

PHIL NEWS

AUGUST 12TH, 2016

ISSUE TEN



Taking aim with Harlan and Sawmill

Eleanor Hasenbeck
Staff writer

Cartridge, primer, powder, wad and shot. These, a safety talk, and a shotgun to put the shell in, is all it takes to aim and fire.

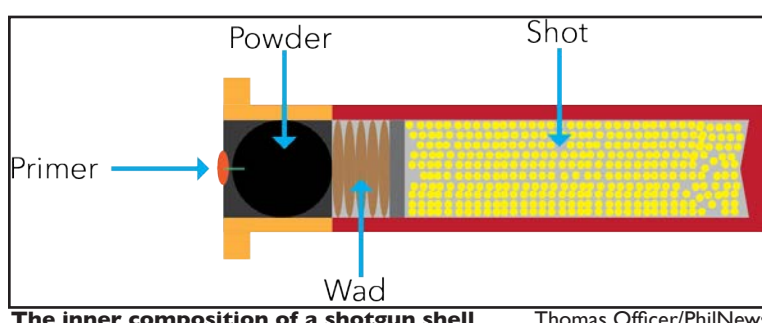
At Harlan and Sawmill, participants reload and shoot their own ammunition.

A shotgun shell fires when a mechanism in the gun strikes the primer. The primer ignites the powder, while the wad seals against the cartridge. The burning powder creates pressure against the wad, which pushes the tiny balls of shot out of the gun, into a target. What is left is the plastic hull of the cartridge, (hopefully) a shattered clay pigeon and the cheers of a supportive crew.

This empty plastic hull can be reused about four times before it becomes cracked and unworkable. It takes six pulls of a lever to reload a hull. A reloading press punches out the old, used primer, and a second pull of the lever replaces a new primer into the hole in the bottom part of the cartridge. A third pull and you can hear the “shh” of powder dropping into the cartridge. Insert a wad, slide a bar over and there is a louder “shh” as lead shot drops into the cartridge. Two more pulls-- a pre-crimp that squashes the end in, and a final

crimp as the end is smashed flat to create a finished cartridge.

“It’s not a hard science, but it’s an exact one,” Harlan Program



The inner composition of a shotgun shell

Thomas Officer/PhilNews

Counselor Chuck Hoover said.

Each variety of shell manufactured by each company requires a different wad and different measures of powder and shot. These

measurements go down to a tenth of a gram, and at Harlan, they are pre-measured. After a safety talk and demonstration, participants place their hull in the press and begin pulling the lever.

Reloading shells provides a number of benefits. It saves the Ranch money. According to Harlan staff, reloading shells helps the camp recover about 60% of the money spent on shells. At home, that number can be even larger.

It’s also more environmentally friendly. Fired hulls are typically left to decompose wherever they are shot. By picking them up and reloading these shells, they are reused several times before being disposed of in a more responsible way. In this way shots are customizable. By altering the wad and measurements of powder and shot, each shell can be made to perform in a different way.

The best part of it, for Hoover and many participants, is shooting a shell they have put together themselves.

“I could go out and buy a box of shells,” Hoover said. “But to say ‘Hey, I built this box of shells, and they all worked.’ That’s pretty cool.”



Joel Hough completes the last step of reloading a shotgun hull at Harlan on August 4, 2016. Hough and his crew will each reload three hulls to make three new shells that they will fire later at the range. In this step of the reloading process the final crimp is put on the plastic hull to close in the contents of the shell. Clay Helfrick/PhilNews

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August 12-August 25						
Friday, 12	Saturday, 13	Sunday, 14	Monday, 15	Tuesday, 16	Wednesday, 17	Thursday, 18
		Sundae Sunday Final Opening Campfire		8 p.m. Glow in the dark capture the flag	8-10 a.m.-2nd Breakfast Full Moon Williams Lake Hike Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights	8 p.m. S'mores Night Taos Plaza Live Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights
Friday, 19	Saturday, 20	Sunday, 21	Monday, 22	Tuesday, 23	Wednesday, 24	Thursday, 25
Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights	8 pm Cupcake decorating + movie night Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights	Final Closing Campfire	Clean out the Kitchen Party!			

Event Descriptions

Highlight Event

Activities Staff

Taos Plaza Live
Taos Plaza Live is a summer concert series, unsurprisingly located in the Taos Plaza. Throughout the summer, there is a free concert every Thursday night from 6p.m. to 8p.m..

Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights August 17-20. This four day event, “Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights” features live music all weekend with Larry Joe Taylor & Friends, then multiple cook-offs in Brandenburg Park on Saturday, August 20. Cook-offs include the CASI “Red River Red” cook-off, the New Mexico State Green Chile Championship and the Lone Star BBQ Society cook-off. Music venues all over town

like the top of the mountain, the Lost Love Saloon, Brandenburg Park and the historic Motherlode Saloon.

