

# PHILNEWS

AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2015

ISSUE TEN



Philmont participants and staff members enjoy a sunset hike near Apache Springs on July 28, 2015. Erin Irwin/PhilNews

## A truly universal experience: Ring Place

Marie Reynolds  
*PhilNews*

The sun has gone down and stars begin to show themselves in the wide open sky of the Valle Vidal. At 9 p.m., headlamps bounce in the darkness as Scouts make their way to the front of the main cabin at Ring Place.

Ring Place is located where the Ring family homestead once stood. Timothy Ring owned and operated the ranch from 1897 to 1906 when it was sold by Catherine Ring fol-

lowing Timothy's death. The ranch has seen many different owners, but officially became part of the Carson National Forest in 1982 when the Valle Vidal was donated to the forest service by the Pennzoil Corporation. To this day you will still find cattle grazing as well as a modern day cowboy, his trailer and his horses on the property. The original Ring family cabin still stands today but is not being used until further cabin restoration takes place.

Ring Place is on the Cerrososo road and is accessible to anyone when the Valle Vidal is open to the public. Because of its open meadows and skies, Ring Place is the perfect spot to observe the constellations in the night sky. However, according to Camp Director John Lauber, from the time of the flood on June 27th to mid-July, they were not able to see the sky at night because of cloud cover.

"By the time we could see the sky again, Scorpio had turned

sideways, which was interesting to see. It's amazing when we do get to be out here," said Lauber.

When night program is not available because of weather, staffers bring crews inside the main cabin to show them the star-spangled ceiling. The glow-in-the-dark paint allows crews to have a unique night program experience while also learning about the various planets and constellations. A weather program is also available to Scouts who wish to learn how

thunderstorms work, how clouds form, as well as about lightning, hail, and tornadoes.

Of course, when weather does allow, the outdoor star-gazing is an experience Scouts will never forget. Staffers use laser pointers and a 19-inch Newtonian telescope to bring attention to Saturn, the Milky Way, galaxies, nebulae, globular clusters, and various other stars.

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## Last(ing) impressions

Mark Anderson  
*Director of Program*

Every day of the summer, many last(ing) impressions are made. We greet someone and say good bye. We help someone at our work site and they leave heading to the next stop along their Philmont Journey to have yet another last(ing) impression. We see something and continue on or someone sees something and continues. Over and over this takes place in lots of different ways to each of us and to each participant and visitor to Philmont.

Behavioral research by Nobel Psychologist Daniel Kahneman, shows that our memories are very selective. In particular, no matter

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Scouts observe a nebula in the Milky Way as apart of Ring Place's astronomy program. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

## Always prepared: Philmont's Fire Department

Kate Johnson  
*PhilNews*

The Philmont Volunteer Fire Department keeps a watchful eye on Philmont's 140,177 acres of vulnerable wilderness located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico.

The Philmont Fire Department is a volunteer organization of more than twenty year-round volunteers that meets twice monthly to train and handle any departmental business. Their facilities consist of twelve vehicles, a main station, a substation, and a training area.

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NEWS AND

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August 14- August 20

Friday, 14	Saturday, 15	Sunday, 16	Monday, 17	Tuesday, 18	Wednesday, 19	Thursday, 20
8 a.m. Daily Hike - Abreu (meet in front of SSSAC) 6:30 p.m. PIYO/Zumba - SSSAC TV rooms 8 p.m. Seton birthday celebration - Hardesty Casa Central 8 p.m. Super hero theme night - ToTT Snack Bar	6:30 a.m. Insanity - SSSAC TV rooms 8 a.m. Daily Hike - Miners Park (meet in front of SSSAC) 7:30-8 p.m. Yoga - SSSAC TV rooms	8-9 a.m. Yoga 1 - SSSAC TV rooms 8 a.m. Daily Hike - Urraca (meet in front of SSSAC) 8 p.m. Goodbye Philmont Party - Baldy Pavilion 9 p.m. Bible study at Protestant Chapel porch	6:30 a.m. Yoga 2 - SSSAC TV rooms 8 a.m. Daily Hike - Cito (meet in front of SSSAC) 7 p.m. Patch trading - PTC South Tent City 8 p.m. Rave night - TOTT Snack Bar	8 a.m. Daily Hike - Clarks Fork (meet in front of SSSAC) 4 p.m. Self defense class - Yoga room 5:45 p.m. Western night - PTC	8 a.m. Daily Hike - Carson Meadows (meet in front of SSSAC) 6:30 p.m. PIYO - SSSAC TV rooms 7-9 p.m. Craft Center - PTC 8 p.m. Clean the freezer party - SSSAC	Have a great fall!  (Friday, 21, will be Star Wars theme night at the ToTT Snack Bar)

From page one: Ring Place



A mural explaining cloud change is painted inside the main cabin at Ring Place. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

“At the previous summer camp I worked for, I was teaching the astronomy merit badge. It’s just awesome. A lot of Scouts live in cities and they don’t see the stars that often. Here, you can see the Milky way clear and sharp. There are so many stars out here, and they are just amazed by how small this

planet is compared to everything else that’s out there,” said Program Counselor Paul Lenharth.

Ring Place is also a commissary, and when crews pick up food they can be found tossing trail meal bags, yelling in excitement, and making it more fun for the Scouts.

The camaraderie among the staff

shows in the way they interact with crews and each other, whether they are looking through the telescope with Scouts or playing a game of ‘Abstract Art’ together, a game they created where you draw the person in front of you without looking at your paper. The Ring Place staff have created a relaxed

and friendly atmosphere for anyone who passes through.

“You get to share such an amazing experience looking at the stars, and a lot of them [Scouts] hardly ever experience that. It’s cool to be able to show them something they have never seen before. It’s all in the night sky,” said Lenharth.

# From page one: Philmont's Fire Department

Fire Chief Nick Cardenas said, "Philmont has been a great asset for us because they've provided us with this building, and the state of New Mexico provides us with all the protective equipment that we wear and all the tools needed to fight forest fires, wildland fires, and structure fires."

The Fire Department recently added a new training facility, including a three-story drill tower, and there are plans to expand the facility further. Cardenas said that fire academy instructors will visit the station to teach courses' classroom portions, and then conduct the hands-on portions in the new training facility. This saves volunteers eight hours of driving to Socorro, New Mexico, where the fire academy is located.

All this training has clearly paid off. The Fire Department has an Insurance Safety Office (ISO) rating of Class 4. An ISO rating is

a grade for fire departments based on training, personnel, equipment, water supply, and communications, with 10 being the worst rating and 1 being the best rating. This rating places them among the top 30 fire departments in the state of New Mexico out of over 350 departments, including both paid and volunteer departments. The department is working towards hopefully moving up to a Class 3 rating in September.

