Making music and memories
Eleanor Hasenbeck
Staff Writer
A Philmont campfire may not always have a fire- fire bans sometimes bar open flames in the backcountry- but it always has music. As Philmont’s Musicologist in the position’s inaugural year, Ellyn Washburne helps make sure the tunes at campfires across the Ranch never miss a beat.

“When you’re out in the woods, you either don’t have your iPod or your iPod dies, and you can’t listen to the music you normally listen to,” she said. “It kind of goes back to the way it used to be before that stuff was invented. You have to make music yourself or listen to other people play it, so live music takes on an even more special role.”

Washburne supports camps as they build their performances. They consider a number of important elements: crowd interaction, delivery, focus and message. Camps choose music to create a theme in their campfires. Staff at Ponil’s Cantina Show sing of cowboys, while the Crater Lake boys perform songs about the hardships of logging.

At interpretive camps, staff also consider the time period in which their characters would’ve been singing. Staff at Poni’s Cantina Show sing of cowboys, while the Crater Lake boys perform songs about the hardships of logging.

Continued on page 5

Waite’s Way: Crews then and now
Suzannah Evans
Staff Writer
Waite Phillips was dedicated to ensuring that the youth of tomorrow would be given exquisite, life changing opportunities. From donating the land for the largest Boy Scout Camp in America to envisioning the Philmont Training Center, Phillips arranged for youth and leaders to work together to improve the world.

The Boy Scouts of America offers a way for both age groups to improve alongside one another. One very special way this occurs is with parents and children.

Summers are a great time for parents and children to bond. There really isn’t a better way to deepen a family connection than by hiking mountains together. Most Scouts who participate at Philmont are only a few years away from leaving home. A summer together at Philmont allows for a lifelong memory and something to talk about and reminisce over for years to come.

Philmont has seen generations of Scouters since it opened in 1938. Since then, alumni have brought their children and even grandchildren back to backpack these beloved trails together.

Wanting their children to grow in the ways that they had, fathers and mothers sign up to advise and accompany their youngsters.

One such family is represented by three generations this summer. Jim Sharp is here with his son, Dave, and his grandson, Ryan. The Sharps are with Troop 555 from Columbus, Ohio.

Continued on page 3
Event Descriptions

**Activities Staff**

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

**Rio Pueblo Open Disc Golf Tournament** is a PDGA B-Tier sanctioned tournament at Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort. It is open to pros and amateurs.

**Round 1: Picuris Pueblo Disc Golf Course** | June 25, 2016
---
This high desert course offers spectacular views, creative routes and great shot variety.

**Round 2: Two Gray Hares Disc Golf Course** | June 25, 2016
With its pastoral setting and minimal climbing, Two Gray Hares offers creative pin placements and shot variety that’s easy to navigate.

**Round 3: Sipapu Disc Golf Course** | June 26, 2016
Hailed as one of the most scenic disc golf courses in the country, Sipapu’s alpine course features epic shots, incredible elevation changes, stream crossings and amazing wildflower meadows.

**Alabama Shakes** is playing at Kit Carson Park in Taos on August 6. Tickets: $60 in advance, $65 day of; Doors: 6:30 p.m.; Show: 7:30 p.m.

**Angel Fire Adventure** is on July 3, 2016. Enjoy breathtaking mountain scenery with a run through picturesque Angel Fire, New Mexico. The gentle gong course is great for the beginning and avid runners, and poses just enough of a challenge for those looking to test their endurance. The elevation might take your breath away, but the views are worth it!

**Taos Pueblo Pow Wow** is a gathering of Indian Nations in a common circle of friendship.

Indian Country is made up of many tribal nations, bands, villages, and pueblos, each with their own traditional tribal beliefs and practices. A pow wow is the common fiber which draws Indian people together. It is a time for sharing with old friends and making new friends; a time for singing and dancing. It is a time for trading craft goods and trading songs.

