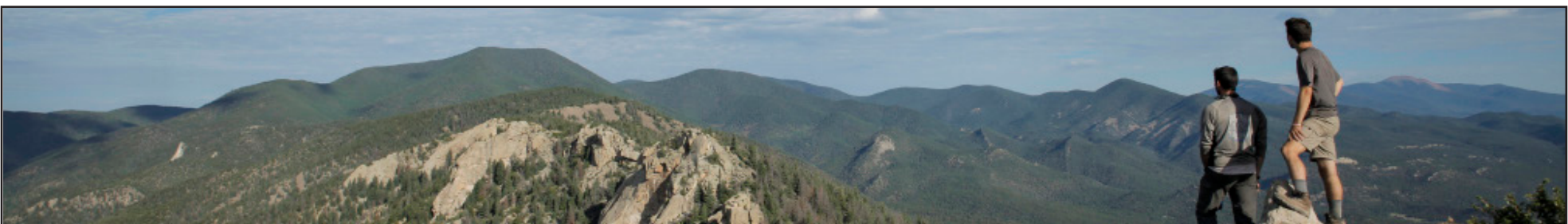


# PHILNEWS

JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

ISSUE EIGHT



Skyler Ballard/PhilNews

## Good food, great mood

**Eleanor Hasenbeck**  
Staff Writer

It takes more than food to make a meal. The staff at the Camping Headquarters Dining Hall make dining an experience. From creating competitions for Homebound crews to playing music for staff in the Philmont Staff Association's Dining Hall, they create the food and the atmosphere to make a meal something more.

The Dining Hall is a machine made of several parts. There are the front-of-house staff members, who serve meals, wash dishes and refill milk, and there are the back-of-house staffers, who work in the kitchen preparing, cooking and storing the components of every meal.

"When you say you're going to eat in a cafeteria... You're expecting just the basic concept of food, someone slapping it on a plate and telling you to go," said Alex Gonzales. "We're trying to make them feel more of a home environment... That this is not just a cafeteria. Everything that we do here is for them."

There are many ways staff go out of their way to make their time better. While participants wait, staff members ask about their trek.

**Continued on Page 3**



**Zac Stall is coached to reach for his next hand hold while climbing at Miners Park on July 21, 2016. "I think I learned that it's a lot less scary than it looks. I've overcome a bunch of fears around this like the fear of falling, the fear of heights, and trying some new stuff," explains Stall. "It's important to stay together with your crew and they'll help you through it," he said. Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews**

## Conquering fear one climb at a time

**Eleanor Hasenbeck**  
Staff Writer

Philmont is full of challenges. From climbing the western slope of Phillips to talking yourself through the last mile in the heat of the canyon's afternoon sun, here we tackle tests of mental and physical fortitude. We overcome.

At Miners Park, Scouts quickly learn there is more to rock climbing than scrambling up the cliff. It takes thought as to where to place your fingers and toes and

sometimes, encouragement from crew members.

"You get a sense of success," said Zac Stall, of Expedition 719-P1 from Coronado, California. "Just knowing that you accomplished something that you were scared of makes you feel a lot better."

Stall doesn't like heights, but after about ten minutes of what he described as "sucking it up and climbing," he found himself at the top of the rock wall.

Rock climbing at Miners Park is a challenge by choice activity.

Nobody is volunteered by others. Each participant steps up, by their own choice, to climb. Stall said knowing he would only climb if he wanted took stress away from the activity.

His crew also helped him up, updating him on his progress. They told him he looked like a monkey.

"It was funny, because I know I didn't," Stall said. "I was slipping."

A similar scene played out on the pole yard of Crater Lake.

**Continued on Page 3**

## Keep doing it better!

**Mark Anderson**  
Director of Program

Recently, I read the book "The Customer Rules" by Lee Cockerell. Mr. Cockerell was the Executive Vice President of Walt Disney World and a great leader in guiding that organization to deliver sensational service every day. The book features 39 indispensable rules for delivering customer service that keeps customers coming back for more.

**Rule # 38, "Keep Doing It Better"** struck me this week as we begin the last month of our summer operation. Each of you have learned your role in the Philmont experience and are dedicated to connecting with our participants and with each other every day.

Rule #38 encourages us to adopt the mentality of champion athletes, great artists, and visionary inventors: they never stop searching for ways to improve.