Cardenas said, "The department isn't a department of one; it's a team effort, and we've got really good firefighters on the crew that are dedicated. As an older firefighter, probably the best thing I can teach my guys is to become an old firefighter. Our main goal is to make sure they get home at the end of the day: to be safe, to be properly trained, to have the best possible equipment we can put on our backs."

Philmont and Cimarron Fire Departments have an automatic aid agreement.

"Say we have a structure fire here at Philmont. When they call us out on the radio system, they will call out Philmont and Cimarron at the same time. That gives us more manpower, more equipment to be able to respond to any given incident. Same thing: if Cimarron has a fire, we assist them. Both departments have enough equipment to leave a set of equipment back home to make sure that we provide coverage for our own district," said Cardenas.

These assistance agreements stretch even beyond state lines. For example, a Philmont Volunteer Fire Department's Type 3 fire engine is currently in California on assignment with some of the Philmont Department's firefighters, to help combat wildfires there.



Tyler Sanders/PhilNews

The Fire Department's work is not limited to only fires. They also assist with vehicle accidents, flooding, downed power lines, and any other incidents that need a helpful hand.

"It's the right thing to do; somebody needs to volunteer and help people. That's basically what we

do, we help people-- helping dispatch to floods, the tornado we had in Cimarron, and other emergency situations beyond fighting fire. There's no other reason we would want to do it other than to help people. We want to help and do our best to make things better for everybody involved."

# From page one: Last(ing) Impressions

how extended an event, we form our views and make our evaluation based – *with dramatic skew* – on the "most intense moments" and the "final moments."

As I read evaluations, receive messages and letters, and talk with participants, visitors and staff I know that every one of us have had "most intense moments" during our 2015 Philmont Adventure.

**Take a moment and think back over the summer and reflect on your "most intense moments."** I know that some of mine have been in the backcountry, some have been at CHQ and some have been at the Philmont Training Center. Watching the light bulb turn on for a conference participant at PTC is exciting. These special moments will impact others as the person returns home and puts in practice new knowledge that will affect many young people involved in the Boy Scouts of America.

**Many of my "most intense moments" have involved you, the 2015 Philmont Staff.** Through the emergencies of the summer, (including rain, rain, rain, and more rain) the day to day delivery of a world class program,

being in service to your peers and your internal and external customers and enjoying time with new friends, you have demonstrated the concepts that we talked about at the first of the summer as we examined the "brand" of Philmont (*the pile of rocks, the unique history of the land, Waite and Genevieve Phillips, the lasting journey of each participant and the passion displayed by each staff member.*)

Now we come to the last(ing) impressions.

What will they be? We certainly don't want anything to go wrong as everyone experiences the departure from their 2015 Philmont Adventure or for that fact a normal conclusion of an encounter with us during these final days. Consider those last impressions: tear them apart, tiny step by tiny step by tiny step. They must be memorable, compelling, emotional, "aggressively right" and above all "obsess on the endings!"

I hope you will insure that your *last* impressions are "*lasting impressions*" and I hope that as you enjoy last encounters with others that you will be part of their "lasting impressions". We have focused

on "the experience" throughout our time here this summer at this special "pile of rocks." We must strive every day to the end to keep that focus.

Thank you for a great summer! I am proud of the job each of you

has done throughout the summer. You've heard me say this quote from Theodore Roosevelt several times this summer, "*Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.*"

***Make and enjoy "lasting impressions" as your 2015 adventure here at Philmont comes to an end. I look forward to 2016 when we gather again for "the chance to work hard at work worth doing."***



Director of Program Mark Anderson sits with staff members at the all-staff meeting. Erin Irwin/PhilNews





**Above:** Jackson Daines of Troop 39 from West Port, Connecticut, fires an arrow at the practice archery range at Apache Springs during his STEM trek on July 29, 2015.  
Erin Irwin/PhilNews

**Above left:** Conservationist Sam Marano, of Malvern, Pennsylvania, talks with a crew as they sledge a new trail in Hidden Valley.  
Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



**Left:** Cowboys gather to hear the rules of the Cimmaron Sixth Annual Maverick Ranch Rodeo on August 1, 2015. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

**Top:** Cabin Restoration staff member Shawn Carroll hugs the seven-day-old baby goat named Matthew in the Rich Cabins field on the afternoon of August 6, 2015.  
Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

**Bottom left:** PhilNews writer Caleb Wong interviews staff members Jeff Schirtzinger and Amanda Engle in the kitchen of the Miners Park cabin on July 30, 2015.  
Tyler Sanders/Philnews



# Leaving a legacy: Rich Cabins

Marie Reynolds

PhilNews

“YODEL-AY-HEE-HOO!” A unique greeting echoes from the porch of Rich Cabins as crews make their way to the historic homestead and commissary camp in the Middle Ponil Canyon. Set in 1900, Rich Cabins offers a one of a kind Austrian homesteading program.

From the early 1890's to the 1920's, the Rich family constructed and lived in the cabin that still stands today. Joe Rich, interpreted this season by Cabin Restoration Foreman Pete Bergene, came to New Mexico from Tirol, Austria, in 1880 to begin building the cabin, followed by his three brothers John (Lee Scarbrough), David (Brandon LaRosa), and Louis (Kyle Soyer).

Cabin restoration at Rich Cabins has been going on for ten years, and because of the dedicated work of Philmont staffers, it will be finished come the end of this season.

“Just as Joe Rich built this building in 1893 or 1894, 122-odd years later we are just getting to putting that foundation in. It is a swell job, it is a superb job, it is one of the best jobs I've ever had, and that's why I'm back at Rich [Cabins] for a second summer,” Cabin Restoration Foreman Bergene told Scouts during their evening porch show.

Rich Cabins has 11 staffers, both program counselors and a cabin restoration team, each portraying a person who lived and was affiliated with the Rich family.

“At Philmont, we have the history of the Continental Tie and Lumber Company or the Cimarron and Northwestern Railway and the stories of the people in charge, but we don't have the stories of the little people. Here, we have a history of these people who didn't do anything particularly extraordinary or unusual. They weren't heroes or villains, but they left a legacy with this cabin and this land,” said Camp Director Kyle “Louis Rich” Soyer.

When Soyer found out he was going to be the camp director at Rich Cabins, he was travelling around Europe and located the hometown of the Rich family. During the porch show, Soyer shares a milestone regarding his trip.