Full Moon Williams Lake Hike August 18.
The free guided full moon hike is 2 miles each way with moderate exertion. On a guided hike you will learn about the flora and fauna, herbs, medicinal plants and history of this beautiful area. Hikers meet at Hiker Parking. Please call if you would like any further information (575) 776-1413. Hikers should bring layers, boots, long pants for colder weather, flashlight, snacks and camera as needed. The hike for August 18 will begin at 8:45p.m.

Activities Staff
Sundae Sunday
Come join the Activities staff in the Stein snack zone for ice cream sundaes. Vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream will be available along with all of your favorite toppings. Tell your friends, and come screaming for ice cream!


Clean out the kitchen party!
Join the Activities staff and your fellow staff members as we close out the season with a kitchen cleanout extravaganza. We will be emptying all contents of the fridges, freezers and cabinets of perishable food items for your eating enjoyment.

If you were not able to make it to one of our recruiting workshops, stop by the Camping Registration office and talk to Jo Duran or Eric Martinez to pick up a short questionnaire to apply to become a regional recruiter for Philmont in the offseason. #pizzapartyonphilmont

Russell's Sundries
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Rangers: Lára Bar
Congratulations, Cons!

The end of the season

Eric Martinez

Associate Director of Program

As the sunflowers grow taller and the days get shorter, the end of the season is near. Thank you for everything you have done to better the future of our country and our world this summer. It never ceases to amaze me the quality of staff we have here at Philmont. You make Philmont what it is. There is no denying the impact each of you have had on youth and adults alike this summer.

Whether it was teaching how to read a map and compass in a rain storm, facilitating PTC western night to 600 people, pointing out how to get to the Tooth of Time Traders for the fourth time that

day, or assisting on a backcountry emergency situation at midnight... or anything else we ask you to do, thank you!

At the beginning of the summer I shared with you my Philmont background and some of the recent events that lead me back to this special pile of rocks. As I look back on my first summer in this new-to-me position, I couldn't be more humbled and honored to remain a member of the Philmont staff. Ever since this opportunity was presented to me back in Portland, Maine in late April, I haven't regretted the decision at all. I said it before and I'll say it again, it wasn't a hard choice to stay. I knew that by working even more closely with you, the

Philmont staff, the payoff from all the long days and short nights of the position was sure to be worth it. When I think about businesses around the country and world I can't think of another company with 1,130 staff who all want to work there, who will do anything that is asked, and who will work incredibly long hours for a cause they believe in. This truly is an amazing team to be a part of.

Thank you again for an amazing summer, I look forward to seeing your application again next year and to us building more great memories together. Have a great offseason and stay in touch. I look forward to working with you all again.

End of summer procedure

As the season winds down and you begin planning your final working day please account for the following:

- Transportation - If you need transportation to Denver, Colorado Springs, Raton, or Albuquerque make sure to process payment through Betty Pacheco in Camping Registration then bring your receipt to Logistics no less than 48 hours ahead of time if you work in Base Camp and no less than 24 hours if you work in the backcountry.
- Housing - Please make sure your living area is clean when you checkout. Whether it is a tent, dorm, or duplex - living areas will be inspected by supervisors as part of the checkout process.

- Infirmary - The Infirmary will close on August 22. After this date, make sure to check in at Camping Registration to pick up your medical form.
- Checked out equipment - Outfitting Services will be closed on August 23, make sure to return any borrowed equipment by this date.
- Mail Room - The Mail Room will close on August 25 at noon. After this date, check for your mail at Camping Registration and you can ship your footlockers and boxes from the Tooth of Time Traders.
- SSSAC - Closes on August 25 at noon. There will be restricted use after the 25th.
- Lost and Found - Closes on August 26 at noon.

10 Other things to do with the PhilNews

Hannah McCarthy

PhilNews Editor

As the summer draws to a close, as you say your last goodbyes, as you begin packing your final belongings...you wonder, *What on earth am I going to do with all these PhilNews papers?*

Don't fret. Among the blurs of compliments and comments I received regarding the PhilNews this summer, the most plentiful feedback came from those explaining other, more practical uses for the paper. This list is a compilation of those ideas and a few extra thoughts added by

the NPS team. Feel free to use the PhilNews for any of these purposes; we only ask that you read it first.

1. A fire starter

Yes, this seems to be the most popular use. The newsprint is made mostly of wood pulp and will provide a nice, semi-long lasting fuel source to your campfire.

2. A fly swatter

We all know how crazy those black flies can make us, especially in the backcountry. The pesky flies are no match for a heavy rolled up PhilNews.

3. Toilet paper

If you're desperate enough...

4. Paper towels

Spill some Old Orchard Cran-Apple juice all over the floor the day before your Com order comes bearing real paper towels? No worries. The PhilNews is very absorbent and can soak the mess right up.

5. Sleeping bag insulation

This trick can be traced back almost 70 years in Philmont history. Robert Sonnier, who came back to visit Philmont in May, recalls stuffing newspapers in his bag to keep warm when he came on trek in 1951.