Doing it better is a never-ending process, it is a journey. You never arrive at better, it is always in the future, because there is always an even better way to serve our participants.

**Continued on Page 4**

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July 29-August 18						
Friday, 29	Saturday, 30	Sunday, 31	Monday, 1	Tuesday, 2	Wednesday, 3	Thursday, 4
<b>Philmont Olympic Event</b>  <b>Contra Dancing</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b> PhilNews Deadline  <b>Brat Day!</b> <b>Recruiting &amp; Resume Workshop</b>	<b>Olympic Event</b>  <b>8 p.m.</b> Staff photo contest awards	<b>8 p.m.</b> Tabletop Night	<b>Winter Job Fair</b>	<b>8-10 a.m.-2nd Breakfast</b> <b>Winter Job Fair</b> <b>Recruiting &amp; Resume Workshop</b> <b>8 p.m.-Dodgeball</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b> Taos Plaza Live
Friday, 5	Saturday, 6	Sunday, 7	Monday, 8	Tuesday, 9	Wednesday, 10	Thursday, 11
<b>5 p.m.</b> Olympic Opening Ceremonies <b>Red River Dulcimer Festival</b>	<b>Alabama Shakes</b> Red River Dulcimer Festival <b>Taos Ski Valley Up and Over 10K Trail Run</b>	<b>Day Hike- Tooth of Time</b>		<b>8 p.m.</b> Destress Night	<b>9 a.m.- 5 p.m.</b> Haircuts in SSSAC (\$15)  <b>Brat Day!</b>	<b>8-10 a.m.-2nd Breakfast</b> <b>6 p.m.</b> Taos Plaza Live <b>10 p.m.</b> Perseides Meteor Shower
Friday, 12	Saturday, 13	Sunday, 14	Monday, 15	Tuesday, 16	Wednesday, 17	Thursday, 18
		<b>Sundae Sunday</b>  <b>Final Opening Campfire</b>		<b>8 p.m.</b> Glow in the dark capture the flag	<b>8-10 a.m.-2nd Breakfast</b> Full Moon Williams Lake Hike <b>Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights</b>	<b>8 p.m.</b> S'mores Night <b>Taos Plaza Live</b> <b>Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights</b>

## Event Descriptions

Activities Staff

**Taos Plaza Live**

Taos Plaza Live is a summer concert series, unsurprisingly located in the Taos Plaza. Through September 1, there is a free concert every Thursday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Philmont Contra Dance at the HCC, July 29, 8 p.m.**

What is a contra dance? Well, it's similar to a square dance. Expect live music, a dance caller, food, and a good time. No partner or prior experience required--partners change each dance, and every dance is explained before it starts. Wear comfortable shoes.

**Taos Ski Valley Up and Over 10K Trail Run, August 6**

This is a challenging and scenic climb that peaks with amazing views of Kachina and Wheeler Peaks. The entry fee of \$60 includes an event shirt, handmade finisher's medal, goody bag, and a good time at the after-party. Doors: 7 a.m.; Race: 9 a.m.

**Full Moon Williams Lake Hike, August 17, 7:30 p.m.**

This is a free group hike to Williams Lake by the light of the moon. Led by the Mayor of Taos Ski Valley, the hike is 2 miles each way and moderate. Meet at 7:30PM at Hiker Parking on Twining Road, near the Bavarian Lodge in Taos Ski Valley. Bring water, warm clothes, and a flashlight.

**“Hot Chili Days, Cool Mountain Nights” Music Festival and Cook-off, August 17-20**

This four day event in Red River features live music all weekend with Larry Joe Taylor & Friends, then multiple cook-offs in Brandenburg Park on Saturday. 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 fans love this event because of the “up close and personal” concert venues and the unique access to world-class singers and songwriters.

**Submissions to the PhilNews are welcome any time!**

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 @ 5p.m.**

## Highlight Event

Activities Staff

**Red River Dulcimer Festival, August 5-6**

Don't know what a dulcimer is? Never played an instrument? Sign up for a free workshop or two at the Red River Community House and experience the fun of learning a new instrument or singing with shape notes.

The Red River Valley Dulcimer Club will teach you the basics on

hammer and/or mountain dulcimer, guitar, bowed psaltery, autoharp, mouth bow, penny whistle, and Sacred Harp singing. Loaner instruments will be available for many workshops.