“I was standing in the churchyard in the Pitztal Valley in Tirol,

Austria, looking at the World War I and World War II memorials. It was incredibly thought-provoking and incredibly powerful, an experience I cannot put into words. The thing that struck me the most is that on the memorials was the name ‘Raich’. Raich is the name the Rich's had before coming to the United States, and it is the name the family who still lives in Pitztal Valley in Tirol, Austria still has. The person portrayed by [Cabin Restoration Staffer] Shawn Carroll, David Carl Vertz, and his brother Louie John Vertz, both the sons of Austrian immigrants and native born New Mexicans, served in World War I. The grandsons of Joe and Louis Rich, native born Americans but descendants of Austrian immigrants, served with the United States in World War II. So, maybe there was a little family reunion. Perhaps not one any of us would like to be invited to, but perhaps there was,” said Soyer.

The legacy of this family reunion lives on in the roles Rich Cabins staffers interpret each day. Each staffer has immersed themselves in the history of their character, creating a family-like dynamic and true homesteading experience for Scouts. Program at Rich Cabins includes yodeling, historic cabin tours, cow appreciation (brushing and milking the cow), burro petting, slopping (feeding) the pigs, chicken relays, goat stroking, as well as soap-making on rainy days.

This summer, Rich Cabins has gained a few more members of the family: a one month old calf named Stephanie Alexander, two baby goat twins named Matthew and Karla, as well as a baby burro still on the way.

“It's really fun to introduce kids to these animals and watch them interact with them. It's neat when we see a kid who has never milked a cow or fed a pig. I think it's an important experience for them,” said Program Counselor Anna “Francis Rich” Washburne.

During the Rich family gathering, or evening porch show, the legacy the Rich family left behind is brought to life through Austrian music, fellowship, dancing, and storytelling.

“We try to have as much audience participation as possible, which I think we've nailed on the head this summer. We get them yodeling, dancing, and singing.



Inside the restoration room at Rich Cabins, foreman Peter Bergene and Adam Makin discuss what needs to be addressed as Cody Boruff applies plaster to a section of the wall on August 6, 2015. The Cabin Restoration team, which worked on the historic cabin for the past ten years, has restored flooring, walls and other aspects of the structure including installing a foundation beneath the standing house.

Leanora Benkato/PhilNews



Rich Cabins Program Counselors Brandon LaRosa and Lee Scarbrough react to cabin restoration staffer Shawn Carroll on the porch swing of the main cabin on July 26, 2015. Leanora Benkato/PhilNews

Every now and then, the kids are part of the stories we tell. We're silly in the show--we're joking and having a good time. However, when you've got the facts, there's a certain amount of respect that is due to this cabin, the people that lived here, and the people we are

supposed to be emulating. We are portraying something that actually happened, so we also don't want to take it lightly,” said C.D. Soyer.

The legacy the Rich family left is likely not being used quite like they expected, as millions of Philmont Scouts and staffers have

toured their cabin and walked their land. However, one thing is for sure. With the passion, talent, and camaraderie the Rich Cabins staff created this summer, the Richs' story will continue to be appreciated, creating millions of milestones that will last a lifetime.



# Trekking with the family

**Caleb Wong**

*PhilNews*

Since Philmont's founding in 1941, generations of intrepid Scouts have hiked through its vast wilderness. Some have fond memories of tugging a burro through a canyon, while more recent participants remember the soaring voices of songs at campfire at Crater Lake or Pueblano. Participants often pass these memories down through generations, making Philmont a part of their family traditions.

It is rare, however, to find three generations of Scouts and Scouters--grandfather, father, and grandsons--completing a 12-day trek together at Philmont. On July 22, three generations of Scouts came to Philmont to hike more than 75 miles together around the north country and the Valle Vidal. Grandfather Ed Summers, his son-in-law and adult advisor Derek Parks, and two grandsons and youth participants Mason Parks and Callum Parks, completed the trek together.

Summers, who will turn 78 soon, just completed his fifth summer at Philmont. He first came out on trek in 1953, served as a Kit Carson Trek guide in 1954 and worked at the Ponil commissary in 1955. Summers completed a short Philmont Staff Association trek in 2005, and this year, he came out with his grandsons and son-in-law to complete Itinerary 20.

Summers said Philmont has significantly changed since he first

came on trek in 1953. Back then, burros carried most of the gear around Philmont; now crews carry all their equipment on their backs.

"Because of the burros, our packs were fairly light. We did not carry much dried food. When we got to a camp, we had wooden platforms with tents already pitched. Sheltered camp kitchens had tables and a chuckwagon with soap, paper, towels, dutch ovens, and the staples you needed. Today, Philmont has fairly elaborate routines campers have to follow: how to cook food, hanging the bear bags, what you have to wear to bed. There are so many new rules."

Summers said program activities have significantly expanded compared to previous decades, allowing him an opportunity to enjoy those activities with his grandsons.

"The boys liked Metcalf Station," Summers said. "They liked the railroad lore, the blacksmith shop, and the entertainment. The staff played about an hour of guitar and banjo and sang for about an hour after dark. I enjoyed those things too!"

While "on vacation" as an advisor, Summers said he watched his grandsons and the rest of the crew successfully assume responsibility on the trek.

"What I watched was thrilling," Summers said. "I saw them going through these complicated routines night after night without goofing off--and having fun, once in camp.

I saw them on the trail keeping track of each other. We know more about each other and what we're capable of and what we're not capable of. We learned from each other about how we depend on ourselves, how others depend on us, and how we depend on others. These are lifetime lessons. I felt privileged to be here."

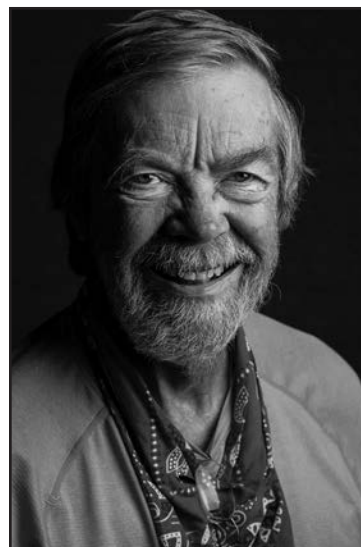
Callum Parks, participant from Troop 256, said his grandfather gave him a historical context to his trek at Philmont and encouraged him and his brother, Mason Parks, to come to Philmont.

"Ever since I was young, he was talking about Philmont and how much we would enjoy it," Parks said. "Now we have a big experience that we share. Years from now, we're going to talk about that and how we had a great time there."

Mason Parks, participant from Troop 256, said his grandfather was an example of humility and graciousness on the trek, even in moments of weakness.

"There was one thing I really respect about him: he knew his limits," Parks said. "When we got to the day when we were climbing Baldy, he said, 'God said I could come out here, but didn't say I could climb Baldy.' And he didn't. He stayed in camp and rested."