6. Coffee cup insulation

No double-cupping allowed?

That's okay! Take a page of the PhilNews, fold it hot dog style a couple of times and wrap it around your cup...instant coffee cuff!

7. Place mats

If you're tired of cleaning your table after every meal, just lay some PhilNews on top before eating. Just make sure you dispose of them in a bear-proof container; they're smellables now.

8. Wrapping paper

Any last minute I-camp gifts? Wrap them in a PhilNews. It'll make you seem artsy, I promise.

9. Sun visor

We all know newspapers can be turned into snazzy hats. So why

not find a way to make a wide brim that will protect your eyes and face from the sun?

10. Sentimental wall décor

Cut out pictures of you and your friends, stories about your department or anything you want to remember from the summer. Get creative and make a Philmont 2016 collage for your wall at home so you can reminisce throughout the off-season!

Thank you for sharing your stories with us this summer! We hope you have a wonderful off-season!

Love, NPS



Building HOmE

Elisabeth Standard
Building HOmE Capital
Campaign Committee

We all know what sunflowers mean. No matter what years we get to call Philmont our home, we've all sweetly and sadly passed them in full salute to August as the last few weeks of the best summer of our lives has at last come to a close. Sunflowers are also the bringers of the second most important question of the summer. Second only to "where are you working this year?" is "are you coming back next year?" Most will reply with a resounding "yes!" but a few will admit "maybe..." and some will grudgingly mumble "no".

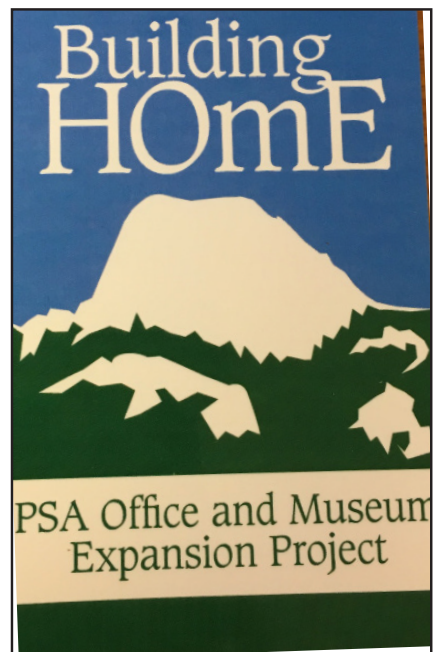
The Philmont Staff Association is here to make sure, whatever your answer is this year, that you will always have a way back HOmE.

For those of us who look



Lizzy Standard, PSA and Building HOmE committee member

fondly on our days in tents and backcountry cabins but are now cursed with flushing toilets and having too many options on what



Any donation of \$5 or more to the PSA's Building HOmE campaign will receive a sticker of recognition for the generous contribution by our members. Donations can be made at the PSA or online at www.philstaff.org

to wear every day during the summer months, the PSA is raising money to give us a new, physical home. You can help ensure that all of us will always have that place to come back to.

Whether you leave your mark on a beloved Nalgene with a sticker from giving a \$5 donation or leave your name on the bricked trail to our new front door with a \$350 donation, it is a wonderful opportunity to keep giving back to the mountains and the people that gave so much to you.

For more information on Building HOmE and how you can give back to Philmont, see

Dollie O'Neill in the Beaubien building at PTC, the current home of the PSA, or go online at www.philstaff.org.



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Living History Fashion

Suzannah Evans and Eleanor Hasenbeck, Staff Writers

In a time when America was building herself and expanding, a seemingly trivial detail was of the utmost importance. The clothing worn by the pioneers, settlers, and mountain men, was made of the most durable materials available. While there was clothing designated for special occasions, daily clothing was all about usability and protection.

Clear Creek- 1831



Skyler Ballard/PhilNews

At Clear Creek, staff members teach participants how to trap beaver and rock a pair of mocassins. “My [character’s] father was a French Canadian, and I carry his hat with me now,” said Program Counselor Fin Griffin. “The shirt and pants are pink because masculinity and femininity didn’t really matter in 1831.”

Crooked Creek- 1875



Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

Crooked Creek Program Counselor Luke Steffan explained that many of the 1870s settlers the camp portrays wouldn’t’ve had matching clothing.

“In our eyes, it would totally clash, but that was fashion,” said Steffan. “Generally, you’d have guys with striped pants and checked vests, shirts that completely clashed.”

French Henry-1860s

Miranda- 1838



Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Another occupation of the late 19th century that required specific clothing was the Mountain Man. Mountain Men would spend days out in the wilderness, with nothing to protect them except their black powder rifles and buckskin pants.

“A lot of Mountain Men didn’t want to have facial hair, that meant you were dog faced, which was a huge insult to native americans because they didn’t have facial hair. Most Mountain Men had barely any facial hair. Especially at rendezvous, if you’re trading you don’t want a lot of facial hair,” said Miranda Camp Director Corey Mullins.



Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

French Henry is one of Philmont’s mining camps. The miners at French Henry lead a physically demanding life. Their clothes also went through a lot.

“The pants are really durable; you want to get as durable material as you can, so that they last forever, so you don’t have to keep buying more and more stuff, because you only get like \$3 a day and that could only be used in the company,” said Camp Director Kyla Rohrbaugh of French Henry.

Hunting Lodge- 1920s



Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

Practicality was key throughout the decades. At camps such as Fish Camp and Hunting Lodge, staff members wear clean clothes, but the practicality is still very present.

“The Phillips family rode horses more than they hiked,” said Hunting Lodge Camp Director, Pat Navin.

The staff members at Fish Camp and Hunting Lodge dress to be ready for an adventure. They explained that they try to look as though they just got off a horse. Fish Camp Camp Director John Lauber described Waite Phillips’ look as a “well-groomed cowboy.”

Chaplain's Corner: The ZIA and Duty to God

Pastor Kerry Cheesman Protestant Chaplain

Here in New Mexico the Zia, a Zuni symbol, is seen everywhere. It is the centerpiece of the state flag; it is seen on the Philmont Training Center logo, and on many other patches and designs around camp and around the community. It is a symbol that predates the Spanish conquest of the southwest (and therefore the introduction – harshly – of Christianity) by hundreds of years. Yet there is much we can learn from this ancient symbol.

The center of the Zia is a circle, which represents the sun. The sun is the giver of all life on earth, as we learn in basic biology classes (remember photosynthesis?). Emanating from the sun are four sets of four rays, each of which

represent many things to the Zuni people. Each of these ideas we can also find reflected in the Bible in a variety of places (only a few examples are given here):

The four directions of the earth – north, south, east, west.

“And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.” -Luke 13:29

The four seasons of the year – spring, summer, fall, winter

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” -Ecclesiastes 3:1

The four times of the day – dark, dusk, daylight, dawn

“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” -2 Peter 3:8

The four stages of life – infancy, youth, adulthood, old age

“I was young and now I am old...” - Psalm 37:25

The four sacred obligations that one must develop to be in a right relationship with God – a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit, and a devotion to the welfare of others.

I think this last one is perhaps the most important of the various meanings to us here at Philmont as we think about doing our Duty to God. These sacred obligations (we could also refer to them as spiritual disciplines) are concepts to live by each and every day, regardless of our religious background:

A strong body (“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” -1 Corinthians 10:31) A strong body is an absolute necessity for most Philmont programs; we stress physical fitness in our preparations back home as well as through the

Trail of Courage program.

A clear mind (But you, keep your head in all situations. 2 Timothy 4:5) Centering on our Duty to God and breathing good mountain air helps us to keep a clear mind!

A pure spirit (Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 5:8) Being in ‘God’s Country’ and having opportunities for daily worship and crew meditation (including Roses, Thorns, and Buds) helps us to center on where and how God is leading us!

A devotion to the welfare of others (“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you

did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. -Matthew 25:35-40)

All of the staff of Philmont are devoted to helping others; from the preparation and serving of food in the dining hall to providing program opportunities and campfires in the backcountry, we are all about being servant leaders for those who arrive on our doorstep each day of the summer.

As we wind down our summer season and most of us return to school or jobs throughout the country, I hope that you will take these sacred obligations to heart, and continue to follow them throughout the year ahead and throughout your life. May they guide you as you pursue the unique path that God has set you on in your life!

A last(ing) impression

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 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 2016 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 2016 Philmont Staff. Through the emergencies of the summer (including rain, dry conditions, and 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, the passion displayed by each staff member, and our special relationship to the Scouting program.)

Now we come to the last(ing) impressions. What will they be? We certainly don’t want anything to go wrong as everyone experiences their departure from their 2016 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 Margaret Mead several times, “Never doubt that a small group of

thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that has.”

Make and enjoy “lasting impressions” as your 2016 adventure here at Philmont comes to an end. In the coming months we will each have an opportunity to engage a new group of “thoughtful, committed citizens” and continue to make the world around us just a little bit better. I look forward to hearing your stories next summer when we gather back at this special “pile of rocks”.

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The peculiar life of a Philmont package

Suzannah Evans
Staff Writer

I came in on the UPS truck. My corners were bent in a bit, I had had a rough ride from the UPS distribution center in Tulsa. The New Mexico heat was causing the tape holding me together to peel, and I was afraid that the styrofoam peanuts I was holding on the inside were going to burst out of me. The heat turned to rain, each raindrop bounced off of me. I could feel my cardboard start to ripple. Suddenly, the brakes of the UPS truck launched me forward and back. I slammed back on top of the poster holder package that had whacked me in the face a few miles back. I could hear the popping of his plastic cap flying off.