Enjoy concerts and listen to the jamming out on the lawn, all for free. Come listen to traditional music of yesterday-- old time tunes from the Appalachian Mountains.

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## Continued from page one: Conquering fear one climb at a time

Frank Fugetta, an advisor for Expedition 720-Q, knew his two sons and their friends would be



**Carolyn Warner instructs a crew before their climb at Miners Park on July 21, 2016. As a staff member, Warner was introduced to rock climbing at Cimarroncito Camp, and knew she wanted to come back to a rock climbing camp. She was afraid and inexperienced at the start of the summer but now spends most days pitched atop a mountain, teaching Scouts to climb.** Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

watching. But one thing stood between him and kissing Carl and Cara, the carabiners at the top of the spar pole-- he's deathly afraid of heights. Knowing this, the boys took him to practice at an indoor rock climbing gym near their home west of New Orleans. He put on a harness and gaffs and spike by spike, he made his way up.

"You've gotta set a good example," said Fugetta. "You've got to overcome your fears, so you

just push through it."

Miners Park Program Counselor Carolyn Warner was also among the timid-- before working at Miners, she had climbed on real rock once, at Cimarroncito, with a lot of encouragement and coaching from her friends.

"Because you are scared of things, a lot of times you have to trust other people besides yourself, and realize your own ability is a lot higher than what you usually



**Zac Stall is coached by Miners Park staff as he begins to rappel after his climb on July 21, 2016. "I think I learned that it's a lot less scary than it looks. I've overcome a bunch of fears around this like the fear of falling, the fear of heights, and trying some new stuff," explains Stall. "It's important to stay together with your crew and they'll help you through it," he said.** Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

think it is," Warner said. "A lot of our Scouts say 'I can't do this. I can't do this.' We're like 'Yeah you can.'" Staff at rock and spar pole climbing camps work to calm participants, build up their confidence and coach them when they can use some help.

Warner applied to work at Miners to challenge herself. She knew she wanted to become a better climber, so she decided to make it happen by working at a

climbing camp. Today, watching her climb to the top of Betty's Bra, you can't tell that only four months ago the idea of climbing made her feel petrified. She said overcoming her fear makes her feel the same way a Scout does when they reach the crest of the rock.

"That's kind of how I feel about this summer. I was scared, and now I bought all the gear, and I am going to go get a membership of my own."



**Christian Kuchler pauses at the base of a spar pole before his climb at Crater Lake on July 22, 2016. "It was really fun, but a little scary," said Kuchler after his climb. "I think I am pretty much over my fear of heights. Usually I wouldn't try stuff like that, but now I'll try a lot of new stuff."** Gabriel Scarlett/PhilNews

## Continued from page one: Good food, great mood



**Crestina Medina and an assistant prepare pancakes for breakfast on the morning of July 21, 2016. Some foods are prepared ahead of time but others must be made on the spot.** Clay Helfrick/PhilNews

They suggest sights to see along the trail and campfires to which to look forward.

When crews return to Base, staff members are waiting with food and fun. Front-of-house staff will create competitions, cereal eating contests, egg tosses and Nerf sword jousts. Winners receive prizes ranging from extra

chicken tenders to cakes for crews. On a crew member's birthday, staff will stop what they're doing, sometimes leaping from behind the dish window, bugles, plungers and nerf swords in hand, to sing to the participant.

Dining hall staff work to keep everybody happy and well fed. They cook made to order food for

participants with uncommon food allergies. In the staff dining hall, they provide more options on the hot bar and the salad bar, as staff members might tire of a meal on the fifteen day rotation.

"We give them a lot of variety," said Swing Cook Peter Watson, who helps prep, cook and stock the hot bar. "When we have a meal that's not very popular, a lot of people will come to the other side of the line to eat. At dinner time, there's always something different from the main meal. The ice cream bar, the pizza bar, it's very popular."

It's a job that starts early and ends late. Shifts begin at 4:30 a.m. and end after the dining hall is cleaned after dinner.

"It's a stressful job," Gonzales said. "There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes that nobody sees up front."

Staff members often stay after they are scheduled to get prep work finished. Even on Brat Days, when the staff dining hall is closed, there are hundreds of participants

to feed.

"It's a great group of people that work here," said Margaret Lloyd, a member of Dining Hall staff. "They're awesome, hard workers doing a job that is frequently overlooked. You come in, sit down and enjoy your food and there's a lot of work that goes behind it. I mean that's true in any job, but I

feel it's especially true in this job."