Derek Parks, adult advisor and father of Mason Parks and Callum Parks, said his sons bonded with their grandfather over the shared



**Ed Summers** Photo credit: Josh Galemore/PhilNews



**Derek Parks** Photo credit: Josh Galemore/PhilNews



**Mason Parks** Photo credit: Josh Galemore/PhilNews



**Callum Parks** Photo credit: Josh Galemore/PhilNews

challenge of completing a trek at Philmont.

"There's a lot of bonding in terms of a shared experience," Parks said. "It was cool to see his

determination, his heart for the boys. He enjoyed the outdoors and pushed himself, and that was beneficial to the boys."

## Leave it better than you found it: 2015 Gather and preparations for the 2016 season

**Kate Johnson**

*PhilNews*

The backcountry is busily preparing for Gather.

"Gather is basically the reverse side of Scatter. Scatter we go out, we clean, we put everything away. Now we box it all back up and bring it back to base and get it in its proper place," Backcountry Manager Emily Megee said.

Backcountry staff are responsible for taking inventory of all their items, noting any maintenance needs, alerting the Backcountry Warehouse of any needs for next

year, and thoroughly cleaning all the staff cabins.

After all staff have vacated their camps, maintenance will do a final shutdown of water, utilities, and so on.

Backcountry staff work to leave their homes just as good as (or better than) how they found it. "One thing that a lot of staff want to make sure of is preparing the next staff to have the easiest and smoothest Scatter. A lot of our Camp Directors are very dedicated to making sure that next sum-

mer is just as good as their summer was-- leaving that camp in just as good a condition as when they got it when they Scattered," Megee said.

The Backcountry Warehouse is busy calculating program needs for the summer of 2016, determining how much coal will be needed for blacksmithing camps and other necessities for camps, based on crew loads and this summer's usage data. For some items, the dilemma is, "Do we try to get it to them for the last two weeks or do

we just put it on a request form for next summer?" said Megee.

The Backcountry Warehouse and Logistics work together to create a schedule for Gather, picking up backcountry staff after all crew have left their camp's area of responsibility. Furthermore, backcountry staff members who leave before Gather occurs force Logistics and the Backcountry Warehouse to shuffle staffers around the Ranch to ensure that each camp is sufficiently staffed until crews leave.

"I think the biggest thing is that it's one of those bittersweet moments for a lot of people. You're ready to come down, it's been three months, you're tired and worn out, but you're also very sad to be leaving your home that you have created and sad that you're no longer going to be there. I think for a lot of camps it's about how can they leave their legacy in the last few weeks here at Philmont and make sure that their camp was everything they wanted it to be," Megee said.



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# Expect the unexpected: Rayado

Caleb Wong  
*PhilNews*

On the night they arrive in base camp, Rayado participants attend a special service. Discussing the challenges these participants will face on the trail, Special Projects staffer Jim Sawyer fortifies them with words of encouragement before their trek. As the service comes to a close, rangers and participants come together as they prepare for the long days and nights ahead.

Only Rayado participants and their rangers know what happens next. “Expect the unexpected” is the motto of this 21-day trek that traverses much of the 214 square miles that comprise Philmont Scout Ranch. In the spirit of wilderness adventure, participants climb numerous peaks, hike on challenging trails, climb rock faces, participate in special program activities, and more.

Rayado is the most challenging trek any participant can undertake at Philmont. Participants should be able to hike more than 10 miles per day and must obtain a letter of recommendation attesting to their previous outdoor experience when applying for the Rayado trek. Rayado is not for everyone; out of more than 23,000 participants who came to Philmont in 2015, 155

participants completed a Rayado trek. Preparing adequately allows participants to enjoy the trek more and to successfully overcome the challenges they will face, according to Rayado Trek Coordinator Bob Imhoff.

“It’s the challenges that stick with them,” Imhoff said. “The things that are most difficult are the most memorable, the most rewarding. Those are the things they cherish when they leave.”

Leadership skills are emphasized on the trek. From crew leader to navigator, Rayado participants take on a wide variety of roles that give them a foundation to handle the challenges that await them after Philmont.

“Philmont, for what it is, is fantastic,” Imhoff said. “It provides them circumstances where their leadership roles and objectives for each day are clearly defined. Everything is outlined for them. They’re able to hold those leadership positions and meet those objectives in a somewhat controlled environment. Once they go home, that’s no longer the case. Things become a lot more challenging, a lot less straightforward.”

During the trek, the tranquil nature of the wilderness encourages critical thinking about challeng-



Abby Shupe leads her crew, 620 RW-1, into base after three weeks on Rayado trek. India Rhinehardt, following close behind, said, “It’s one of the best things I’ve ever done for sure.” Josh Galemore/PhilNews

ing aspects of participants’ lives. Rayado participant and current Housekeeper Enrique Medina said he experienced a particularly meaningful epiphany when his crew rested on the top of Wilson Mesa.

“I remember being up there and thinking how lucky I was,” Medina said. “It was also the moment where I thought things will be OK. For me personally this had been a very rough year, so while I was there, I was getting to behold the majesty of where I was. It really put things in perspective for me.”

Rayado Ranger Rebecca Reberry said the camaraderie developed between crew members over 21 days motivated everyone to finish the trek together.

“Every peak that we made it to, we would stop at the top, hold hands, and then walk to the very top in the meaning that we’re all doing this together as one crew,” Reberry said. “They were able to get through all 21 days of this program, seeing at the end how they were all working together. It makes me very proud that they were able to overcome so much.”

Completing a Rayado trek is only the beginning of a journey that participants will chart throughout their whole lives, said Rayado Trek Coordinator Imhoff.

“A lot of times, Scouts will show up at Rayado expecting it to be the culmination of their Scouting experience. I don’t want that at all. I want it to be a starting point, and hopefully, it equips them to seek the next challenge in the outdoors. There are bigger mountains out there. There are grander vistas out there. Rayado serves as a nice foundation for their future.”

# Trail of Courage at and beyond Philmont

It is never too late to begin a healthy lifestyle and Philmont is the perfect place to do so. Although the summer is wrapping up, there is still plenty of time to take the Trail of Courage pledge and continue with that pledge as you journey through and beyond Philmont.

The pledge has seven tenants:

- Become personally fit: mentally, physically and socially healthy.
- Eat a nutritious diet, which provides six basic nutrients: protein, fat, carbohydrates, water, vitamins and minerals.

- Exercise using a fitness program matching your lifestyle that may vary depending on the season of the year.
- Be tobacco free: smoke and otherwise including dips and vapor alternatives.
- Live free from drug and alcohol habits.
- Learn the seven cancer danger signs:
  - » Change in bowel or bladder habits
  - » A sore that does not heal
  - » Unusual bleeding or discharge from the rectum

- or bladder
  - » Thickening tissue or lumps in breasts and testes
  - » Indigestion or issues swallowing
  - » A cough that persists for 4-6 weeks

You can talk to your supervisor or crew leader to sign the pledge. Those who do will receive a special patch at the end of your employment period or trek at Philmont.

