From the Arch to OATC

Andrew Kliewer
Staff Writer

As tired Scouts hike down from Baldy Mountain, oftentimes the first staffed camp they hit is Baldy Town. An oasis in the wilderness with its commissary, potable water and showers, the camp is crowded every afternoon with crews seeking food, water and rest before they continue on their trek. Amid all of the bustle, it is oftentimes easy to overlook several broken concrete slabs and rusted metal sheets scattered around the aspen-covered hills. While only seen in passing by many, these artifacts offer important insight into a past settlement that was even livelier than the Baldy Town of today.

Over a century ago, the same Model-T’s that currently sit rusting in Baldy Town could be seen racing up the side of the mountain on freshly built roads. With a peak population of over 2,000, the Baldy Town of that era was bursting at its seams with miners seeking their chance at fortune in the 36 miles of tunnels that snaked under Baldy Mountain. By the end of mining operations in the 1920s, more than $7 million in mineral deposits, mostly copper and gold, were unearthed.

More than neighbors
Andrew Kliewer
Staff Writer

As the radio crackles to life, staffers often will hear a familiar voice behind the static. Whether coordinating rides, inquiring on the locations of backcountry vehicles, or assisting with missing equipment, Unit 41 has been a consistent radio presence across the Ranch for the past 33 years. While Gene Schnell, or “Unit 41,” may be best known for his incredible legacy at Philmont, his work in Scouting stretches back over half a century, and his impact has reached Scouts all across the country.

Gene’s first introduction to Scouting came as a teenager, when he joined a troop in the St. Louis area. He soon earned his Eagle and was inducted two years later into the Shawnee Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, receiving his Brotherhood the following year. After graduating from college, Gene served as the Dean of Students and track coach at Trinity Catholic High School in St. Louis. Wanting to give back to an organization that shaped his youth, Gene also worked for 18 summers at Greater St. Louis Council camps. His experience there allowed him to see the impact that Scouting had on successive generations of youth.

“I recognized the value of Scouting and how it helped young adults grow,” Gene said. “And being active in the community,

It all STEMs from here
Elizabeth Harper
Staff Writer

A group of Scouts from across the country made their way down the rocky path that leads from Baldy Town to Miranda. Two staff members accompanied them, making it apparent that the crew was on an Individual Trek. From their outward appearances, however, it was not immediately clear what Individual Trek the crew was a part of.

“Let’s stop here for a minute,” said Ranger Chase Anderson, indicating a little clearing on the side of the trail that overlooked a section of Ute Creek.

The crew came to a halt and looked at the area around them. The ground where they stood was flat and dusty, but the banks of the creek were black and rocky.

“What do you think made the ground like this?” STEM Educator Alex Bernard asked the crew.

After a few guesses, one Scout had the answer. Back when there were lots of active mines in the area, miners dumped the minerals they couldn’t use outside, leading to the ground now seen by the crew.

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July 2017

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Things to do at the SSSAC

Brat Day
On all days that end in “O” (e.g. June 20, July 10), the staff dining hall closes and bratwursts, hamburgers, kielbasa, and veggie burgers are grilled in the Baldy Pagrillion (next to Baldy Pavilion). The soda machine in the SSSAC kitchen is turned on, and ice cream is served in Baldy Pavilion. Live music is provided by Activities staff and other staff departments – let the Activities staff know if you’re interested in playing!

2nd Breakfast
If you’re hungry between 8:30 and 10:30am on any day that ends in “3” or “7” (e.g. June 13, July 17), stop by the SSSAC kitchen for some pancakes and juice.

Music Jam Night
If you play an instrument, sing, or enjoy listening to spontaneous music-making, come join us on the SSSAC porch on all days that end in “5” (e.g. June 15, July 5) for an informal jam session. All are welcome. We will start at 8pm to respect chapel services.

Looking for some pointers on how to stay your healthiest self while at Philmont?