I could hear the voices of humans. Suddenly, the packages around me began to disappear, a man whose nametag read "Neil," reached around me and grabbed hot pink package from Dallas. Finally, he picked me up and



Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

brought me inside.

I suddenly felt a weird carving, yet itching, sensation on my left side. I saw a woman named Eunice step back with a big black Sharpie. As the ink dried, I could feel the paper of my cardboard shrink a little bit.

There was a sudden clamor of younger voices,

"Free matches!" a young boy exclaimed.

"Tommy, put that back," a man's

gruff voice responded.

Eunice picked me up and put me in a small, dark wooden cubby. She then placed a yellow slip of paper on my top. It fluttered in the occasional breeze, scratching me.

I stayed there for the night, it was warm and dry, and still. I was grateful not to be warping in the hot sun.

The next morning, I was awoken to the sound of a man saying he was driving to Cimarroncito.

Neil picked me up and suddenly, I was in the back of another truck, this time, there were fewer packages surrounding me.

A few minutes later, we began moving. Suddenly, I began bouncing up and down, these roads were not like the highways I had traveled on the way here. More trees appeared in the back window, and some mountains.

We made a turn, and the road got worse. I began seeing burros in the window. We had to stop to let them pass.

A few minutes later, I could hear a gurgling brook. As we drove across the bridge, the wooden planks shook a bit with the vibrations of the truck.

The road was quite rocky, and eventually, we drove through a rut that knocked me off my perch. An orange mailbag fell on top of me. I couldn't see the trees anymore, but instead had to stare at an ant crawling through the dust at the bottom of the truck.

I could hear a muffled radio

calling out different messages.

"We have a twisted ankle at Zastrow," a peppy female voice said.

The driver made another turn and I shifted again, this time, resting on my corner. I could feel myself caving on that side. Out of the side window, I could see some tall rock formations.

The car began turning left and I fell back on my back. I could feel the engine revving a little bit as we started an uphill ascent. I wished I had had something to hold on with, like the humans do.

I saw more trees, and glimpses of those rocks again.

A few minutes later, the driver slammed on the brakes again, I could feel myself fly forward. He came back to the back, opened the hatch and pulled me out.

We walked on to a porch and through a screen door.

"Package for Cito," he exclaimed.

And as suddenly as it began, my journey was over.

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Rock on!

Suzannah Evans
Staff Writer

One of Philmont’s most popular camps, Cimarroncito, hosts one of the larger backcountry staff groups with almost twenty Program Counselors and Conservation staff members.

Hosting several programs from Rock Climbing, to evening volleyball, from yoga to indoor bouldering, Cito, as the camp is affectionately known, is busy from the early morning to late at night.

The Cito Staff members don’t get much time away from work, and the little time they do get, they spend on the rocks.

“Sometimes, if we don’t have a 9:30 [crew schedule to climb], we rappel and climb up there. We basically just climb or rappel, or we climb in the gym,” said Program Counselor Jess Satiroff.

While a few of the staff members do have previous rock climbing experience, most of them are new to the sport.

“I think we have a very wide variety of personalities at Cito this year, which is awesome, and going with that, we have a wide variety of climbing skill levels, so we have those who are extremely passionate about climbing and those who are building that passion



Jessi Kauffmann, Jess Satiroff and Summer Murray prepare the belays at the top of the climbing rock Tuesday, August 1 at Cimarroncito. Cimarroncito is one of the largest camps in the backcountry, offering activities such as bouldering, rock climbing, traversing, yoga and volleyball. Madelynn Scales/PhilNews

for climbing. I think that’s part of the reason that a lot of people came to a rock climbing camp, is

to get involved in the sport, which is pretty cool,” said Assistant Camp Director, Riley Patton.

Patton explained that his staff received thorough training at the beginning of the summer.

“We have a 3 or 4 day training we do at the beginning of the season that gets everyone on board for everything that we do during the summer,” said Patton.

The staff spends free moments perfecting their rock climbing

techniques.

Despite the fact that most of their time is devoted to work related activities, the Cito staff have a lot of fun together.

“Yesterday morning, we had no one, we had no crews climbing, so we were all down here, cleaning the cabin, painting the doors, listening to music, and just hanging out,” said Satiroff

Occasionally, they are able to enjoy some work-free activities.

“We also had this really sporadic dance party one time, we were in here after program, everything was done, it was probably 10:00, the next thing you know, everyone was up on the stools [dancing],” said Satiroff.

Despite the occasional dance party or slam poetry night, the Cito Staff spend most of their time where their hearts are, on the rocks.