Already this summer multiple crewmembers using nicotine products have

made the commitment at Philmont to live healthy here and back home.

Still not enough to convince you? The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) recently tentatively linked the causes of more than a dozen diseases in-part to tobacco use to the list of 21 deadly diseases listed by the U.S. Surgeon General’s Office, according to an article by NPR’s Richard Harris.

Already listed is lung cancer, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, esophageal cancer, and mouth cancer. According to Harris, the NEJM to-



Cassidy Johnson/PhilNews

bacco use can increase the likelihood of developing, but not necessarily cause, diabetes and kidney disease and suppress the immune system.

Make a commitment for a healthier lifestyle today by taking the Trail of Courage pledge.



# Searching for Seally Canyon

Marie Reynolds  
*PhilNews*

Scouts make their way through rocky terrain in search of their lost crew advisor. In a line-search fashion, they guide each other to the cries of help coming from a nearby cluster of large rocks. Once found, the Scouts work as a team to provide wilderness first aid for their advisor, safely place him on a litter, and bring him back to Seally Canyon’s main yurt.

Located in the Valle Vidal as one of Philmont’s most remote staff camps, Seally Canyon offers interactive search and rescue (SAR) and wilderness first aid lessons to Scouts.

After being given a “good ol’ camp welcome” full of spirited voices and excitement from the Seally Canyon staffers, each crew is offered the choice between a 45-minute and an hour-and-a-half long program. Each program begins with a training of sorts; teaching the crews how to tie a person into a litter, how to line-search, and various teambuilding activities in order to prepare them for a simulated search and rescue mission.

Using the search and rescue acronym LAST (locate, access, stabilize, and transport), staffers instruct crews on each of the skills needed to find a missing person and bring them back to safety. While a staffer is instructing each of these skills,

another asks for the help of an advisor to act as the patient, and prepares them with moulage--applying mock injuries such as open wounds and lacerations or head trauma for the purpose of teaching emergency first-aid.

“We can get as realistic as we want to with the moulage,” said Program Counselor Matthew Day, “once we finish our brief with the Scouts, we’ll tell them we have a missing person and we need help to locate them. Then it is up to the crew to work as a team and go through everything we taught them in proper search techniques. Once they find him, they have to treat the injuries as if he was really hurt and carry him in the litter back to our yurt.”

After every “search and rescue mission” a staffer debriefs the crew with a version of Roses, Thorns, and Buds to gauge how they performed.

“Some crews are more experienced than others so we can give them more complex injuries, but the main thing is that there is a teamwork aspect that no one really realizes. Many of these crews are coming from the C.O.P.E. courses where they had to work as a team, but here it is teamwork unannounced, so its interesting to see how they work together,” said Matthew Day.

Because Seally Canyon is in the Valle Vidal, their program is fitting to the area as Scouts must use a map and compass to get to where




Members of Troop 39 from Purcellville, Virginia, carry their Scoutmaster back to a safe treatment area during a search and rescue simulation at Seally Canyon. Josh Galemore/PhilNews

they are going. This year, each Seally Canyon staffer is affiliated with emergency health care outside of Philmont, which only increases the value of the experience they provide Scouts. Because of their remote location and lack of trails in the Valle Vidal, Seally Canyon has been known to go on many of their own search and rescue missions in the surrounding area for crews who may have taken a wrong turn. How-

ever, the Seally Canyon staff has only gone on one this summer.

As Seally Canyon is located below a ridge line, their evening program is a unique 20 minute hike to the top of the ridge at sunset. According to Program Counselor Trevor Foote, the hike is a favorite of the Scouts, displaying spectacular views of Little Costilla, Baldy Mountain, and the Sangre de Cristo mountain range in Colo-

rado. Once they get to the top, it is only minutes before the sky begins to change. Scouts sit in awe as the purple and orange painted sky turns to darkness, and the stars peek out behind the clouds. Amazed by the experience, Scouts are ready to go on with their trek with a newfound preparedness and ability to conquer challenges as a team, looking out for each other’s safety along the way.



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# Promoting the ranch: News and Photo Services

**Caleb Wong**

*PhilNews*

At News and Photo Services (NPS), not only do we interact with every participant or staff member, but also countless members of the general public who visit the Philmont website or social media pages.

NPS Manager Bryan Hayek said the department engages participants full-circle, from the time they register for a trek to years after they leave Philmont.

“We capture, preserve, and promote the Philmont wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime,” Hayek said.

News and Photo Services consists of five departments that all interrelate with each other:

At the Photo Lab, three people touch the lives of more than 23,000 participants and staff. Photo Lab Manager Jaime Lopez and his staff print glossy crew photos and digitize older crew photos for the online photo archive.

On an average day, the photo lab prints 350-400 photos and scans 250-300 negatives.

This summer, the Photo Lab scanned more than 10,000 negatives, including years 1985, 1984, and 1983.

Printed crew photos help preserve lasting Philmont memories. “People make a lot of memories here, but we allow people to take those memories back home with them to share,” Photo Lab Technician David Kellogg said.

The photography department shoots crew photos, staff photos, PTC group and family photos, and other photos across the ranch for use by marketing and PhilNews.

Most days, photographers are scattered across base camp and the backcountry, reflecting the diversity of photos they shoot every day. Participants and their ranger gather as Photographer Leonora Benkato takes their crew photo. Meanwhile miles away, Photographers Justin Gilliland and Josh Galemor shoot photos of programs in the Valle Vidal.

“We work a lot with all the different departments and are responsible for a lot of different aspects,” Photo Manager Cassidy Johnson said. “It’s a lot more than taking pictures and dropping them on a shared drive.”

Photographers use office time to edit, caption, and tone photos, as well as coordinate photo requests



News and Photo Services videographers Kreamble Young and Mitch Thomas walk around the Miranda meadow while working on a promotional video for Philmont's Living History program. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Photo Lab staffers David Kellogg and Neal Simmons print every photo Philmont needs and scan negatives to add to Philmont's photo archive. Doyle Maurer/PhilNews

with departments across the ranch to meet their needs.

From filming a video at sunrise to shooting a timelapse of the stars at night, videographers stay busy capturing Philmont's beauty.

“If you want to get good footage, hanging out with people and making them comfortable with you, especially with a very large video camera, is really important.” Lead Videographer Kreamble Young said. “The last thing we do is the interview because I like to get to know the people and see who is well-spoken, who is a good character, who stands out amongst everybody, and who is going to represent everything well.”

Videographer Mitchell Thomas and Young go to great lengths to shoot authentic video of the the ranch for projects ranging from how-to videos to living history and Philmont Training Center promotions.