For **Fiesta de Taos** the good people of Taos celebrate the Feast of St. Anne and St. James, as they have for centuries. The annual event, popularly referred to as “The Taos Fiestas,” allows the local population to put aside their labor for two days and bask in the leisure of the holy days.
**Philmont Olympics**

As the nations of the world will be competing for honor and glory this summer, so shall we, the Philmont staff, compete with one another. There will be four events over the course of the summer where single representatives or small teams from each department will vie for ultimate victory. The PSA has agreed to be a neutral arbiter for the event and their judgments will be final. Each athlete must be a Philmont staff member, able to perform in the event if chosen, and prepared to carry his or her department to glory.

**Teams**

For the purposes of this event, all Base Camp departments and the PTC will be grouped together, and the Horse Department will compete with the Backcountry Department. Each team will have a liaison that will be responsible for coordinating Activities. The four teams and their liaisons are:

- Backcountry and Horse Department-Jimmy Fritze
  (Backcountry Manager)
- Base Camp and PTC-Savannah Moore
  (Security)
- Conservation- Nathan Coney
  (ADC for Conservationists)
- Rangers- Will Suggs
  (Associate Chief Ranger)

If you want to represent your department in the Olympiad, contact your team Liaison.

**Conservation Tetrathlon**

The second Olympic event will take place on July 8. Prepare yourselves for Conservalional Glory. The conservation event will take place at The Rocky Mountain Scout Camp. The four events are as follows:

**Fuel Canister Sledge**

One team member must smash as many empty fuel canisters as possible in 30 seconds to contribute to the Ranch’s sustainability efforts. Canisters must be fully flattened and checked through a predetermined slot.

**UTM Signpost Installation**

Install a UTM signpost with your partner, using a digging bar and post hole digger. Each team will be ranked in two categories: time of completion and sturdiness (judged by a shove from a PSA official).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (pts)</th>
<th>Sturdiness (pts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rock Rolling**

You and your partner, using rock bars and brute Philmont elbow grease will move a rock from one predestined spot to another. Points will be awarded for time.

**Work Crew Sprint**

Load a pack with necessary gear for a work crew run (provided) and sprint 300 meters, then alternate with your partner who must sprint back to the start/finish line.

The following point system will be used to score the Fuel Canister Sledge, Rock Rolling and Work Crew Sprint.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (pts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Philmont Olympics**

Jim first went on Trek in 1960 and returned with David in 1986. Both are eager for Ryan to share in the experience, as they find it to be one of a kind.

“It’s incomparable, you know? There’s no place where you can have as fantastic of a backpacking experience with all the program and neat people. It’s the Mecca of Scouting,” said Dave.

Jim’s hopes are high for his son and grandson.

“I hope they gain great camaraderie and outdoor leadership skills and fun. It’s a great experience!” said Jim.

Ryan is excited to participate at Philmont.

“The main reason I wanted to do Boy Scouts was because of the High Adventure [opportunities]. Philmont was one of the big things on my list,” said Ryan.

Hailing from Spring, Texas is Crew 1333. Among this Crew are two father-daughter pairs. Andy Fike, who came to Philmont for the first time in 1983 is here with his daughter Camryn.

“I heard that it was going to be really fun,” said Camryn.

Olivia Larson is here with her father, Chris, who is returning after his first trek in 2006. Chris first went on Trek with Olivia’s brother a few years ago.

“My brother said that [Philmont] was really pretty, and that it was a great experience,” said Olivia.

Representing San Antonio, Texas is Troop 501. Several fathers are experiencing their first Trek with their sons, while Matt Dooley is returning, this time, with his son Evan.

Matt hopes that his son takes more away from Philmont than solely a great hiking experience. “Evan is the Crew Leader, so beyond him exercising the Scout skills that he has learned, I’m really looking forward to him developing his leadership skills... and bringing [his group] together as a team over the next ten days,” said Matt.

Evan looks forward to growing with his comrades.

“[I’m looking forward to] going out here with a really good group of friends and having a great time,” Evan said.

Phillips’ vision has already been tangibly seen in the work of the Philmont Scout Ranch and Training Center. As he was a family man himself, Phillips probably would have been full of joy at the sight of children and their parents hiking the hills he once called home.

