Cyphers strongly believed that there was gold in the mine, “so right now we all believe there’s gold, too,” says Program Counselor Ellyn Washburne. He left the area after Waite Phillips paid him $100 to do so, and after receiving his payment, he disappeared.

Cyphers was known as “an old mountain goat,” says Washburne, “because he’s been known to bring in 100 pounds of supplies on his back when he returns” from trips into town.

It is during one of those trips that the events of this summer take place. The Cyphers Mine staff members all play different parts interpreting mine employees. Washburne plays Ellyn May Patterson, a “powder monkey” whose role in the mine one of the most dangerous—her job is to prepare dynamite for a blast and light the fuse.

The rest of the staff have interpretive names, too. Lizzie Standard plays Jesse, although she’s sometimes known as Shorty. Henry Lessen is known as Ugly, Marty McCoy is a Spanish doctor named Martin and Travis Payne is Guy Smith. Kira Redzianak plays off of the film There Will Be Blood as she interprets Danielle Plainview (the film’s protagonist is named Daniel) and Jack Chinn is, well, Jack.

During the Stomp, all of the staff members gather at one end of Charlie Cyphers’ cabin to present an evening of music, stories and jokes, some of which date back to the days in which the mine would have been in operation. At different points in the show, volunteers are brought up to stand with the staff and perform solos on triangles and cowbells.

At other unanticipated moments in the show, Jack’s mustache, which is named Senor Bigote, takes on a life of its own and gives everyone a classic current news. “It’ll say, ‘the Titanic sank!’ and ‘President Taft got stuck in the bathtub again’” says Washburne.

After the hour-long Stomp program ends, the staff sticks around to jam with campers. The performers break character a bit, expanding their musical repertoire from mining songs to more recent hits by the Beatles, Ke$ha and Taylor Swift, and entertain Scouts well into the night.

Teepees and Targets in “Forgotten Corner”

By Ben McNair, PhilNews Writer

Huddled around the inside perimeter of one of Apache Springs’ two teepees, a crew learns about Native American life in the Southwest. This tour of the teepee is only one part of program at Apache Springs, which also includes archery, conservation and, when the fire ban is not in effect, a sweat lodge.

Program Counselor Bryan Cross, who oversees this teepee tour, shows the participants and their advisers animal skulls and skins, drums and mallets, lacrosse sticks and ancient pottery recovered in the area, among a host of other artifacts.

Cross also explains the mechanics and uses of teepees. In this region, teepees were most widely used among Jicarilla Apache groups, “especially when they moved around a lot.”

Construction of these temporary dwellings is quite simple: the structure is supported by three wooden poles, often 20 or more feet long, arranged in a tripod shape. Other poles of the same length lean on the crux of that tripod and form a cone. Fabric is then wrapped around the skeleton, leaving space at the top that acts as a chimney.

Apache Springs’ teepees are constructed using 20-foot wooden poles wrapped with white sail canvas and can easily fit 10 to 12 people inside.

Through the meadow and down the trail behind the camp’s main cabin is the archery range. Ten lanes comprise the range, each with a target that presents unique difficulties. The course, which is worth 100 points from start to finish, often incites competition among crew members, says Program Counselor John Terry. There is some competition among staff members, too, or at least a drive to set new personal records on the course when campers are not there.

Apache Springs is not all play, however. Many crews who pass through the camp opt to complete their three-hour conservation requirement there. The current conservation project is the construction of a new trail to replace the old fence line trail. The new trail is “a lot flatter, and it’s just well-maintained,” says Tommy Oates, program counselor.

Although the conservation project is directed by three conservationists who are not directly involved in Apache Spring’s other operations, “we consider them part of our staff,” says Oates. “At night and in the morning they’re exactly like part of our staff. They work here, they hang out and we talk to them all the time. It’s like having another program, because we do archery and teepee tours and sweeps; they do conservation but they still live here.”

Until the fire ban at Philmont is lifted, Apache Springs only has three aspects to its program. The staff, which claims to have the ability to fix the weather provided they have the right combination of buckskin outfits, clay pipes and renowned Philmont staff, hopes for rain so they can incorporate sweat lodges, “sweats” for short, into their activities.