Keep an eye out for articles written by Kansas University Medical Students.
The Ranger Mile

Spencer Dennis
Ranger Trainer

When crews arrive at Philmont on day one, it is safe to say the experience can be a bit overwhelming. Especially if this is a crew’s first time at Philmont meeting their Ranger a diving immediately into base camp procedures can prove to be a test of their attention spans. Therefore, it is the job of the Ranger to ensure the crew has a comfortable and efficient base camp experience.

While a majority of base camp procedures involve showing up at a particular location during an assigned time, there are several tasks on the Base Camp Routing card which Rangers can complete at any time. Specifically, the crew’s gear shakedown allows for the most flexibility time-wise and has proven to be difficult to execute effectively. Oftentimes crews can be seen doing off during this time, and not fully engaged in this process can cause participants and advisors to miss out on information which makes their time on the trail more enjoyable.

In order to make the shakedown more effective for your crews, here are a few tips to ensure your participants are more immersed in the process:

1. Make your presentation more interactive. As outdoor educators, it is your job to keep your crew members’ attention long enough to properly cover all information necessary to ensure they are prepared for the trail to help with this, incorporate interactive elements to your shakdowns. One good way to do this is to bring your own pack and participate in the shakedown with them. You can also have them practice packing and fitting backpacks with each other, and walk among them fielding questions as you go. Any way you can get the participants up and moving will make them more attentive throughout the process.

2. Work on your oral presentation skills. The way you present the material is just as important as the material you are presenting. If you are struggling to field questions from advisors about certain pieces of gear or cannot explain why items should or should not be taken on the trail, take time to read through the gear checklist in your Ranger Fieldbook in-depth. The more knowledgeable you are on the material the more confident you will be when presenting it. Likewise, be conscious of your volume and tone. Altering your volume and tone throughout the presentation will help keep your crew engaged and alert while also placing emphasis on gear that is more crucial.

3. Accurately offer suggestions. Oftentimes, coming to Philmont will be several of the participants’ first experience backpacking. Offering suggestions based on personal experiences is a good way to invest in the crew’s experience as a whole. Add stories about what gear works for you and what did not work so well. This will make the presentation feel more personal and less monotonous than merely reading a list.

4. Stick to the list! While it is encouraged to put your own personal twist on your shakedown, it is equally as important to not stray too far from the list of gear provided in the 2017 Guidebook to Adventure. Not covering items on the provided list will likely lead to a barrage of confused questions from advisors, who have been using the list for reference on how to pack their bags long before heading to Philmont.

Shakdowns are a key part of a crew’s base camp experience. Making sure they have to appropriate gear before hitting the trail is vital to the comfort and success of their entire trek! For more information on how to effectively conduct a shakedown, come to the RO and talk to an RT.

How much is too much water

Nikki Miller
KU Medical Student

As you hike into a trail camp on a beautiful, sunny afternoon, you start to feel nauseous, sense a slight headache, and feel fatigued. You are extremely thirsty and as you get out your water bottle, you suddenly realize you have only drank 1 liter of water today. Not near enough hydration for your 4-hour hike. Then you realize that you have not urinated since this morning and even when you urinated this morning, your urine was dark yellow. These are all signs of dehydration.

Water makes up about 60% of body weight and it is important and vital to the body’s function. Water helps carry nutrients to cells, maintains body temperature, protects tissues, and eliminates toxins and waste through urine, sweat and bowel movements. According to the Institute of Medicine men should drink at least 3 liters of fluid daily and women should drink 2.2 liters of fluid daily. It is recommended that you drink an extra half of a liter of water for every hour of activity. According to the Institute of Medicine, you should also drink an extra 1 liter of water daily when at high altitude (above 8,000 ft). For example, if you are a male hiking for 4 hours at a high altitude, you should be drinking at least 6 liters of fluid on that day.