---

**Russell’s Sundries**

“For all the little things you forgot to pack.”

31083 Highway 64
Cimarron, NM 87714
575-376-2502

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

---

**The Kit Restaurant**

Serves Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Home-style cooking!

Open daily! 7am - 9pm
31033 Hwy 64
Cimarron, NM 87714

---

Submissions to the PhilNews are welcome anytime! If you would like a chance to contribute to the PhilNews, please send your articles, story ideas, and/or creative writings to the PhilNews Editor at npsphilnewsdepartment@gmail.com.

Deadline: Saturdays @ 5 p.m.
Would you pay to come back and work a week at Philmont? The answer was a definite YES! for 30 PSA members who signed up to participate in the first PSA Volunteer Vacation taking place this coming September 17-24. The event sold out in two hours when registration opened March 1.

The PSA Volunteer Vacation was designed as an opportunity to get out to the Philmont backcountry, get dirty, and give back to Philmont in a lasting, meaningful way. This program will be an annual event, and in 2016 we will be building a new spur trail off the Sawmill and Thunder Ridge trail connecting the brand new Whistle Punk trail camp to the top of Cito Peak – where no trail has gone before. Eventually, this trail will go to Cypher’s Mine, providing a route through a seldom used part of Philmont.

After one night in Base Camp, the volunteers will be shuttled to Sawmill and then hike to Whistle Punk Trail Camp – home for the next 5 days while they work on the trail construction.

At the end of the week, the workers will be rewarded with a little rest and relaxation. They’ll hike to a destination of their choice and spend a night on the trail before being picked up the next day.

Back in Base Camp, for the last night, they’ll be treated to a steak dinner and recognition provided by Philmont.

The PSA Volunteer Vacation gives new meaning to the familiar IWGBT slogan. Not only do you “Get Back” to Philmont, but now you can “Give Back” to Philmont. What a great opportunity for PSA members! This year’s Volunteer Vacation may be sold out, but start planning for the 2017 program. Details will be announced in January 2017.

The Volunteer Vacation patch can be earned by those who participate in the week-long service opportunity.
Continued from page one: Making music and memories

“Music is the voice of the culture of a time period,” said Austin McCord, a Program Counselor at Pueblano. “There’s so much emotion expressed through these songs. For example, workers who were having awful days would sing songs like ‘Shanty Man’s Life’ [a work song about logging in the lonesome woods] to express how awful their work was but how proud they were to be doing it.”

Washburne travels to camps throughout the summer, twice to each staff camp, to give performers feedback and improve their performance. She’s also working to document campfires digitally and physically. She uploads audio recordings of each performance she attends to the internet. She’s only missed one since she began uploading them in 2014– Pueblano, last summer.

Washburne is also building files of music specific to each backcountry camp. In the past, camps have been able to pull from a handful of songs they find in their program boxes, but campfires were largely put together from scratch during a few weeks at the beginning of each summer.

“Philmont is a really interesting place for music, because there’s so many people involved in it who normally wouldn’t consider themselves musicians, or even listen to the type of music that’s played at Philmont outside of Philmont,” Washburne said. “In the backcountry camps even if you don’t play music, you’re usually still involved in the campfire, whether singing or banging a tambourine or telling a story.”

For Washburne, the position is a labor of love. Music brought her to Philmont. Her father was inspired to play guitar after being on staff at Philmont in the 1980s. He suggested she work at the Ranch and play in the campfires. She’s done it ever since she started in 2010.

She’s been singing since she can remember. By her early teens, she was already able to play piano and violin. Today, she’s added guitar, mandolin and a bit of of bass and banjo to her repertoire. Washburne has an undergraduate degree in music, and she’s currently pursuing a graduate degree in musicology at the University of Kentucky.