“Sweats are a really big program because... it’s a different way of showering,” explains Oates. In a sweat lodge, volcanic rocks are heated over a fire. Water is splashed onto the rocks, creating steam. “You go into a sweat, you sit there for 15 minutes and get really sweaty, run outside and there’s a cold bucket of water and you dump it on yourself. In the sweat, you’re getting all the dirt out of your pores.”

While the staff admits that they live in the “forgotten corner of Philmont,” the environment, they say, is unbeatable. “It’s gorgeous,” says Program Counselor Ali Cerda. Sunsets over Apache Spring’s meadow are like “orange marshmallows... like candy,” she says. “When there’s no moon, the stars are absolutely phenomenal,” adds Oates.
Registering PTC Participants

By Danielle Edwards, PhilNews Writer

On Monday mornings, Philmont Training Center (PTC) Administration is swarming with participants trying to ask questions at the front desk. “We call it the ‘attack center’,” said Dee Sanchez, PTC Secretary, as she described the front desk in the PTC registration office. PTC Administration is the large umbrella that oversees the other PTC departments, such as PTC Programs. However, their main focus is overseeing the registration process for the PTC training conferences.

Sanchez said, “They [the participants] go online to register, and we [the office staff] put together their housing and dining assignments before they arrive. When they get here they check-in...and collectively as a group, we are the people who take care of everything else as far as the registration.” If the participants are here for N.A.Y.L.E. (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience), then the department will take care of their registration process.

The faculty, the training teachers, are recruited by national committee members and when they arrive Saturday, PTC Administration helps them check-in. Then on Sundays, the training participants arrive, and they help them check-in.

Sometimes participants need help with transportation, and PTC Administration helps them in that way too. “That’s really what we do...we coordinate the registration of training [here at PTC],” said Sanchez.

There are 10 weeks of training conferences for adult leaders during the summer with about nine courses each week. The participants can also bring their families, who in turn may participate in programs offered by PTC, such as Nursery (Infants to 2-year-olds) up to Silverados, non-conference adults.

So many things can happen in a day when there are so many people coming from all over the place that the staff of PTC Administration relax by playing.

One thing they like to do is “karn” each other. “We have this picture that when you least expect it will show up in random places,” said Sanchez. They explained that they received a postcard with an odd-looking picture on it from a PTC participant years ago. They secretly stash it under a coffee mug, under a keyboard or place it in a drawer.

They have a lot of challenges mixed with their fun such as database crashes or things that disappear. Sanchez said that they improvise a lot and make the most of the challenging situations.

According to Sanchez, her goal was to bring their customer service rating up by at least 10% from last year and it has gone up about 40% this year. “In the end it’s about the customer who shows up at our front door and...that they had a great time.”

Admin: Behind the Scenes on the Ranch

By Ben McNair, PhilNews Writer

For many, campers and staff included, the Philmont experience is most strongly influenced by the things and people we interact with front-and-center. Some Philmont staff, however, work hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Ranch’s operations run as smoothly as ever. These special staffers work a little ways down the road from Camping Headquarters in Administration.

In this building, on which is emblazoned the symbol of the Boy Scouts of America, are staffers who work with every aspect of Philmont. General Manager of Philmont and National Director of High Adventure John Clark’s office is here. Though he lives at Philmont, he regularly travels to the other two high-adventure bases, Florida Sea Base and Northern Tier.

From his office on the Ranch, Clark manages the scenes across the country. “The problems that we have here are very similar to the problems that they have at both the other bases, too,” he says, overseeing housekeepers, stamping checks and even reporting the local weather for the National Weather Service in Albuquerque.

Down the hall, Donna Archuleta and “the girls” deal with many things money-related. Archuleta pays the bills for the Ranch, while her assistants “receive everything that comes in in the form of checks, cash [and] credit cards.” In addition to balancing budget items, Archuleta’s office also keeps track of all of the donations that the Ranch receives, “how they’re spent and how they come in and write back letters to everybody.”

While “the girls” rarely interact with participants directly, they enjoy “knowing that we’re providing a service for kids that need to come here. It helps them all and they go away with a great experience,” says Archuleta.

For “everything that’s broke, doesn’t work, old or needs to be new,” there’s a staff for that. That guy is Properties and Facilities Superintendent Jim Kutz, although “I know that I’m the chairman of the ‘complaints committee,’” he says. His job “changes every minute, from relocating a rattlesnake to building the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center, building the Health Lodge, to moving latrines and everything in-between.”