One way you can determine your hydration status on the trail is by examining your urine. If you are adequately hydrated, you should have clear to light yellow urine. The darker your urine becomes, the more dehydrated you are. You should also look for other symptoms of dehydration such as thirst, nausea, headaches, and fatigue. Dehydration is common, but can be avoided with proper hydration. Be prepared each day and drink enough water and electrolyte enhanced drinks to prevent dehydration from happening to you. Mild dehydration can be treated by stopping your activity, resting, getting out of sunlight, removing extras clothing, and drinking water or electrolyte enhances drinks to rehydrate.

So how much is too much water? While it is important to drink enough water, drinking too much water can be dangerous. It can cause your sodium levels to drop which leads to weakness, nausea, vomiting, and confusion. This usually occurs after prolonged physical activity. Risk factors include high water intake, long endurance activities, very low body mass index, very high body mass index, long-term NSAID use, and diuretic medication use. NSAIDs and some diuretics can increase antidiuretic hormone and cause your body to decrease water excretion, causing low sodium levels or hyponatremia.

According to the Wilderness Medical Society, people with normal renal function should be able to excrete at least 1 liter per hour of fluid before developing water retention and hyponatremia depending on their body weight and size. Prevention of exercise-associated hyponatremia includes avoiding overhydration with water. According to Thermal and Mountain Medicine, water consumption should never exceed 11 liters per day. People who are at high risk should drink according to thirst. There is little evidence that drinking electrolyte enhanced beverages helps prevent hyponatremia, but if might delay the onset of hyponatremia.

In conclusion, be prepared with proper amounts of water for each day. Be mindful of the amount of activity that you will be doing on that particular day, so you know how much fluids you should be consuming. Be aware of the signs and symptoms of dehydration or hyponatremia so you can prevent yourself or a crew member from becoming ill. Here is some simple advice: Be prepared. Be mindful. Be aware. And keep hydrated.

Mark’s Minute: HOME!

Mark Anderson
Director of Program

The summer continues to roll along at an amazing speed. Crews and families come and go as they take part in one of the programs at the Ranch.

At the Opening Campfire in base camp the other night one of the songs that was shared by the staff included the phrase “these are the hills that I call home!” Each of us have had a chance to experience many adventures with new friends during out time together. Indeed, we are fortunate to be able to call this “pile of rocks” our summer HOME.

A few nights ago, at Crater Lake, the staff were sharing their stories. A couple of comments that were expressed by the staff included: “You will find yourself where you belong” and “savor the time, savor the moment.” I hope you feel like me that we have all found a place where we belong.

This past week, we welcomed many former staff members who participated in the Philmont Staff Association Annual Reunion. This coming week five crews of PSA members will take part in seven-day PSA Treks, hiking in different parts of the Ranch. To those that have come before us, we have had and will have a great chance to welcome them HOME. Just like us, they have “savored the time and savored the moment” and now have a chance to share their memories with us and with their friends.

I encourage each of you to enjoy every moment of the rest of your Summer by sharing the many opportunities and experiences available throughout the Ranch with your Philmont Family… “these hills that I call home!”
to the buildup of mineral deposits and rock that had been affected by the chemicals used in mining. The crew noted also that the trees in the area were fairly young compared to the centennials that grew further up the hillside.

“Let’s take some samples of the soil and water, and we can test them later tonight,” suggested Bernard.

The Scouts helped to collect several samples and label them before getting back on the trail.

The STEM trek is full of opportunities like that one. Though the 12-day trek already incorporates a dozen lessons on a wide array of STEM topics, there are many places where the Scouts or staff will see something interesting and stop the crew to look at and discuss it.

“There are some things we know we’re going to do at certain places, and then sometimes we stop and talk about stuff because we think of or see something,” explained Bernard.

While on the trail, the crew also stopped to examine some mining equipment and to look for salamanders in a pond. Between the planned lessons and the impromptu ones, the members of the STEM trek learned a lot in their time on the trail.

“It’s been great,” said Ben Brandeis from Troop 17 in Allison Park, Pennsylvania. “There’s been such a wide variety in lessons, and it hasn’t just been STEM related. We’ve gotten to learn about the history of Philmont too, which is amazing. We talk about machine parts and old mining operations and I find it to be really interesting.”