As for making their job a little bit more cheerful, staff member Michael Brown has a simple suggestion:

"Say thank you to your dish people, or smile at them," he said. "They like smiles... One of them likes smiling at least."



**After homebound dinner at the Dining Hall on July 19, 2016 participants stand in teams of two across the floor of the dining hall for an egg toss challenge. TJ Johnson stands in the center and represents the Dining Hall staff's team.** Clay Helfrick/PhilNews



# A word from PSA: A fish turner fit for a mountain man

**Emery Corley**  
Legal Advisor-  
Philmont Staff Association

*Emery Corley is an attorney living in St. Louis, Missouri, and is currently the legal advisor to the Philmont Staff Association. He worked at Philmont from 1979 to 1983, as a Ranger, Ranger Trainer, Mountain Trek Coordinator and CD at Fish Camp (what a coincidence!). His documented interest in cooking can be found in his recipes printed in several of the Scout's series of cookbooks by Tim & Christine Conners (perhaps better known as the Lipsmackin' Backpackin' folks). Notably, none of the recipes call for a fish turner.*

My quest for an authentic connection to an American cutlery tradition, and to the westward expansion of the United States, started simply enough with a desire for a fish turner - some call it a fish spatula. I'm not sure that I really cook enough fish to merit owning a turner of such limited utility. Fortunately, the fish turner -- those in the know prefer to call

it a "turner" rather than a spatula -- is quite versatile and is capable of flipping over most anything that you might be cooking in a frying pan. The fish turner consists of a slotted and somewhat flexible blade that is about six inches long. The business end is angled and about three inches wide, usually with a beveled edge. The handle can be made of metal, plastic or wood depending on need and cost. The original idea of whomever invented the thing is that one could gently scoop up fragile cooked fish, allow any cooking liquid or oil to neatly drain through the slots, and then flip the fish over in the pan without damage for further cooking. So far, I've turned far more bacon than fish with my own personal fish turner.

A knife stamped with the words "Green River Works" looms large in the fact and mythology of the American West. A bit of research tells me that the knives were produced by J. Russell & Co. that started in business in 1834, originally making chisels and ax heads. At some point,

the company started producing knives. However, it wasn't until after 1837, that the knives were stamped with this famous slogan (and, so it appears, some knock offs as well). Whether the mountain men and fur trappers of the pre-1840 era (the cut off date for the Rocky Mountain Fur Co. historical portrayal of fur trappers at Clear Creek) were actually able to trade for knives marked "Green River Works" at a rendezvous or not, seems to be debated among those who have spent far more time on these details of history than I have.

Nonetheless, Green River Works knives were widely distributed and used with much apparent affection. Not knowing the historical connection and satisfaction that could come with owning a fish turner, I ventured into the cook's hallowed ground of Williams-Sonoma. "Might as well have the best" was my motto (also the motto of Filson -- better known for hats and outdoor wear than for cooking utensils)until I found out the price of a fish turner. "Let's

look someplace else," I thought.

My recollection of the details of my search are fuzzy - looking at a couple of department stores, maybe the dollar store and, of course, Amazon. Somewhere along the way, I came upon the website of Dexter-Russell, Inc. This company is the successor to the original J. Russell & Co., maker of the Green River Works knives, and later known as The Russell Cutlery Company. It's also the successor to The Harrington Cutlery Company that started business in 1818 and began using the "Dexter" brand in 1884. These two companies merged in 1933, becoming the Russell Harrington Cutlery Company. Then, in 2001, the company, located in Southbridge, Massachusetts, updated its name to Dexter-Russell, Inc. Who knew that a kitchen tool could have a such a pedigree?My fish turner? I recall paying more for it than Williams-Sonoma was asking. It has a stainless steel blade and a walnut handle. But, oh the stories it can tell. Priceless.


## Continued from page one: Keep doing it better!

Each of us must work with our team to look for new ideas, new methods and new ways to deliver our programs. This quest must be done every day. Once we think we have reached the pinnacle and become satisfied we immediately begin to lose our edge and we miss the opportunities that are around us and we miss connecting with each participant.

Today, ask yourself the question, "How can I do it better tomorrow?" Share this question with the other members of your team and ask, "How can we do it better?"

Dr. Seuss said, "Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!"