Unlike many departments, Administration runs year-round. While the department staff has more time to mingle and enjoy one another’s company in the off-season, “it’s mostly work in the summertime, as it is mostly everywhere,” says Vargas.
Review: Philmont Field Guide
By Danielle Edwards, PhilNews Writer

In the Tooth of Time

Traders there is a new Philmont Field Guide on the shelf. It sells for $14.95, and Philmont staff members have a 15 percent discount.

This new edition is spiral bound with sketch drawings of a raccoon, flowers, and birds on a yellow background cover along with a watercolor picture of Mount Baldy.

The Field Guide now includes sections about understanding nature, such as the water cycle and plant succession, and modern impacts, like buildings and grazing. It also includes a section on key historical figures, cultural history and even a checklist for readers to check off what they have seen while hiking in the backcountry.

“We’re excited to use them [the Field Guides] in our Ranger training,” said John Scherschel, Ranger Mountain Trek Coordinator.

The first Philmont Field Guide was published back in 1985 and was produced by six seasonal staff members, one of whom, Mary Stuever, is currently our visiting Forester Coordinator.

It was put together to help participants and staff learn more about Philmont and northeastern New Mexico.

Along with multiple new sections that have been added, there have also been more wildflowers included which are now organized by their color and common name within the pages of the book. “The organization is cool,” said John-Rex Spivey, Naval Academy Ranger, when talking about the wildflowers section.

Spivey added that he really liked the section on the plants because “I’d have no idea what these plants were.”

The new Philmont Field Guide has also won two awards: the Gold award in the category of General Excellence of Editorial Products and a Silver award in the category Books: Non-Technical, from the Association Media & Publishing Company which is a “trade association in-house media and publishing groups like us,” said Beth Blair, Managing Editor/Team Leader in the BSA media studio office, in an email.

“It seems to have more information than the old one,” said Derek Nuccio, Male Tent City Manager, when asked which field guide he liked better.

The new Field Guide is longer by 50 pages and includes sketch drawings of animals and color pictures of plants, maps and star constellations. “The layout is really nice,” said Scherschel, when talking about the differences between the new and old Field Guide. Spivey looked through each section of the new guide and said, “that’s what I wanted to know.”

Keeping up with Upkeep
By Nicole Butler, PhilNews Writer

The Philmont Maintenance Department has one of the largest ranges of responsibilities on the Ranch. “We’re responsible for everything feet below the ground to the top of the tallest tree,” says Wayne Baker, Manager of Camping Headquarters Maintenance.

The staff, comprised of 18 seasonal and four full-time staffers, is responsible for the grounds, signs and facilities at Basecamp, keeping them busy from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. each day. These responsibilities include all landscaping, painting, carpentry, sign building, shower house and restroom cleaning, plumbing and any other repairs or upkeep issues that may arise.

“The shower houses are the number one task,” says Baker, but this year “keeping the place looking green” is another major concern.

In order to prepare for the extensive work-load, the department prefers to hire staff with skills or past experience in plumbing, carpentry, landscaping or the building trades. This is not a requirement, however, and once the summer begins, the Maintenance staff receives training on how to use all the equipment, including landscaping and power tools and, more importantly, how to use the tools safely. “We like to see them leave here with new skills,” says Baker as he explains that the management has had previous staff come back and thank them for the skills they learned while working at Philmont. The management also has regular meetings with the staff to help them continue to develop new skills, as well as to give them positive feedback to help keep their attitudes and productivity up.

“Cleaning up after people is very hard to accomplish and the staff does not always get enough positive feedback and thanks,” explains Baker.

The department, which has been present on the Ranch since Waite Phillips owned the land, has remained the same in many fundamental ways, but has grown significantly. In the 1970s the staff consisted of only six people, but as the number of staff, campers and facilities has increased, the number of Maintenance staff and their responsibilities have also increased.

The department is currently responsible for the safety and well-being of all the staff, visitors and most importantly campers here at Philmont, explains Baker. He adds that “working with campers and making their stay here the best it can be” is one of the best parts of working in the department.