Some of the Scouts are already familiar with some of the lesson topics, while others are completely new to them. Certain topics also come up more than once, with the crew discussing the physics of atlatls at Indian Writings, as well as the physics of black powder rifles at Miranda.

“We did some physics. We were using sine, cosine and tangent, and I haven’t used those much,” said Jamason Petree from Troop 35 in North Canton, Ohio. “That was cool that we got introduced to it.”

That evening at Maxwell trail camp, the crew gathered to look at the soil and water samples they had collected throughout the day. They passed around the canisters of soil and tried to match the color of the soil to the different soil colors in a guidebook.

“My favorite part was the soil science. I knew that soil had acidity and alkalinity and other properties to it but I didn’t know all the specifics that we learned,” said Michael Cummings, from Troop 61 in Arden, North Carolina. “That was cool, learning that soil has more to it than I thought.”

They also used test strips to test the pH and alkalinity of their water samples and record them. The water that they collected from near the mining deposits had a higher pH than the water they collected from further upstream, the Scouts noted. They discussed different properties of water and reasons for the variation in pH.

“When we did water testing I didn’t know that the higher the temperature the lower the pH and the lower the temperature the higher the pH,” explained Nathan Hoggan from Troop 210 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. “That’s why so many fish live in low water. That was a science thing that I thought was pretty cool.”

Throughout the trek, Anderson and Bernard worked to engage the Scouts’ curiosity about the world around them and how it works.

“I’m hoping that through this memorable experience they take away some of the things they learned here. Their favorite subject, whether it’s about geology going down in the mines or the forestry and measuring trees or the physics involved whenever they’re shooting guns, I hope they pursue that,” said Anderson.

In the process of encouraging them to explore their interests in STEM, they also hope the Scouts will consider taking their interest to the next level and studying a STEM field in college.

“I want to inspire them to pursue something in a STEM field because I think that that’s really rewarding, to solve problems using science, as a career choice,” said Bernard.

By the end of the trek, the Scouts leave Philmont with a better understanding of what STEM encompasses and how STEM fields affect their everyday lives, both at Philmont and at home.

On July 20, 2017, STEM trek 7210-ST2 stops at the top of Head of Dean to use several forestry tools to find the heights of trees and basal density of this patch of forest. Mt. baldy peaks out from behind the trees. Shane Mrozek/PhilNews

STEM trek Ranger Alex Bernard holds a special puck that he and Ranger Chase Anderson made as a reward for their “STEMolympics” which was held on the last day of their trek. Although it was not part of the normal itinerary for the special trek, the Rangers wanted to do something new and fun for their scouts. Shane Mrozek/PhilNews

Following page spread: Recently, PhilNews Photographer, Evan Mattingly, headed out to North Country to gather information and inspiration for a collection of photos and poetry. Mattingly’s work tells the story of the breadth of history existing between Metcalf Station and Indian Writings. Each of the camps in the Ponil Canyon feature programs that are based in very different time periods. From ancient petroglyphs at Indian Writings to railroad beds at Metcalf Station, a lot of history flows through the canyon. Though there is an abundance of history surrounding those involved with Philmont, the past still connects us, and reminds us of yesterday.
A Trail In Sight

I stand in front of the all seeing tree,
Without a lens or pupil set in place.
The vision is clear and the voice is free.
Brown bark emulated without a face,
No nose, no ear, no way to taste the air,
Unless you open your mind to what’s next.
That is unknown but in likeness still fair,
Until the trail is done and at its rest.
Now days and short nights the canyon lays still,
Two thousand years of history lay here,
Mountain lions and skunks roam up the hill.
Symbols of life so the wild have no fear.
The past is knowledge to help the present.
On the journey to ascent their ascent.

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deposits, mostly copper and gold, had been taken from Baldy.