Together we will continue to create those special memories that last a lifetime, we will do this by striving to "keep doing it better" every day of the summer.



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# Trading Cultures

Before New Mexico was part of the United States, she served as a land of adventure and opportunity for the Mountain Men coming from out East. Here, these adventurous souls trapped beavers and sent the pelts back East. These men helped paint a captivating picture of what was known as the Wild West.

“If you’re like 15 or 16 years old in Saint Louis and you see these people, coming, dressed in all buckskin, carrying literally tons of beaver pelts... it’s like wow. These guys look good, they’re strong, they have a reputation for being fearless and adventurous, you know, I want to be that guy,” said Corey Mullins, Camp Director of Miranda.

Miranda serves Philmont as a window into what the American Frontier was like. This Backcountry Camp offers muzzle loading, rifle shooting, Tall Tale Telling, and other programs that show what life was like back in 1838.

“A mountain man is a man of the mountains. He’s trapping, hunting, living his life as free as he could be, because it’s the Frontier...These are the earliest days of the Frontier, where it there are more Native Americans than Europeans,” said Mullins.

Mullins explained that the motivation for venturing out West was not all about money. While there was definitely a financial incentive, as beaver pelts were a hot commodity, the people of the Frontier were interested in something greater than money.

“A lot of mountain men came out here for the freedom. [It’s similar] to those who go to hike the Appalachian Trail, they go out there not just to find themselves, they go out there for the freedom, for the life,” said Mullins.

This lifestyle attracted many from the East.

“It’s kind of like that romanticized story, you’re a boy out East and you hear this [lifestyle], you’re just a man who’s his own man, nothing’s really telling him what to do except



**Corey Mullins poses with a muzzle loading rifle Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at Miranda. Mullins is wearing traditional buckskin pants that would have been worn by mountain men due to their durability in rugged terrain.** Madelynne Scales/ PhilNews



**Corey Mullins grips his “Possibles bag”, a sling bag commonly used by mountain men in the 1800s to carry things when they would go out hunting. The cow horn is used to store black powder to keep it dry from rain.** Madelynne Scales/ PhilNews

nature. All you has to do is sign up with this company and you can get money, adventure and freedom,” said Mullins.

Some of these men were looking for a change from the routine lives they had been living.

“They were looking for a sense of change. A lot of guys would be farmers or city folk who were continuing in their fathers’ or grandfathers’ footsteps, they were tired of it and wanted adventure so they came out west,” said Program

Counselor Joseph Mann.

Mullins explained what comprises a Mountain Man can be broken down into three basic criterion.

“It’s a combination of freedom, money, and adventure, that’s a mountain man,” said Mullins.

Despite the stories and folklore, many learned the harsh realities of the Frontier.

“It’s not an easy life,” said Mullins.

Those who came to the Frontier

were faced with Grizzly Bears, the weather and climate, and Native American tribes.

While there was not tension between every tribe and the Mountain Men, there were certain tribes that served as a real threat. However, by being friendly and courteous, the Mountain Men were able to live in harmony with certain tribes, especially the Utes and Jicarillas.

Mountain Men were not as interested in settling down as their succeeding Cowboys were. Ranching was not a goal, rather collecting the resources and sending them back east was their main operation.

When they were out hunting, their attire was crucial.

“If a Mountain Man was out hunting, he’d have his possibles bag with all his hunting stuff and a powder horn full of powder, he’d have a patch, a ball starter and a small knife in his possibles bag,” said Mullins.

They also sported brain tanned Buckskin pants. These pants were soft, yet durable, and somewhat waterproof.

The designers of this Frontier would gather with fellow Mountain Men at Rendezvous. These events were held at commonly known locations. They would leave notes in old moccasins so as to inform others of the upcoming event.

“They had this thing called moccasin mail, an old ratty tatty moccasin would be left at a trail intersection, and they’d have notes saying ‘There’s going to be a rendezvous in the Spring at the Miranda Meadow,’” said Mullins.

These Rendezvous were not just about trading. There was also food, games, and tall tale telling. Some might even consider it the Frontier Olympics.

Though the Frontier was dominated by men, women also played an important role.

“Females played a huge part in rendezvous,” said Mullins.

Women and children would prepare the food and even took part in their own sets of games, such as Frying Pan Throwing.

At these events, the Mountain Men would be clean shaven and bathed so as to increase chances of trade.

“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 Mullins.