Ross Robinson, Year-Round CHQ Maintenance staff, adds that a lot of backcountry camps do not have the opportunity to keep up the quality of life like the Maintenance Department does.

According to Baker, the best perk of working in the Maintenance Department is their ability to “work with tools, build things and make things look nice.” Robinson adds that the best part of the department is “the diversity we get to deal with on a regular basis,” referring to the variety of jobs the department faces and accomplishes each day.

“Summers are challenging and a lot of fun,” says Baker. “The entire environment [at Philmont] is good all around.”
Bodies of 6 French Hikers Found in Alps

Six bodies were found Sunday, June 26 by a hiker in France's Hautes-Alpes region. The bodies belonged to mountain climbers who had left an overnight refuge a day earlier. Police report the climbers were found in a steep corridor 8,858 feet in elevation, but had been headed on two ropes for a point 11,857 feet high. The cause of death is still unknown, but officials suspect the climbers could have been victims of a broken snow bridge, an avalanche or a fall.

India and Pakistan Agree to Discuss New Nuclear Measures

Officials from India and Pakistan have agreed to discuss new nuclear measures in an effort to better relations between the nations. Confidence in relations was shattered after a Pakistani attack on Mumbai in India in 2008. Officials say the talks will “work to build confidence over their nuclear and conventional weapons capability.” The nations also vow to work toward strengthening cooperation on counter-terrorism and improving ties over Kashmir, which has been claimed by both nations and divided since 1948. Peace talks between the nations had been on hold since the 2008 attack.

Interior of Mayan Tomb Revealed with Video Camera

Researchers at Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology were able to view an ancient Mayan tomb in Palenque, Mexico. The archaeologists lowered a video camera the size of a matchbox into the 1,500 year old tomb, giving them the first glimpse inside the monument, which was discovered in 1999. The tomb had not been entered previously due to fears of damaging the pyramid. It is believed that the tomb holds an important figure from Mayan history—most likely the city’s first ruler, K’uk Bahlam I or the city’s early female ruler, Ix Yohl Ik’nal. The camera was lowered 16 feet on its first use and revealed red paint and black figures across the wall.

Mass Rape in the DR Congo

UN officials announced that the number of victims of a recent mass rape in Fizi in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has reached 170. The attack took place between June 10 and 12, but was not reported until this past week. The attack also involved robberies in health centers and of livestock. The attackers are believed to be ex-rebels who recently deserted the national army. The pattern of integrating former rebels into the nation's armed forces without proper rehabilitation has led not only to this attack but also to attacks in the past. The nation has become notorious for the abuse of women and children over the past 16 years of unrest.

Woman Found Guilty of Genocide and Rape

A former Rwandan women’s minister became the first women convicted of genocide and rape by an international court. Pauline Nyiramasuhuko, along with her son and four other former officials, was found guilty by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda of “conspiracy to commit genocide, crimes against humanity, extermination, rape, persecution and... violence to life and outrages upon personal dignity” for her role in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. She received life in prison upon being found guilty of seven of the 11 charges brought against her in the 10-year trial.

Canada’s Currency Goes Plastic

The Bank of Canada announced that it will begin changing its currency to polymers rather than the cotton paper used now. The new bills will feature two transparent windows (one in the shape of a maple leaf) with embedded color-changing images. They will be the same size and color as the former bills, but will be more durable and will be thinner and lighter. The first note to be released will be the $100 dollar bill, followed by the $50 and $20 by 2012. The ten and five dollar bills will be released by the end of 2013.

Syria Dissidents Meet to Discuss Transition

After the deaths of more than 1,300 civilians and the arrests of thousands more, 150 Syrian dissidents met to discuss reform and changes for the first time. The group met in Damascus, the nation's capital, to call for an end to the brutal actions taken by the government and for a peaceful transition to democracy. Following the initial meeting, opposition to the reform was invited to join the talks. The conference will address proposed new laws on political parties, elections, local administrations and press. It will also look at amendments to the constitution, specifically in regards to Article 8, which ensures the Baath Party leadership over the country.