“The original discovery was Native Americans who were bringing down these green rocks with copper ore,” Visiting Geologist Gordon Stuart said. “And then the short story is [miners] found gold in the streams. Gold is more interesting than copper so it led to quite a gold rush in the area.”

After miners woke up in Baldy Town, they would make their way to one of several mines, the largest being the Aztec-Ponil One Mine to the north. Today, Scouts can tour one area of that mine as part of the program at French Henry, a staffed camp nestled in a nearby river valley. The mining history of the area is front and center in the program at French Henry, which is named after Henry Buruel, an explorer who discovered gold in the area. Beyond the mine tour, staff clad in interpretive clothing lead Scouts in blacksmithing and gold panning. Participants also learn more about the historical relationship between Baldy Town and French Henry.

“Baldy Town was the area where miners would stay and sleep whenever they were working in our mines,” French Henry Program Counselor Abby Sharpe said. “They also had the Aztec Mill that we used. That was created by the company that owned it in 1922 to process their gold and make it pure because gold ore isn’t actually valuable.”

While the mining operation was closed long ago, the relationship between Baldy Town and French Henry remains just as strong as it was a century ago. Since most Scouts climbing Baldy will pass through both, the camps combine efforts to give participants an immersive historical experience. Even though Baldy Town isn’t an interpretive camp, crews can still do an assaying program where they learn the chemical process to determine the parts per million of gold in a certain rock. This allows them to see some of the practical uses of the history from French Henry.

“We give them the old history, and we show them what it was and what happened here,” French Henry Camp Director Rachel Cordeiro said. “And then Baldy Town can bring it full circle and say this is how we’re taking that information and showing it to you now.”

Beyond the historical and program aspects of their relationship, the two camps have become close socially. In 2015, when Cordeiro was a Program Counselor at French Henry, current Baldy Town Camp Director Katie Krzyvon was a Program Counselor at Baldy Town. This meant that from the beginning of this season, both camps have had a close connection that has strengthened throughout the summer. When French Henry needed to test their programs before Scouts arrived, they turned to the staff at Baldy Town, who were more than happy to hike over. Both camps have also assisted each other’s Hasty Teams and provided food afterwards. The level of cooperation between the two camps has created a bond that will likely last even after staffers pack up at the end of the summer.

“I love French Henry,” Baldy Town Program Counselor David Hamilton said. “History wise we’re related, and just by being next to each other and having to deal with people on Baldy all the time we get along swimmingly.”
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Challenges and growth

Elizabeth Harper
Staff Writer

Four blindfolded Scouts walked slowly through a field, led by their non-blindfolded crew members. It’s not unusual to see crews doing that or similar things at Head of Dean, one of three Philmont camps where crews can participate in a Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE).

COPE is a program created by the Boy Scouts of America to challenge groups of Scouts both individually and as a team. The program involves group initiative games, trust events, and challenge courses. At Philmont, the program focuses on teamwork and getting crews to be the best and most efficient team that they can be.

There are many different ways to reach that goal, and that’s where the staff comes in. Staff members adjust which challenge course elements are used for each crew to fit that crew’s group dynamics and needs.

“Try and highlight a couple of things that they’re doing well and then highlight a couple of key things that they can really improve on,” explained Program Counselor Alex Handel.

The eight goals of COPE are teamwork, trust, planning, problem solving, leadership, decision making, self esteem, and communication. Each crew has to figure out how to tackle whatever challenge is put before them by keeping those goals in mind. The goal in the bigger picture, is for the crew to take those skills with them and use them on the trail.

“I think COPE is probably one of the most valuable programs that Philmont offers,” said Program Counselor Alex Handel. “Because in a lot of ways it is something that helps make the rest of their experience at Philmont better.”

On the COPE course there are different structures, called elements, that can be used to challenge crews in different ways. One of the elements is a 12-foot wall that crews have to work together to lift each other over. Another is a rope swing between two small wooden platforms. Yet another looks like a large spiderweb made out of rope where the goal is to pass each individual through without touching the lines.