**PHILMONT USES
29,744 APPLES**

7,500 FEET
FROM SEALEVEL

**THAT’S ALMOST 7,500 FEET OF APPLES WHICH
IS THE ELEVATION OF METCALF STATION***

*Considering an average apple is about three inches in diameter

**PHILMONT USES 9592
GALLONS OF MILK**

**THAT’S THE SIZE OF ABOUT 18 AND 1/4
WATER BUFFALOS THAT ARE USED AT SOME
BACK-COUNRTY CAMPS!**

*The Water Buffalos That Philmont Uses Hold 525 Gallons

Commissary commonalities

Eleanor Hasenbeck, Staff Writer
Thomas Officer, Graphic Designer

From commissary trucks to trail meals, Philmont’s commissary keeps backcountry staff and participants fed. There are seven commissary camps in the backcountry, and the central commissary located near Administration.

In the backcountry, participants pick up trail meals every two to three days. Each crewmember gets a piece of fruit and when supplies are available, shelf-stable milk.

For Cory Cox, Trading Post Manager at Ute Gulch, his favorite part of the job is knowing that he’s keeping Scouts well fed on the trail.

**PHILMONT USES
79,632 TORTILLAS**

**OR ABOUT 1.44 ACRES!
THAT’S ALMOST 2 AND 1/2
TIMES THE SIZE OF THE
VILLA PHILMONTE***

*The size of all of the villa’s buildings (excluding the lawn and Training Center) is 28,000 ft²

**7020
POUNDS OF BACON**

OR ABOUT 7 MILES*
**THATS ABOUT THE DISTANCE FROM
BASE CAMP TO BLACK MOUNTAIN**

*Assuming 8 inches per slice lying end to end

**PHILMONT USES 4130
POUNDS OF CHEESE!**

**THAT’S ABOUT THE
WEIGHT OF A 2015 FORD
F-150 TRUCK!**

*Depending on specific model and options

*Statistics based on average summer consumption.

Sustainable Forestry Proving Grounds: Land Management Nature's Way

Chambers English
Sustainable Resource
Specialist, Conservation
Department

As crews approach the lush meadow and climbing area at Miner's Park this summer, they are greeted by an unfamiliar, if not abrasive, noise from the forests. The roar of chainsaws echo through the tall timbers surrounding the camp, and trees crash to the ground — but the forest rejoices.

Philmont's seasonal forestry crew, led by Zach Seeger, is mimicking a long-lost friend of the Ponderosa Pine ecosystem. Absent for over a hundred years now, fire once "cleaned up" the Ponderosa forests of Northern New Mexico every two to thirty-seven years. Light burning fires swept through the landscape and eliminated competing saplings beneath the mighty Ponderosas, opening up verdant meadows and creating a park-like appearance in the forest.

This increase in sunlight and setback in forest succession were necessary for the maintenance of the productive, healthy forests which once covered the hills and mountains. Humans, however, have grown to suppress this natural force.

Enormous, deadly fires across

the West at the beginning of the 20th century created the initial fear of fire in the American spirit. Waite Phillips himself undoubtedly knew of these disasters on an intimate level from his travels in the Rocky Mountains around the time of fires that destroyed millions of acres in Idaho and Montana. Not long after Mr. Phillips donated the Ranch

for fear of destruction. Philmont witnessed the dreadful results of this vicious cycle during the 2002 Ponil Complex fire when over 92,000 acres were razed to the ground. The eighty acre tract at Miner's Park is serving as a proving ground for forestry efforts with two purposes in light of past management practices.



Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

to the Boy Scouts of America, Smokey Bear offered his famous challenge with pointed paw for the first time: "Remember... Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires." Unfortunately, natural and human-caused fires alike were suppressed following this advertising campaign, and fuel levels reached new highs as fire was excluded

Timber stand improvement, accomplished by the removal of less-desirable understory trees and thinning of Ponderosa overstory, helps to create a defensible space around the camp. In the event of a wildfire, the open forest floor will help slow and cool the flames as they approach camp structures. All dead trees and tightly-bunched

clusters within a two hundred foot perimeter around the cabin were removed to prevent crown fire and reduce the likelihood of a cabin fire.

At the same time, the forest improvements benefit the Ponderosa Pine ecosystem itself as well. Seeger reports that the number of trees per acre, on average, will be reduced by almost half. The forestry team will recreate the ebb and flow of natural fire by leaving small clusters of pines, open stands, and meadows in their wake, allowing a mosaic pattern to return to the forest after decades of homogenous density (and danger for fire). Slash from cut trees will be piled for controlled burning this winter, clearing debris from the forest floor. As sunlight reaches the ground for the first time in decades, the native grasses, herbs, and shrubs necessary for the survival of wildlife will return once more.

Though he is optimistic about the project, Seeger understands the challenges of forest improvement at Philmont.

"Participants come for the trees and wilderness experience. We have to find a balance between treating the landscape and the aesthetics for that wilderness experience."

For more than ten years, Philmont has worked with the

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) to assess the health of our forests and address management priorities, and right now, timber harvest is at the top of the list. This summer's forestry team is using cut trees for projects including bridge abutments, heavy boards for special projects, and wood chips for activity areas and creating a lasting impact on the forest around Miner's Park, but Philmont staff recognize the need for more action.