Emperor Penguin Saved in New Zealand

A young emperor penguin was found on the shore of Peka Peka beach in New Zealand after swimming from Antarctica. The penguin, now named Happy Feet, had a swollen stomach and intestines from consuming sand and driftwood it had mistaken for snow. The zoo performed operations to flush the materials out and all procedures went well report Wellington officials. Happy Feet is recovering well and is expected to return to Antarctica no later than January of next year.
Los Alamos Lab Threatened by Wildfire

The Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico is closed as of Tuesday as fire crews fight a wildfire which is burning nearby the facility. The Bandelier National Monument and the city of Los Alamos are now under mandatory evacuation. The Los Alamos National Laboratory is a center of American nuclear science and is one of the nation’s top national-security research facilities. The lab is about 35 miles northwest of Santa Fe, N.M. and has more than 11,000 employees that work at the facility. The Los Alamos National Laboratory has announced that all nuclear materials are protected from a fire event. The fire has been named the Los Conchas fire and has spread across 60,000 acres and is zero percent contained as of June 28. The fire has stirred memories of the devastating fire that destroyed hundreds of homes and buildings in Los Alamos in 2000. The Pacheco Fire near Santa Fe has burned 9,927 acres and is 10 percent contained. Smoke from both of these fires will continue to blow across Philmont Scout Ranch when the winds are from the southwest. Both the Los Conchas and Pacheco Fires are more than 120 miles from the Ranch.

North Dakota River to Set New Flood Record

The Souris River in Minot, N.D. crested almost 13 feet over the flood stage early Sunday morning and has only dropped about 6 inches since then. Crews battling the flood have been tense and on the clock, constantly checking and packing the emergency levees that were built to protect critical structures. To keep a school from flooding, National Guard helicopters dropped one-ton sandbags around the school. Crews have also built another ring of levees near the Broadway Bridge to protect the north-south route through Minot so it would not be cut off. Residents are being told they must boil tap water at least one minute before drinking so then it will kill any dangerous organisms.

Gas Prices Dropping

Gas prices have dropped 11 cents over the past two weeks and according to the Lundberg Survey, gas prices are supposed to drop even more. The Lundberg Survey said that $3.63 is the average price for a gallon of self-serve regular gas which is down now 37 cents from the price peak back on May 6. The International Energy Agency announced that the government has 60 million barrels of gasoline in reserves, half of it from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that they will sell.

Bachmann Joins the Republican Race

Michele Bachmann, 55-year-old Congresswoman of Minnesota, announced a bid for the 2012 Republican presidential candidacy this past week. She was a tax lawyer, founder of a charter school, mother of five and foster mother of 23 children. There was a poll of 400 party members taken, and it shows that Bachmann is tied with front-runner Mitt Romney, another Republican presidential candidate.

LulzSec Hacking Group Disbanded

The secretive band of hackers, LulzSec, said it was disbanding last Saturday with no reason for disbanding. Their final hack together was posting what they said were internal documents from AT&T and private data from other companies. They claimed the recent attack on the CIA’s website and hacking into the website of public broadcaster PBS to post a fake story saying that the rapper Tupac Shakur was still alive. He has been dead for about 15 years. They believe by announcing their attacks publicly, websites will increase their security, but they also think it’s fun to release peoples information. LulzSec is similar to another hacker group called “Anonymous,” but the group is more random and does not seem to be politically motivated or to have a set of moral codes.
Last Saturday’s CONCACAF Gold Cup final was a disappointing game for the United States after its fall to Mexico. The U.S. was up 2-0 just 23 minutes into the game, but Mexico quickly caught up in the second half. 93,420 fans crowded into the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. to watch the game, and the win was Mexico’s sixth Gold Cup title.

**Owner of New Jersey Nets Takes Role in Russian Politics**

Mikhail D. Prokhorov, owner of the New Jersey Nets, was elected the leader of the Right Cause, a political party in Russia. Prokhorov, age 46, is worth an estimated $18 billion. He hopes to break the monopoly that defines current Russian politics. The Russian political scene has not had a liberal party for eight years.
June 30, 2011

Phil: June 2011
Phil Sports

Russian Politics

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Jackson's Thriller Jacket Sells for $1.8 Million at Auction

Michael Jackson's red and black, winged-shoulder leather jacket sold at Julien's Auction in Beverly Hills this last weekend for $1.8 million. It was bought by a commodities trader in Texas who is going to use it to raise money for children's charities. It was signed "Love Michael Jackson." Part of the $1.8 million will go to an animal preserve in California where Jackson's Sabu, Thriller, and two Bengal tigers are living.