Washburne says she has been a part of many simple moments that build a Scout’s experience. Once, while working at Beaubien, the staff invited a participant to play the bass. The next evening on her days off, Washburne saw the same camper at Crater Lake. At her suggestion, he played the bass there too. After the summer ended, she received a message from the Scout’s father, thanking her for giving the boy a chance to play. It had shaped the camper’s trek.

“When people play music together it’s a human activity that you’re all participating in, so it’s kind of a bonding experience a lot of times,” she said. “At the same time it’s already a community here at Philmont, so the community creates the music, but also the music helps create the community.”

To listen to Washburne’s campfire recordings, visit philmontfieldrecordings.bandcamp.com.
Pastor Peter Vaught

Protestant Chaplain

The opportunity to be a part of Philmont Scout Ranch came 56 years after I heard of this wonderful place. My first exposure to the idea came in 1960.

At 12 years old, I was a newly minted Tenderfoot Scout. Our Scoutmaster painted a beautiful scene describing Philmont as he told of loading up the burros with gear and setting out for each day’s hike. Since that day I have been dreaming of coming to the Philmont Ranch.

Why did it take me 56 years? An excellent question for which I have no answer. I mentioned it to the Charter Representatives for my churches as I served local congregations for 37 years. But the idea never went anywhere. After my retirement from the obligation of serving a congregation, I finally had the free time to make my dream a reality.

Last winter I mentioned my dream to a member of my local council. Sometime later, I received an email from him indicating that Philmont was accepting applications for their Chaplaincy ministry, and here I am.

My ministry has been marked by service to the local church with detours into the hospital chaplaincy: Notably general hospital, psychiatric and substance abuse wards. I have also served on national and local camp staffs in the Chaplaincy role.

One important aspect of the Philmont Chaplaincy program is the sense of community we Chaplains feel. We are comfortable in our personal faith. We also want to facilitate the faith of each staff member and Scout as they discover and follow their own path to faith. It is a joy to live and serve with my colleagues. I am proud to call them my brothers.

I live in Tucson, Arizona with my wife Carrie Beth. My service to the local church is split between support for the church I attend on Sundays and my work with pastors and churches south of the border once a month.

Carrie Beth, and I look forward to the joy of being here in this beautiful place with all of you as we drink in the physical grandeur of this corner of paradise.

Henri Chaix

Catholic Chaplain

As the Seminarian from the Archdiocese of Bordeaux (in the Southwest of France), I have the chance, thanks to Padre, to discover Philmont and to spend one month with all of you!

I arrived two weeks ago and unfortunately will have to leave in two weeks, because of the end date of my student visa. Nevertheless, this short time here is a real gift for me, and I especially appreciate all the moments shared with you, whether it is at meals, on trails for a hike, at the Catholic services, or somewhere else in Base Camp.

After graduating from high school, I took two years in university, studying mechanical engineering. Having the idea of priesthood in my mind for a long time, I decided to discern this important question by taking one year of propédeutique, which is a specific year in France in which we take time to pray and to listen the Lord concerning a religious or priestly vocation.

I decided after this year to enter the seminary, and was sent by my bishop to Brussels, Belgium to study in a Jesuit university. After two years of philosophy, and one year and a half of theology, my rector of seminary sent me to Washington D.C. to study in the Catholic University of America for my last spring semester.

Having been a Boy Scout in France in the Scouts Unitaires de France movement, I am so happy to discover the Boy Scouts of America through Philmont! It is also great to discover this beautiful part of America. I thank all of you for your wonderful welcome, friendship and kindness! It is a deep enjoyment to meet you!

Thanks to Philmont, thanks to you, and thanks be to God!
The height of the season is quickly approaching and the backcountry is filling up fast, so it might be time to set your sights beyond Philmont’s boundaries. Seek respite from the crowds by heading off property and into the Valle Vidal (Valley of Life). Within this 100,000 acre section of the Carson National Forest, one can find abundant wildlife, grand vistas, a couple ghost towns, and meadows full of Rocky Mountain Iris and Golden Banner.