So far, the team has completed seven videos. Online visitors can now learn how to hoist bear

bags and navigate with a compass, among other skills.

“Video really gives you a sense of a place,” Young said. “If done well, you can pull people into a place with a video and make them want to be there.”

From the time participants read brochures about opportunities at Philmont to the time they comment on the Philmont Facebook page after they leave, the marketing team keeps in touch with anyone who calls Philmont HOME.

“Our job is to give people resources to help market Philmont better,” Lead Marketing Specialist Dominic Baima said. “We want Philmont to be the first thing people think about when they think about high adventure.”

Two staff members – Marcos Palacios and Taylor Hill – design print ads and brochures that reach tens of thousands of people annually. Baima manages Philmont's array of social media accounts across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, all of which collectively reach more



Justin Gilliland, Philmont staff photographer, and Marie Reynolds, PhilNews writer, watch and take pictures of the sun setting over Little Costilla from a mountaintop near Seally Canyon. Josh Galemor/PhilNews



Marketing staff members Taylor Hill and Marcos Palacios work in their office. Sean McElligott/PhilNews

than 300,000 people per week.

“When we post about Philmont, it gives people something to share and talk about,” Baima said. “We get to answer questions, help people out that are worried, relieve them of their worries, and help them have the best possible trek.”

Since May 2015, the number of Philmont's Instagram followers has increased by 225 percent.

“Our day one starts years before anyone comes to Philmont, and our last day is years after people have come to Philmont. There are some that came 50 years ago, and they're still connecting with us, so we're still their last day,” said Baima.

Here at PhilNews, we publish a weekly newsletter that you are holding in your hands right now or viewing online. On staff, we have three writers – Marie Reynolds, Kate Johnson, and Caleb Wong – and our editor, Patrick McNeill. We're a pretty friendly bunch, and we wholeheartedly welcome visitors to our office.

As the adage goes: easy reading

is hard writing. We want our paper to inform and entertain readers, whether they're serving on staff or thinking about coming to Philmont. Here, wilderness adventures last a lifetime, and we hope the PhilNews encourages readers to reflect on their journey at Philmont and see where it could take them next.

For people who read an article in PhilNews, peruse a marketing brochure, gaze at an old trek photo with nostalgia, or comment on a vivid photo posted on the Philmont Facebook page, NPS serves as a gateway to the ranch.

Assistant Manager Johnson said, “NPS is the window that the rest of world sees Philmont through. The pictures we take and the content we publish allow everybody else to get an idea of what we do and experience Philmont vicariously.”

*If you are interested in working for News and Photo Services during the 2016 summer season, please submit a Philmont application with a cover letter and portfolio demonstrating relevant experience.*



# Keeping traditions alive: Casey Jeffers

**Louis Grace**  
*Ranger*

Meet Casey Jeffers. As a leath-  
erworker, he has been creating  
hand-stamped belts for 23 years  
and counting.

Working out of his shop, Cim-  
maron West, Casey spends his  
time meticulously hand crafting  
each unique belt. Starting with a  
leather hide, he individually cuts,  
sizes, edges, tools, and oils each  
belt.

Just tooling a single belt can  
take Casey up to an hour. Many  
of the patterns that Casey stamps  
into the belts are the same as those  
on saddles made in the 1800's.

"The reason people started tool-

ing leather was that it would last  
longer," said Jeffers.

The science behind that is be-  
cause stamping wet leather com-  
presses the inner fibers creating an  
extremely resilient material.

"I've seen people come in with  
belts that are 20 years old," stated  
Jeffers. The only piece of advice  
Casey had to owners of the belts is  
to apply Neat's Foot Oil, available  
at Cimarron West, every once in a  
while to help retain the flexibility.

The vegetable tanned  
leather Casey works with is from  
Hermann Oak Leather tannery  
which was opened in 1881 and  
one of only two remaining vegeta-  
ble tanning operations in the Unit-


ed States. Compared to the vastly  
more common and cheaper chro-  
mium tanned leathers, vegetable  
tanned leather is more durable  
and toolable. Therefore, it was the  
leather of choice for any cowboy  
or craftsman in the west.

Hermann Oak leather is "the  
nicest leather there is" accord-  
ing to Jeffers who claims there is  
nothing on the market that oils up  
as nicely and has as much body.

As time moves on, and  
old trades are lost due to cheaper  
products and synthetic materials,  
it is important to appreciate those  
like Casey Jeffers who not only  
create beautiful pieces of art, but  
help retain a craft that in many



Casey Jeffers' hand stamped belts are available at Cimarron West. Photo: Louis Grace




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# Wild ride at Whiteman Vega

Marie Reynolds

PhilNews

Surrounded by amazing views of Little Costilla and Mount Baldy, Whiteman Vega sits in a large grassy meadow in the Valle Vidal. As Philmont's only mountain biking camp, Whiteman Vega attracts thrill-seeking staffers and Scouts from across the ranch.

Whiteman Vega has two biking trails, one that has been there since 1999, and another that was completed this summer.

"Our newer trail is called the Flow Trail. It's an entry level trail, so there's nothing really difficult about it. There are no jumps, so its rated as a 'green' course. The other trail has been here since 1999, and has been updated and rerouted. It is a technical course with climbs, jumps, technical downhill, and very fast turns," said Program Counselor Bryan Maniscalco.

Every program begins with a preliminary ride in order for Whiteman Vega staffers to gauge what level the bikers are on. They then take the bikers through a safety talk and a safety check to make sure everything on their bike is running smoothly.

"We've had kids who couldn't even get up on a bike and then



Whiteman Vega program counselor Garrett Dolan jumps over an obstacle while guiding a crew down the mountain bike course at Whiteman Vega. Sean McElligott/PhilNews

within two hours of practice riding, they are pros. It's an incredible feeling to be able to teach kids how to ride a bike from step-one," said Program Counselor Garrett Dolan.

A favorite part of the ride is the challenge called 'Pudding Hill'. According to P.C. Maniscalco,

Pudding Hill is a steep uphill climb made of rock. Each participant goes one at a time, and if they make it to the top without putting their foot down, they get a pudding cup.

According to Program Counselor Zachary Johns, many times crew advisors thank them for

teaching their Scouts the skills required for mountain biking that they can utilize after Philmont.

Staffers are able to give Scouts these new experiences because of the training and experience they have in mountain biking. Whiteman Vega staffers go through significant training with

the National Mountain Biking Association in order to provide the safest and most enjoyable experience for the Scouts.

With a workshop located right inside their yurt, Whiteman Vega staffers maintain every part of their bikes.

"I've been mountain biking for most of my life and have learned more about biking and bikes this summer than ever before. Safety is our primary concern and we run a very safe program this summer, almost entirely because of the training we were given. We're the first group that has had this level of training at Whiteman Vega," said P.C. Maniscalco.