“COPE is so diverse, you can do a lot. I can change the story on each element and make it different for each crew,” explained Program Counselor Jackson Graydon.

Graydon took one crew to the whale watcher, a large platform that has a log underneath the center of it, making the element a lot like a seesaw. The crew was told they were on a boat, and instructed to count all the fish from each corner of the boat. If the platform made contact with the ground, however, someone had fallen overboard and the entire group would have to start over. The crew worked together to balance as a Scout traveled to each corner of the platform.

Once the crew completes a challenge, they gather to discuss their strengths and weaknesses and to talk about how they completed the challenge.

“I always do practical application, that’s one of my big questions. How can you guys use this? I ask each crew for examples. Because something as simple as setting up camp takes a lot of teamwork and communication and planning,” said Graydon.

The Scouts are given the chance to give constructive feedback to each other about what went well and what COPE goals they still need to improve on. They also discuss ways they can use their strengths to help each other on the trail.

“I like COPE, I think it’s fun,” said Jamison Petree from Troop 35 in North Canton, Ohio. “I like the meaning behind it, too. If you know how to lead a group and lead a group through a challenge, that will help you next time you need to lead. And improving communication just helps better the team.”

Once the Scouts take a step back and look at their strengths and weaknesses, it’s up to them to take those skills they’ve learned and use them going forward. COPE sessions at Head of Dean last 30 minutes, an hour or an hour and a half, but even in a short time the Scouts start to become aware of their crew dynamics.

“[Learning] communication has been a big help,” said Ben Brandeis from Troop 17 in Allison Park, Pennsylvania. “We need to tell each other when we’re not comfortable with things, when we think we should stop with something, when something’s really funny and we want people to elaborate or when we want to learn more from someone.”

COPE participants pull each other up the wall at Dan Beard’s challenge course. Philmont’s COPE courses teach Scouts practical applications about teamwork and communication.

By the time they leave Head of Dean, crews are ready to continue improving their teamwork skills and to work toward using the eight goals of COPE for the remaining days of their trek.

Continued from page one: From the Arch to OATC

the job] was a perfect fit.”

In 1985, Gene spent his first summer working at Philmont as training center director of the Training Center. When Philmont found a permanent candidate, Gene was offered a job across the road as Director of Outfitting Services. After five years in Outfitting, Gene was a Backcountry manager for 18 summers. It was there that he gained his famous Unit 41 call sign and became as much a part of the Philmont legend and experience as the mountains he loved to hike through. In addition, Gene served as an advisor to the founders of the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew program, where Scouts can learn conservation techniques and spend a week helping build trails for Philmont.

“I was part of the team that organized the Order of the Arrow Trail Crew, and I’ve been the advisor for the last 23 years,” Gene said. “Meanwhile I’ve watched it grow from day one to the present.”

Lesser known to many are Gene’s adventures outside of Philmont. He served as a survival instructor for the Canadian Park Service, teaching others how to survive harsh wilderness conditions. Gene’s love of backpacking also brought him to many other locations across both the United States and Canada.

“I did a lot of education and engineering work in the Park System so I know the Grand Canyon as well as I know Philmont,” he said. “And I’ve backpacked most of the big parks in Canada, including Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay and Banff.”

This past May, Gene was honored for his distinguished career in Scouting when he received the Silver Antelope award for the Central Region. Beyond the accolades he has earned, one of the biggest testaments to Gene’s service can be seen in the line of staff who show up at 7:45 every morning, waiting for Gene to find them rides in his current role as Backcountry Distribution and Support Manager. These staffers know that they can depend on Gene, and he views the relationships he has formed with them and the broader Philmont community as the best part about his time at the Ranch.