Drive five miles east of Cimarron on Highway 64 and turn onto Forest Road 1950. This unpaved road is well maintained, but the drive is long and it can be hard on vehicles, so keep your speed under 25 miles per hour and don’t go if you don’t have a spare tire. Once you have boots on the ground, don’t underestimate it. There are few trails in the Valle Vidal, so brush up on your navigation skills and bring plenty of water and Micropur.

Most folks hold off on a trip to the Valle, or Vall, as it has become known in the parlance of our times, until after the first of July. This is because the area past Clayton Corral is closed to all human uses so as not to disturb elk calving. This closure means that Little Costilla is off limits until July 1.

Little Costilla is a great hike, but the only reason to hike up a mountain is for a view of the bottom. Instead, stay at the bottom for a view that is up close and personal.

A hike along the Middle Ponil Creek is well worth the trip and can be done in a long day or as an overnight. The Middle Ponil is flowing strong, so the creek is flanked by vibrant flora and the air is cool and refreshing.

You can start your hike off at Shuree Ponds and follow the creek all the way back to Ponil, where you can catch a ride back to Base.

If sunshine and meadows are more your thing, then you should consider turning off on the road to Iris Park. Climb the hill and head cross-country to the well at Iris Park. From there, follow the stream bed over to Beatty Lakes and marvel at the sea of grass before you. Ride the meadow down into the canyon leading back to the Philmont fence line where you will be greeted by the friendly staff at Dan Beard.

From here, the hike down Bonita Canyon and into Ponil is a perfect way to cap off your journey. Enjoy your hike!
Packing in the fun

Eleanor Hasenbeck
Staff Writer

Outfitting Services is finding better ways to equip hikers hitting the trail. With the canister fuel recycling initiative and new packs available for participants to rent, the department is helping Scouts and staff save money.

When a crew comes off the mountain, they can donate leftover white gas and canister fuel at Outfitting Services. White gas is emptied into larger drums, then refilled into smaller containers, where it is ready for staff to take on their own treks. Canister fuel containers are weighed, and staff calculate how full the canister is. The canisters are marked with a percentage, then placed in a yellow roll-top cabinet nearby Outfitting Services where it is free for crews and staff members to take.

Crews and staff members can also give empty canister fuel containers to staff camps, which then place it in recycling. Conservation staff then sorts and recycles gas canisters, thus keeping hazardous materials out of New Mexico’s landfills.

Another exciting advancement for Outfitting Services this year was the purchase of 114 new Osprey packs available for participants to rent. These packs are created with pack rental programs, like Philmont, in mind. They’re easier to size, making it a quick pull on a velcro tab to fit a pack to a person. They come in 70+5, 80+5 and 90+10 liter packs.

All old packs are also getting a pick me up. This year, Outfitting Services is washing rental packs as they come off the trail. This keeps older backpacks looking like new, and perhaps more importantly, smelling like new.

With more packs being rented than ever before, fresh backpacks are good news. For Scouts, the pack rental program can make Philmont more affordable.

“They don’t have to spend $200 on a brand new pack when they’re just going to outgrow them,” said Sam Schoevaars, Manager of Outfitting Services. “If they can put all the wear and tear on our packs, it saves them money.”

Schoevaars said this allows participants to allocate funds to other things they’ll need on the trail, like better boots or a good rain jacket.

32 oz. of white gas is weighed out to be sold to a crew before they head out on trek. White gas is handled and stored very carefully at Philmont because it is highly flammable. Lex Selig/PhilNews

A firm foundation in service

Suzannah Evans
Staff Writer

The blank pavers outside the Silver Sage Staff Activity Center are being replaced with pavers bearing the names of generous donors. These donors are all members of the Philmont Staff Association.

“The bricks we are laying are for our capital campaign for Philmont,” said Dollie O’Neill, Executive Director of the PSA. Activities staff members, PSA staff members, Rangers on work days, and various other staff volunteers are removing over 900 bricks and replacing those that are blank with 314 new ones.

Trip Corder, Activities Manager, was overseeing the event.

“The idea is [that] anybody who has time and wants to help, can,” said Corder of the volunteering staff members.