For the Whiteman Vega staffers, the reward comes when they are able to teach a Scout how to ride a bike, and see that Scout excel.

"Sometimes we have kids who have never ridden a bike and other times we have those who race mountain bikes. So, in the one-and-a-half to two hours that we have with them, we are just trying to foster a love of mountain biking. We want them to go home and look up trails in their area, we want them to buy a beginners bike, and we want them to continue doing this," said Maniscalco.

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# Ranger Mile: Hiking the northern Sangre de Cristos

**Matt Hart**

*Associate Chief Ranger*

As the summer winds down, the temptation is strong to spend days off relaxing and getting ready to return to the world away from Philmont. Don't do it! Even if you're tired from a summer full of hard work, there's still time for a few more adventures, the likes of which probably won't be available to you during the offseason. Make the most of your remaining days in the mountains and get out there!

If you've got a final set of days coming up, or are looking for a quick adventure between the end of your Philmont contract and your return home, world-class hiking and mountain climbing await just a few hours north in our familiar Sangre de Cristo Range. Numerous hikes of varying length and challenge are accessible from the Rainbow and South Colony Lakes Trailheads near Westcliffe, CO. A three-hour drive from Philmont via I-25 and CO-69, this section of San Isabel National Forest offers the 14,000-foot peaks of Crestone, Crestone Needle, and Humboldt, along with many other hiking options.

For any of the 14ers, ensure an early start by reaching the South Colony Lakes Trailhead (or points higher) the night before a summit attempt. The final stretch of road to the trailhead is sporadically rough, with 4WD and/or moderate clearance required. For those with low clearance vehicles, park at the Rainbow Trailhead, and hike the 2.5 miles up South Colony Road to the upper parking lot – if not all the way to the South Colony Lakes themselves – the day before your climb.

Now for the mountains! Let's start with Humboldt Peak, or "Humble Humboldt" as it's often dubbed. At 14,064 feet, it's a bit shorter than the jagged Crestones lying to its west, but still offers a strenuous and picturesque climb rewarded by expansive summit views. Begin hiking at dawn and ascend the 2,000 feet along South Colony Creek to the iconic glacial cirque and three-lake chain lying at treeline near 12,000 feet. Columbinas, aspen fleabane, any

many other brilliant wildflowers await during this stretch. Bear right at the trail junction below the lakes and climb north, eclipsing treeline, to the Humboldt Saddle around 12,800 feet. With marmots and pikas chirping out your approach, follow rock cairns east to the summit, with a few sections of moderate Class 2 scrambling mixed with colorful stretches of alpine tundra.

Now for the big ones: only experienced climbers should attempt an ascent of Crestone Needle (14,197') and/or Crestone Peak (14,294'). Both mountains feature significant stretches of Class 3 scrambling, with the Needle regarded as one of the hardest of all 14er ascents. The approach to both peaks begins by staying south of the South Colony Lakes and climbing to Broken Hand Pass at 12,850 feet. From there, it's just under a mile of steep and treacherous climbing to the Needle or a roughly two-mile wrap-around climb to Crestone Peak. For both ascents, wear a helmet and be sure to consult detailed route descriptions before attempting (such as those on 14ers.com), as careful route-finding will be crucial to a safe climb.

For the less-sadistic among you who prefer a beautiful day-hike to a rigorous summit attempt, climbing to the South Colony Lakes makes for a very fulfilling venture. Several trails wrap around the cirque, with many spots to enjoy a lunch by the water and grand views of the peaks above. Stay quiet while hiking and you may even glimpse a porcupine, beaver, or other wildlife. Additionally, over 30 miles of scenic hiking lie further down along the Rainbow Trail, which hugs the eastern slope of the Sangres from the Westcliffe area up to the range's northern terminus near Salida.

Whether in New Mexico, Colorado, or elsewhere, we at the Ranger Department hope that your adventures have been grand and safe this summer, and that you'll continue to chase them during the offseason! No matter where you call home, the opportu-



Rangers enjoy the summit of Humboldt Peak at 14,064 feet.

Photo courtesy Nathan Glover

nity to explore wild places exists for those who seek it. Rather than pining for Philmont this offseason, let your summer wanderings inspire you to find new adven-

tures back home. Get out there, and do it often: you'll return to the stresses of school or work rejuvenated in mind and body, and those hard months away from our

special pile of rocks will become a little easier.

Thanks for reading "The Ranger Mile" this summer and happy trails!



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# Three generations of Scouting at Philmont

Kate Johnson

*PhilNews*

Eagle Scout Justin Pool, from Troop 256 in Flower Mound, TX just attended Philmont on Trek 722-M-1. For his family, Philmont is a wilderness adventure that lasts not just a lifetime, but for multiple generations.

Justin's grandfather, James Pool, attended Philmont in 1946. James' crew members were each issued a pack mule and stayed out in the backcountry for a month-long adventure. The young Eagle Scout earned three Merit Badges on his trek: Horsemanship, Hiking, and Conservation.

Ken Pool, Justin's father, attended Philmont in 1976 and 1978.

"It's the very best of the high adventure bases; it's the Super Bowl of Scouting," he said. The programs available in the different backcountry staff camps and the natural beauty of the land both contributed to his experience.

Ken noted that Philmont has changed since the time of his own

treks-- conservation has grown in prominence, enabled by back-packing stoves and lightweight gear. However, even at the time of his father James' trek, the tradition of Scouts throwing their boots over the entrance gate was still as strong as it is today.

Ken and his brothers were encouraged by their father James to earn the Eagle Scout rank before being allowed to attend Philmont. Ken said, "We're just a big Scouting family. He really felt that you needed to have advanced Scouting skills to do something like that. Philmont was a reward-- not just a summer camp."

Justin is a third generation Eagle Scout. Justin has also attended all of the Boy Scouts of America's four national high adventure bases, but considers Philmont to be the pinnacle of his Scouting career and the most rewarding, as well as his last big high adventure as a Scouting youth.

Ken reflected on what it means to him for his family to have such



Josh Galemore/PhilNews

a strong involvement with Philmont. "I think it means everything.

It's just all about character development. It forces you to grow up,

and Philmont is where it all comes together."

## Sustainable forestry

John Celley

*Recreation Resource Manager*

Philmont is committed to the responsible use and management of its forest resources. From the high, dense fir and spruce of the south country, to the open, dry ponderosa pine forests of the Chase Ranch, and everywhere in between. Each zone has its own set of objectives and concerns. In a landscape this complex, it can be difficult for a landowner to devise an organized and effective management strategy. Fortunately, we are not alone.