As early as this fall, Recreation Resource Manager John Celley hopes to begin selectively-harvesting up to three hundred acres at a time to reduce fire risk, improve the forest ecosystem, and provide Philmont with additional income. Timber harvests on all scales, despite their uncommon and uncomfortable presence in the wilderness, will bring the land one step closer to the health it once knew. One day, the natural force which helped make the West wild may even return to Philmont, revitalizing our forests, nurturing our wildlife, and redeeming the legacy impacts of historical management (and Smokey Bear) on the land.

"The wilderness needs no defense, only more defenders."

-Ed Abbey

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See something **COOL** while you're in the back country?

Really **stoked** about a STEM at a staff camp?

Take a photo and add it to the Facebook group "STEM at Philmont Scout Ranch!" to share it and get some help identifying what you found!

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Last Week's Answers

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A Q&A with Maintenance

Interview by
Suzannah Evans

Q: What's a day in the life of a maintenance worker?

Nick Lecher: "Pretty dope, can you write that? Every morning we got to wake up, breakfast at 6:30, shop at 7:00, then we go and clean all the shower houses, and we're done by 10:30 or 11:00ish, and then we work on stuff like [picnic tables] and then we go to eat lunch. Afterwards we'll come back and we have odd jobs like this picnic table, we have that mop rack right there, we have to paint all the signs."

Chris Tull: "All the signs that get routed....we rout all of those signs...If it's broke we fix it."

Q: What's the best part of your job?

Breydon Benefield: "I'd probably say the crew."

Chris Tull: "Best crew at

Philmont."

Q: What's the worst part of your job?

All: "Waffle Stomps."

Q: Why did you choose to work at Philmont?

Paul Zollinger: "I wanted to be outside...and in the mountains."

Q: Have you all gotten anything out of this position?

Xavier Franczyk: "I'd taken woodshop in high school, and done a good amount on my own. So I guess being able to come back

into that environment where you have a pretty well-stocked wood shop available to you [is great].

Chris Tull: "I think another big thing for me was everyone here is sufficient in their backcountry skills, so we all knew what we were doing, but getting to go out together so much really refined our backcountry skills. I went from knowing what to do to it being second nature."



Paul Zollinger (right) shows Adam Lagacey how to attach the stencils to each other. Lagacey is working on a sign for his boss from the Ranger Department. "I was a Ranger," says Lagacey. "My contract ended on the sixth and I decided to work for Maintenance." Alex Cenci/PhilNews

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Out of Eden Walk Essay Contest- Winner



Hannah McCarthy
PhilNews Editor

After weeks of waiting, the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting has finally announced

the winner of the Out of Eden Walk essay contest. Nick Fahy of Milton, Massachusetts wrote the winning composition and is now preparing for a trip to Uzbekistan in September.

Fahy will get to walk with journalist and National Geographic fellow, Paul Salopek as he treks along the Old Silk Road for the Out of Eden Walk project.

The Out of Eden Walk is Salopek's 21,000-mile journey which began in the Rift Valley of Ethiopia in 2012. His expedition path resembles the eastward migration of our earliest ancestors out of Africa and eventually around the world.

Along the way, Salopek has practiced the principles of "slow journalism,"

a process which involves keen observation, attention to detail and an appreciation for the candor of everyday interaction. Fahy is being recognized for his deep

understanding of these principles in his essay about a neighboring community called Mattapan.

In his essay, Fahy made a comparison between the affluent neighborhood of Milton and the less prosperous Mattapan just to its north. He discusses the atmosphere of the neighborhood which has seen growth in past years but is still struggling economically.

"[My essay] presented this image of two different Mattapans: one that is growing and one that is stuck in the past," Fahy said.

His experience in Mattapan will now carry him overseas to Uzbekistan, where he will observe a culture vastly different from his own. Fahy has been preparing through extensive research on the Old Silk Road and its rich history.

Before he can fully prepare for that trip, however, he must first pack his bags for a different trek. Later this month, Fahy will be venturing to Philmont Scout Ranch with his troop. This will be his first ever Philmont experience.

"I have no idea what to expect... but I guess that's a good thing," said Fahy.

Fahy is ready and excited for the many uphill and downhill challenges that will come his way in the next few months. He feels that the various shakedown and hikes he has done with his troop have been helpful training for his upcoming adventures.

Whether he is minutes from home, across the country or across the Earth, Fahy is sure to bring his intellect and observation skills with him on the trail to help tell the stories that need to be told worldwide.

Fahy has been featured in the *Boston Globe*. The article can be read <https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/2016/08/01/milton-teen-essay-wins-him-trip-uzbekistan/kLDhgnarfRdj8i5A1r2L6K/story.html>

The winning essay is printed below.