Corder expressed his excitement for staff members to have a special connection to the porch.

“It’s easy to see the bricks and have no idea how they got there,” said Corder.

These 314 new bricks carry the name of the donor(s) and “C4P” which stands for “Campaign for Philmont.”

Those whose names appear on the bricks donated $350 or more to the Philmont Capital Campaign. This campaign lasted from 2011-2013. The proceeds went to Philmont improvements, from the new Philmont Training Center bathrooms to Backcountry furniture.

The PSA has been around for 40 years, and over the last several years, they have raised $2.5 million for Philmont improvements. The PSA is now involved in a new campaign.

“The Philmont Staff Association is raising money for the Building Home Seton Museum & PSA New Office Building,” said O’Neill.

The bricks for the Campaign for Philmont are ready to be set into the new SSSAC porch by volunteers on June 17, 2016. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Dollie O’Neill, Executive Director of the PSA, sets out the new bricks Friday, June 17, 2016 on the porch at the SSSAC. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Will Dugger, Ranger, removes a brick Friday, June 17, 2016 from the porch at the SSSAC. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Tek Kreidler, left, and Will Dugger, right, remove old bricks Friday, June 17, 2016 from the porch at the SSSAC. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Samuel Largent uses a fitting guide to help find the pack best suited for Kenneth Storm before he goes on trek. Fitting a pack properly is essential to the comfort and performance of the crew member. Lex Selig/PhilNews

Will Dugger, Ranger, removes a brick Friday, June 17, 2016 from the porch at the SSSAC. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Dollie O’Neill, Executive Director of the PSA, sets out the new bricks Friday, June 17, 2016 on the porch at the SSSAC. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Tek Kreidler, left, and Will Dugger, right, remove old bricks Friday, June 17, 2016 from the porch at the SSSAC. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Samuel Largent uses a fitting guide to help find the pack best suited for Kenneth Storm before he goes on trek. Fitting a pack properly is essential to the comfort and performance of the crew member. Lex Selig/PhilNews
**Thoughtfulness**

Mark Anderson
Director of Program

“We are thoughtful in all we do.”

What does the word “thoughtfulness” mean?

- Occupied with or given to thought; contemplative; meditative; reflective:
- Characterized by or manifesting careful thought:
- Careful, heedful, or mindful;
- Showing consideration for others. Attentive.

Thoughtfulness implies a concern for comfort and the good of others. It implies providing little attentions, offering services, or in some way looking out for the comfort or welfare of others. It implies sparing others annoyance or discomfort and being careful not to hurt their feelings.

“We are thoughtful in all we do.”

By thinking about this we can realize the need to develop the invaluable habit of considering that no action of ours is without consequences for others and anticipating what those consequences could be.

I ask you to adopt the concept, “We are thoughtful in all we do” on a personal basis. I would also encourage you to adopt it as one of the important values of your team here at Philmont.

The quality of our time here at Philmont Scout Ranch this summer requires that we act upon our ability to relate and connect with those around us.

Theodore Roosevelt said, “The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.” Through our action, by being thoughtful in all we do, we can enhance each person’s experience.

---

**Philmont and Beyond: Upcoming career events**

Eric Martinez
Associate Director of Program

Thank you for your hard work so far in the summer! It is exciting to see the summer taking shape and to hear all the positive feedback from the crews. As the summer progresses and you start looking at what comes next, I wanted to let you know of a few special career events to aid in your “what’s after Philmont?” search.

Firstly, as mentioned earlier in the season, we are conducting Recruiting & Resume Workshops this summer to help you recruit your friends to work out here next year and to help you write a great resume to assist in your job search and to help you write a great resume to assist in your job search.

The last career event is the Winter Job Fair. Ski and snowboard resorts from New Mexico and Colorado will be present in the Silver Sage Staff Activities Center on August 2 from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and on August 3 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to network with resorts if you are interested in working in the ski and hospitality industry this winter.