For more than 10 years, Philmont's forestry practices have been certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

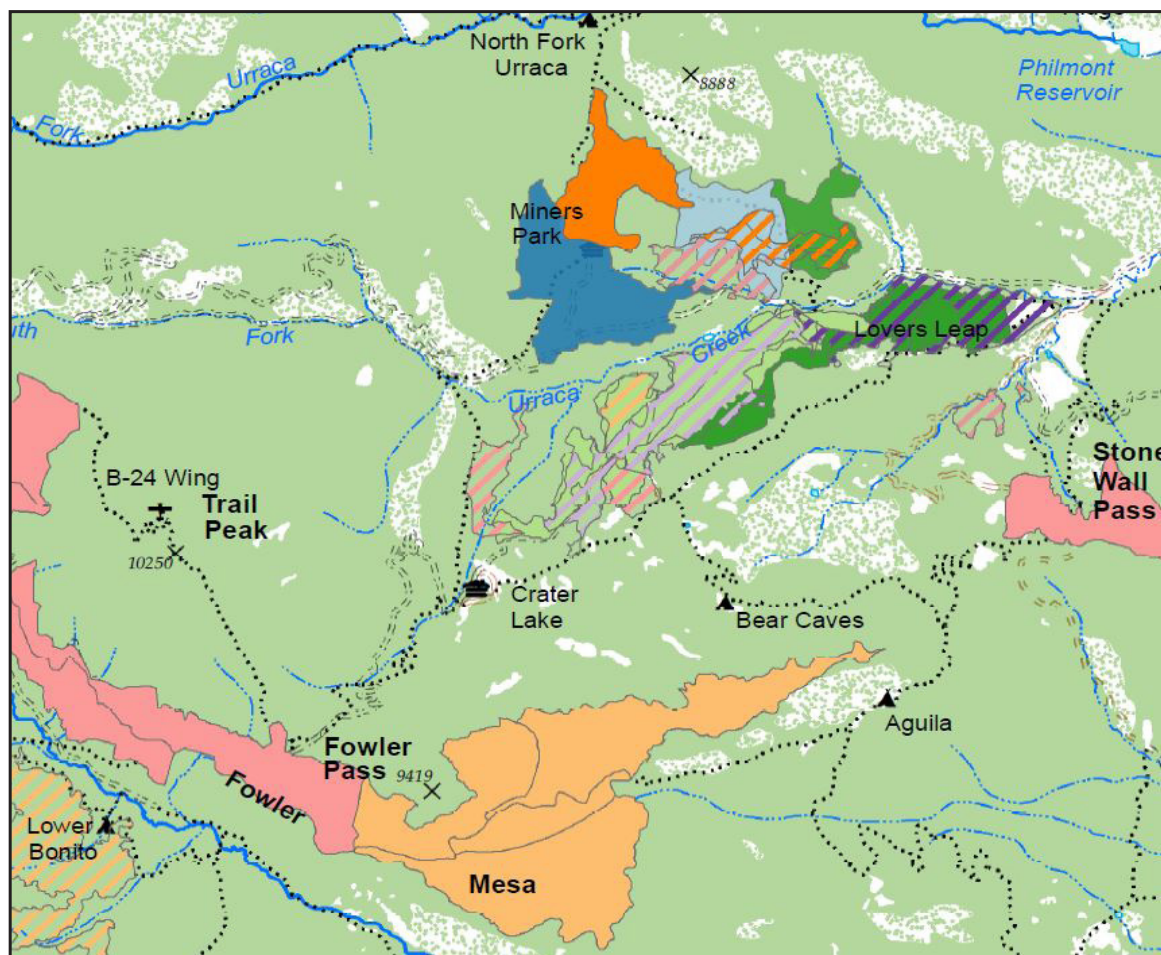
As the largest independent forestry certification program in the world, SFI helps land managers apply proven management practices that improve forest health, maintain productivity, and ensure long-term sustainability. Philmont is currently certified under SFI's 2010-2014 standard. Annual audits verify that our practices continue to meet the standards as they change over time.

A key component of the SFI program is the development and use of an established forest management plan. Philmont's plan prioritizes the protection of recreational val-

ues and wildlife habitat while recognizing the risks associated with large wildfires. Essentially, timber harvests on Philmont attempt to reduce the continuity of fuel on the landscape while preserving the views we all love.

SFI also requires that certified organizations track their harvests. The Philmont GIS Department maps harvests annually and produces maps that are used during the audit process. All timber sales since 1994 have been recorded within our system. The GIS team also records the location of any roads that are created or extended in support of logging activities.

Philmont is a leader in forestry practices and education. Through partnerships with the New Mexico State Forestry Division, Highlands University, SFI, and the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee, we provide forestry education to more than 9,000 campers annually in the Demonstration Forest. Our innovative Visiting Forester program connects scouts with professionals from across the country to discuss the challenges facing our nation's forests and the best management practices that land managers use to maintain the health and resiliency of these vital resources.



This map, produced by the Philmont GIS Department, shows logging operations near Miners Park and Crater Lake over the last 20 years.

For more information about SFI, visit their website, [sfiprogram.org](http://sfiprogram.org). If you are near Hunting Lodge, don't miss an opportunity to check

out the Demonstration Forest and meet this week's Visiting Forester. Additional information about Philmont's forests is available

through the Backcountry Environmental Education Program at Ponil, Seally Canyon, and other backcountry camps.



# Games

## Word search

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

Camera Features (8)

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

Camera Brands (8)

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

Difficult

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

Medium

## Solutions

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

Issue Nine medium solution

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

Issue Nine difficult solution





Metcalf Station camp director Tucker “Captain Rusty” Baker helps Jessica Francis of Cincinnati, Ohio, check the grade of the rails at Metcalf Station as part of a STEM trek. Sean McElligott/PhilNews



Above: Evan Bergamini rounds a bend toward the end of the mountain biking course at Whiteman Vega. Sean McElligott/PhilNews

Right: Scouts gather during Ring Place’s astronomy program. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Below: Cabin Restoration staffer Shawn Carroll feels the belly of Yura, a pregnant burro, in the Rich Cabins barnyard on July 26, 2015. During the preceding days, the burro had been acting unusual and showing signs of discomfort, but has not given birth (at the time of publication). Leanova Benkato/PhilNews



Carl Vogt, left of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Nathan Coney, right, of Watertown, Massachusetts climb rocks while surveying the Hidden Valley area. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews



Above: A cowboy rides along the shadow of his horse trailer. Justin Gilliland/PhilNews

Left: Troop 194 members from Flemington, New Jersey, Tadd Bindas and Mike Degen, watch the sun set over Little Costilla as a part of an evening program at Seally Canyon. Commenting about his experience at Philmont, Degen said, “It’s great because you go to bed exhausted every night and then wake up the next day and it’s a completely new adventure.” Josh Galemore/PhilNews