“My favorite part about working at Philmont is you’re with people who share the same values,” he said. “And that’s the big thing, that you can help young adults grow.”
Chaplain’s Corner: A Microcosm

Chaplain Bill McCleery
Protestant Chaplain

As Philmont chaplains, we try to help Trekkers visualize their crews as a microcosm or small world. Everything they experience during their Trek is a small scale version of the larger world... the highs and lows, the good and bad, the conflicts with other people, the physical and mental challenges...all of this and more. The skills they acquire in order to make their crew’s “little world” a peaceful and just place to be are the exact same skills required for a peaceful and just world at large...learning to compromise, respecting the differences of others, bearing one another's burdens, servant leadership, making do with limited resources, growing in body, mind and spirit. We help them to understand that the Trek is not about competition, but rather completion. It is not an individual experience, but rather a group experience. The goal is for everyone to make it... the slow, inexperienced hiker, as well as, the seasoned veteran hiker. We suggest to them that the Philmont experience is far more than just a physical challenge. Yes, it will require them to push themselves further than they ever have, but it is also an opportunity to grow spiritually. Whatever their experience of God has been before Philmont, it will be greatly enhanced on the trail. Whatever their experience of God has been before Philmont, it will be greatly enhanced on the trail. They will experience God in new ways... in the awesome beauty of God’s creation...in each other...in the daily devotions from the Eagles Soaring High booklet...in the inspiring words of the Philmont Hymn...in the glowing ember of a campfire...or perhaps in the words or actions of a chaplain or chaplain-aide. The small world, microcosm, known as the Philmont crew, is a crucible for producing the kind of leaders our world needs so desperately...leaders who live their lives according to the ideals and principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

Meet the Chaplains

Father Don Hummel, Catholic Chaplain

Rev. Donald K. Hummel was ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest for the Archdiocese of Newark (NJ) in 1978. Prior to entering the seminary, he worked as a high school teacher while pursuing a graduate degree in Psychology and Counseling.

During his priesthood, Father Don has served in a variety of assignments in Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Westfield and as a pastor in Scotch Plains (all New Jersey). He has also served in high school ministry, in the Chancery as Director of Ongoing Formation and Continuing Education of Priests. He is currently serving as Chaplain and teacher at Paramus Catholic High School in Paramus, N.J. (he is grateful to be back in full time education since - among other things it affords him the opportunity to continue serving as a Philmont Chaplain - 2017 is his 26th consecutive year- and he considers the Ranch as Phamily!

His education includes a BA (Providence College, Rhode Island), MA (Montclair State University, New Jersey), M.Div. (Immaculate Conception Seminary, New Jersey), D.Min. (St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore Maryland). Additionally, he has several certifications - Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy, Pastoral Addictions Counseling and Thanatology. His is also a certified Master Police Chaplain and certified Law Enforcement Instructor (New Jersey). He serves as a Chaplain to Law Enforcement, Fire Service and Emergency Management agencies.

Father Don is a “lifer” in the BSA, having been registered for 59 years. He is an Eagle Scout (1965), OA Vigil, 4-bead Wood Badge and has received a number of recognitions including District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Distinguished Eagle Scout and Silver Buffalo. He is a past National Chaplain for the NCCS, which has recognized him with a number of awards including the Silver St. George and Br. Barnabas Founders’ Award. He also recieved the Shofar Award from the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. He has served as as Chaplain at 4 National Jamborees, And 1 World Jamboree (England 2007-Scouting’s 100th anniversary), is currently on 2 Council Executive Boards, the Northeast Region Executive Board and several National BSA Task Forces/ Committees. He has held most leadership positions in the BSA (except Cubmaster!) but Philmont Chaplain is by far his favorite!!!

Last summer he was presented with the Silver Sage Award by the Philmont Staff Association and recently at the National BSA meeting was awarded the National Duty to God Award being he is only the 3rd person approved for this prestigious recognition.

Outside of Church and Scouting activities, Father Don serves as Chaplain to several “lineage” societies - Society of Colonial Wars, Sons of the American Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Military Order of Foreign Wars of the US. He is an Ecclesiastical Knight of Grace in the Sacred Constantinian Order of St. George and currently serves on the International Catholic Scouting Foundation. He has served on boards with local community assistance, councils on alcoholism and drug abuse and the American Cancer Society. He enjoys sports, theater, good books and good people. When Father Don is at Philmont, he is not always quiet since he loves music and has been known to sing without much coaxing!