Thank you again for all the great work you are doing this summer and let’s keep delivering wilderness and learning adventures that last a lifetime!
Games drawn by Cassidy Johnson
Learning from the best

Suzannah Evans
Staff Writer

Scouts may expect to spend most of their time at Philmont hiking and climbing the Rocky Mountains, however, they will descend these hills with so much more. From learning how to lead their crews, to practicing safe bear procedures, Scouts leave the Ranch more mature and knowledgeable than when they came. With this newfound knowledge and maturity, they are able to positively impact their communities back home.

One way in which Scouts may find themselves enriched is by partaking in the Visiting Foresters’ program. Scouts will learn how to care for the forests around them and will gain respect and admiration for the trees and wildlife through which they are walking.

Additionally, they will learn how to prevent forest fires and how to check the health and age of trees. Scouts will especially enjoy finding the age of a live tree by using an increment borer.

Between Hunting Lodge and Clarks Fork lies the 40 acre Demonstration Forest. Every summer, visiting Foresters come and educate Scouts and participants on how to better preserve and protect the forests around them.

The Demonstration Forest was started by the American Tree Farm Organization.

Each pair of Foresters stays for a week at a time. During this period, they stay at the nearby Hunting Lodge.

This past week, two Foresters from Missouri enlightened Scouts on Forestry Management.

Greg Hoss and Rick Thom are retired from their positions in the Missouri Department of Conservation, but they decided to return to Philmont for their fifth and fourth year, respectively, as volunteers. In the late 1960’s Thom was a Staff Member at Philmont while Hoss was a Camper.

Visiting Foresters, such as Hoss and Thom, spend anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes educating Scouts partaking in any of the 21 out of 35 treks that offer the Demonstration Forest on the itinerary.

“We let the Scouts know that they control the time,” said Thom.

Some Crews are able to spend more or less time at the Foresters’ station depending on how much time they have. Crews might choose to walk through the Forest and learn different forest management techniques from the educational boards that are displayed throughout.

Hoss spent 40 years fighting forest fires. His aim is to help Scouts learn how to care for the forests they visit and how to prevent forest fires.

Hoss stated that it was probable that the forests of today look very different than they did when the miners first arrived.

“This is not how this forest naturally would have looked when the miners showed up,” said Hoss.

Over the years, because of human disturbance, trees have grown closer together, causing fires to gain quicker traction.

“The fires used to be a real mosaic, now they are pretty devastating,” said Hoss.

Hoss talked about how, despite the fact that it might take years, forests do recover. Additionally, over the years, new conservation methods and theories have been utilized. He said that there are certain management techniques that were once thought of as bad, but are now seen as beneficial.

“We’ve let the forests go for so long, thinking that cutting and burning was bad, and now we are finding out that we should have cut and burned [some more of the forest.]”

Hoss explained that prescribed burning and cutting can help preserve the forest so that future generations can enjoy it as we do today.
A member of Troop 101 from Ohio bats off the "tee" during a game of Loggerball at Pueblano on Wednesday, June 15, 2016. Skyler Ballard/PhilNews

Caleb Peurifoy relaxes in the grass at the PTC Thursday, June 16, 2016 prior to embarking on a day hike with his fellow Deputies. The Deputies are a group of 8-10 year old boys who participate in Cub Scout-level activities through the Philmont Training Center. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews

Participants from Springfield, Missouri sit inside the living room of Hunting Lodge where every night the staff have a relaxed evening program of music and trail stories around the fireplace. Clay Helfrick/PhilNews

Below: Jaclyn Christianson, PTC Pony Wrangler, assists 10-year-old PTC participant, Andrew, with his helmet before his pony ride. Andrew and the other kids in his group will also have another chance to interact with the animals at PTC later in the week. Clay Helfrick/PhilNews

Below: Clarks Fork Camp Director Justin Kernes speaks to the camp participants during the camp's campfire on Tuesday, June 16, 2014. Drew Castellaw/PhilNews

Beaubien Wrangler Andrew Banken sits on the porch of the Wrangler's cabin overlooking the Beaubien meadow. Skyler Ballard/PhilNews