The Ugliest Dog in 2011

The 14-year-old Chinese-crested Chihuahua named Yoda, won this years World's Ugliest Dog contest last week at the Northern Californian fair. Yoda's owner found her in an alley and thought she was a 'rat' but realized she was an abandoned dog needing a home. Yoda's competition included last year's winner, a one-eyed abandoned dog needing a home. Yoda's owner found her in an alley and thought she was a "rat" but realized she was an abandoned dog needing a home. Yoda's competition included last year's winner, a one-eyed Chihuahua named Princess Abby. Chihuahua's have also won in both 2007 and 2008.

Live Music in Taos

There is live music on the Taos Plaza every Thursday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. It is free admission and runs through September 8, 2011.

89th Maverick Club Rodeo

Rodeo Dance: Rod Taylor and The Riffers, July 3rd. Maverick Rodeo Grounds from 8:00-10:00 p.m. $10.00 admission.

Rodeo Parade: July 4th. 9:00 a.m. along Highway 64 in Cimarron.

Rodeo: July 4th starting at 10:00 a.m.

Rodeo Events:
1. Rodeo Grand Entry
2. 1st Session Booger Brown Bull Riding
3. Jiggs Porter Calf Roping
4. Ranch Bronc Riding
5. Senior Barrel Race
6. Wild Cow Milking
7. Open Team Roping
8. Thike Stockton Junior Barrel Race
9. Cow Pony Race
10. Sid Morrow Saddle Bronc Riding
11. Mixed Ribbon Roping
12. Pole Bending (ages 11-14)
13. Lee Cortez Calf Scramble
14. Donn Davies Wild Horse Race
15. 2nd Session Bull Riding
16. Mutton Busting (ages 4-7)

The First Avenger

The 17th Annual International Santa Fe Trail Balloon Rally will be held on July 2 (5:00 a.m.) to July 4 (9:00 a.m.) at the La Mesa Airfield in Raton, N.M. There will be a pancake breakfast, music, games, and hot air balloon's in the sky, all for FREE.

Tour the Villa Philmonte!!

Tour Times: Early Bird at 7:45 am
On the hour and half hour:
8:00—11:00 am
12:30—4:30 pm
The 7:45 am, 11:00 am, and 4:30 pm are abbreviated to accommodate meal times.

Storyteller's Cinema

110 Old Talpa Canyon Rd,
Taos, NM 87571
Box Office: (505) 758-9715
www.storytellertheatres.com

Transformers: Dark of the Moon in 3D (PG-13)
Bad Teacher (R)
Cars 2 3D (G)
Green Lantern 3D (PG-13)
Mr. Popper's Penguins (PG)
Super 8 (PG-13)
X-Men: First Class (PG-13)
Kung Fu Panda 2 3D (PG)

Movies and start dates:
7/15 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows Part 2
7/29 Cowboys and Aliens
8/12 Captain America: The First Avenger

Python Members Reunite for Chapman Film


The El Raton Movie Theatre

111 N 2nd St, Raton, NM 87740
Box Office: (575) 445-7008
http://elratontheatre.com/index.html

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday at 7 p.m.: Adults $7 (3D $8)
Seniors (60+) $6 (3D $7)
Children 12 and under $5 (3D $6)
Sunday Matinee at 4 p.m.: Adults $6 (3D $7)
Seniors (60+) $5 (3D $6)
Children 12 and under $4 (3D $5)

Movies and start dates:
7/15 The First Avenger
7/29 X-Men: First Class
8/12 Captain America

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17 Guided Tours a Day.
Reservations are necessary.
Make yours at the Philmont Museum/SETON Library!
Last Week’s Answers

Answers to last week’s crossword puzzle:

Across:
1. Backcountry Warehouse
2. Handicraft Lodge
3. Indian Writings
4. Cimarron Days
5. House keeping
6. Abreu
7. Dining Halls
8. Scally Canyon
9. Car Show
10. Baldy Town

Down:
1. Backcountry Warehouse
2. Indian Writings
3. House keeping
4. Cimarron Days
5. Abreu
6. Dining Halls
7. Car Show

If you have games, how-to instructions or cartoons please send them to PhilNews. We would love to publish your work!