The Old Man and the Seafood

By Nick Fahy

In the trash pail by the side of the road two lottery tickets and a pair of cigarettes slowly disintegrate. The strip to its side seems a wasteland in shades of black and gray, and but for the heat, nothing in the street would tell the season. In the half hour walk down the strip I count five barber shops but not a supermarket in sight, and the only general store is a Dollar Store, graffiti staining the glass windows.

The trash pail itself is a rusting three gallon module of the community of Mattapan in which it lies. The community has in recent years fought a protracted battle against its problems with addiction and dependence, and it manifests itself here, in the twin lottery tickets the consumer who purchased them doubtless could not afford. Across the way, observing the sparse nutritional options, another conclusion comes to mind: this is a community whose children will struggle to grow up healthy if their parents shop for dinner from a drugstore.

It is important – critically important – that slow journalism be active here and in other impoverished communities. Rather than sensationalize, as oftentimes is the goal of the 24-hour news cycle, the goal of slow journalism is to create awareness of the problems in our society, and as such inspire change. When slow journalists report on their findings, the public, informed and inspired by this demographic of journalists, can act to solve society's biggest problems.

An hour's walk from the trash pail, a man sits on the ledge of a building twenty years condemned smoking a cigarette. He goes only by his last name, Bay, and he's just finished the rehab workout his doctor prescribed to recover from his recent knee-replacement surgery. I sit, and we talk, and he tells me he doesn't know whether Mattapan is changing for the better. "For Mattapan to change, the people have to want to change," he tells me. Do they want to change? "That's the thing. I don't think so."

The situation looked bleak from the condemned building that afternoon. But as I walked home later that day, I smelled something different from the gasoline and pot smoke common to the strip : seafood. A new restaurant with a small paper sign in the window reading Mattapan Fish Market had just opened across from the new health center. A young child in a red vest stood outside, inhaling the smell of fresh fish. So perhaps, amidst all this desolation, there was hope.

The biggest hope for towns like Mattapan caught in the vicious cycle of poverty is simple : opportunities for children. It means investing in education in impoverished areas, providing healthy food for kids, and ensuring Mattapan's newest generation has the resources necessary to resist gang violence and addiction. Perhaps that is the core lesson of slow journalism – that to break the patterns of a place that doesn't want to change, we should invest in our future.





Philmont participant Charlie Grube rides on a berm during the mountain biking program at Whiteman Vega on Wednesday, July 27, 2016. Drew Castellaw/PhilNews



Harrison Clark begins to rappel down the rock wall Tuesday, August 1 at Cimarroncito. Jess Satiroff carefully plants herself onto the rock as she belays Clark. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews



Dennis Porcelain, left, Christian England, middle, and Jackson Bishop, right, work to create a path with wooden planks across logs at Urraca on Saturday, July 30, 2016. Skyler Ballard/PhilNews

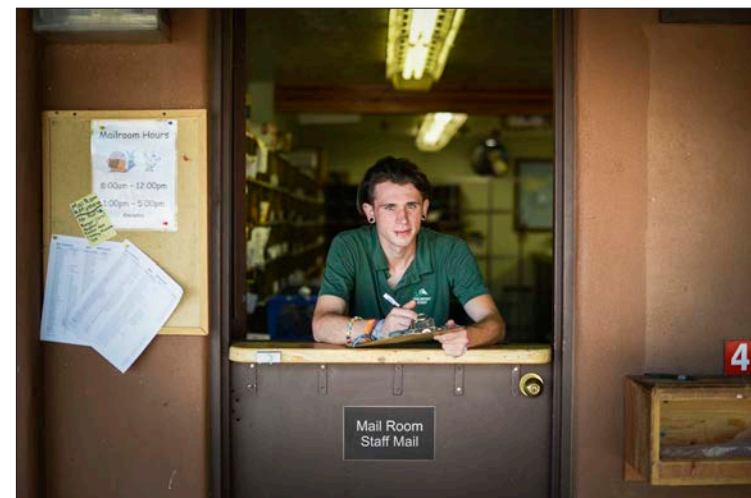


William Howard climbs the spar poles at Crater Lake while on his STEM trek. Their program almost got rained out; however, Crater Lake arranged for them to climb that morning. Clay Helfrick/PhilNews



Top: Dean Cow Program Counselor Iker Irazabal climbs up a participant climbing route during sunrise on August 4, 2016. Drew Castellaw/PhilNews

Right: Adam Crowe monitors the prusiks during a Search and Rescue demonstration. Alex Cenci/PhilNews



Dylan Green waits at the door to the staff mailroom for visitors on August 6, 2016. Working in the mailroom means diligently handling and distributing thousands of packages of mail and I-Camps Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews



Reed Bertran is an Activities staff member at Philmont who acts and preforms music in the opening and closing campfires. Bertran's favorite part of his job is preforming at opening and closing campfires because he is able to practice his stage presence. "I'm a musician and I'm on stage a lot of the time so I thought this would be a great job to get a lot of practice being an MC and getting crowds really excited." says Bertran. Lex Selig/PhilNews