Father Don considers himself blessed to be back once again in God’s Country (HOmE) and looks forward to sharing the Philmont experience with many of you during the remainder of the season.

Is anyone not ready? HIKE ON!
Recent Baseball Standings

American League

<table>
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<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>PCT</th>
<th>GB</th>
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National League

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<td>Milwaukee Brewers</td>
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<td>71</td>
<td>.459</td>
<td>34</td>
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12:30—4:30 pm
(The 11:00 am and 4:30 pm tours are often abbreviated to accommodate meal times.)

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Projects that make a difference
• Seasonal Staff Scholarships
• Staff Amigos
• Rayado, ROCS, & STEM Scholarships
• Volunteer Vacation
• PSA Staff Dining Hall & SSSAC
• Handicap accessible bathrooms at PTC Dining Hall
• Funded early years of Cabin Restoration
• Donated dollars to flood restoration projects.
• Raising funds for new PSA building and Museum Expansion Project

Benefits of PSA Membership
• High Country
  The bimonthly magazine of the PSA containing the latest news of the ranch, activities of PSA members and news of northern New Mexico.
• Online Resources
  Give back, keep informed, and purchase PSA clothing and gear on our website www.philstaff.org
• Regional and National Reunions
  During the off season get your Philmont fix by hanging out with other PSA-ers who live in the area. Or return back to the ranch for the annual reunions.
• Membership card and sticker

Includes a year’s subscription to High Country, the PSA membership directory, all additional mailings, an open invitation to all PSA events and a vote in PSA elections.

Contact Information:

Name
Mailing Address
City, State, Zip
Email
Current Position

Previous Positions and Years

Circle which membership option you would prefer

$15.00 One year membership
$60.00 Five year membership

Method of Payment

Total Amount $________

Payroll Deduction (available until July 31) ______

Cash_____ Check_____ Visa_____ MasterCard_____ Credit Card Number_________________________________
Expiration Date_____________________________________
Name on Card______________________________________
Signature__________________________________________

Make Check payable to: Philmont Staff Association
*$60 membership will be deducted from payroll in two $30 installments.

Seasonal Membership $15.00
Above: A Crew Hikes up the side of Baldy Mountain from the Copper Park side. For many, summiting Baldy is the pinnacle of their Trek as it is both a challenging hike and provides some of the best views at Philmont since it is the tallest mountain on Philmont property, at 12,441 feet.  

Above: A Crew Hikes up the side of Baldy Mountain from the Copper Park side. For many, summiting Baldy is the pinnacle of their Trek as it is both a challenging hike and provides some of the best views at Philmont since it is the tallest mountain on Philmont property, at 12,441 feet.  

Above: Scouts ride around the ATV course at Zastrow after their Safety training lesson. Zastrow is the only camp at Philmont that offers ATVs as part of their program. Madelynne Scales/PhilNews  

Above: On July 18, 2017 ROCs Crew participants find a Western Terrestrial Garter Snake while in the North Country. Shane Mrozek/PhilNews  

Right: Crew members looks on as Buddy Snell instructs them on how to pan for gold at French Henry. Hunter Long/PhilnNews  

Above: Carina Monteleone passes the time playing a cigar-box ukulele on the porch of Baldytown. Hunter Long/PhilnNews  

Right: Nathan Hoggan fires his musket towards his bandana at the Miranda rifle range on. During STEM Trek 710-ST2’s time at Miranda, they learned about projectile physics and rotational motion. Shane Mrozek/PhilNews  

Above: Visiting geologist Gordon Start shows STEM Trek 710-ST2 the different landforms around the Baldy Town area while Nathan Hoggan helps hold a map. Baldy Town was once home for 2,000 miners in the late 1800’s and there are still many signs of this boom town around Mt. Baldy. Shane Mrozek/PhilNews