By adapting to the Native American customs around them, the Frontiersmen, both European and Native American, were able to collaborate and build off each other’s strengths.

Trading was crucial as it allowed for the collusion of two cultures. From wearing articles of clothing from the other culture to eating new foods, trading paved the way for the future of the Western United States.



# Chaplain Bio: Father Don Hummel

## Catholic Chaplain

Rev. Donald K. Hummel was ordained Roman Catholic Priest for the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey 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 a variety of assignments in Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Westfield and as a pastor in Scotch Plains. He has also served in high school ministry, in the Chancery as Director of Ongoing teacher at Paramus Catholic High School in Paramus, NJ. He is grateful to be back full time in education since—among other things— it affords him the opportunity to continue serving as a Philmont Chaplain. This is his 25th consecutive year, and he considers the Ranch as Phamily!

His education includes a B.A.

(Providence College, RI), M.A. (Montclair State University, NJ), M.Div. (Immaculate Conception Seminary, NJ), D.Min. (St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore, MD). Additionally, he has several certifications— Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy, Pastoral Addictions Counseling and Thanatology. He is also a certified Master Police Chaplain to Law Enforcement, Fire Service and Emergency Management agencies.

Father Don is a “Lifer” in the BSA, having been registered for 58 years. He is an Eagle Scout (1965) OA Vigil, Four-bead Woodbadger 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 has also received the

Shofar Award from the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. He has served as a Chaplain at four National Jamborees and one World Jamboree. He is currently on two 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 Clubmaster) but Philmont Chaplain is by far his favorite! He will be presented with the PSA's Silver Sage Award in the next few weeks.

Outside of Church and Scouting activities, Father Don serves as Chaplain to several “lineage” societies— Society of Society of Colonial Wars, Sons of the American Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the U.S. He is an Ecclesiastical Knight of Grace in the Sacred Constantinian Order of St. George and currently serves on the International Catholic



Skyler Ballard/PhilNews

Scouting Foundation. He has served on boards with local community assistance, councils on alcoholism and drug abuse and American Cancer Society.

He enjoys sports, theater, good books and good people. When Father Don is at Philmont, it is not always quiet since he loves music and has been known to sing without much coaxing.

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

Is anyone not ready? Hike on!

## This week's runners-up



**Andrew Schmid**  
Santa Ana, CA

“The biggest lesson I learned was that the little things we see in life can relate to global concepts or problems”

Andrew is 15 years old. He started as a Tiger Scout in first grade and moved to the Boy Scouts in fifth grade. His favorite place to hike so far has been in Havasupai, an Indian reservation in Arizona. Read Zachary's whole essay at [pulitzercenter.org/philmont](http://pulitzercenter.org/philmont)



**Zachary Englhardt**  
Palo Alto, CA

“While studying Paul Salopek's Out of Eden walk, I was struck by how much the daily challenges people face change from place to place. I think it is quite easy to fall into the trap of assuming everyone has similar priorities and needs as you do, but Salopek's milestones emphasize the importance of slowing down and understanding each person's unique situation.”

Zachary is 17 years old. He will be at Philmont from July 25 to August 7. His favorite place to hike is the Stanislaus National Forest. [pulitzercenter.org/philmont](http://pulitzercenter.org/philmont)

## Out of Eden Walk essay contest

### The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting has selected a winner and ten runners-up in its Out of Eden Walk essay contest. The winner will go on an all-expenses paid hike in Central Asia later this year with journalist and National Geographic fellow Paul Salopek.

One member of every crew coming to Philmont this summer was eligible to enter the contest, which asked Scouts to use the principles of “slow journalism”

to write about walking or hiking experiences.

“Slow journalism means taking the time to observe and record things we might otherwise miss because we're moving too fast,” said Mark Schulte, the Pulitzer Center's education director.

Along with his partners at the Pulitzer Center, a nonprofit journalism organization based in Washington, DC, Salopek has called upon Philmont to join him in practicing slow journalism. For the second year, Scouts are using blank pages in their Passport Journals to record what they

observe along their hikes, sharing these journal entries periodically at their campfires.

This year, the Pulitzer Center sponsored the essay contest, which ran until June 1 and garnered dozens of entries. The winner will join Salopek on his walking route in Asia for a unique hiking experience along the Silk Road.

The ten runners-up will be featured in the PhilNews over the summer, and the winner will be announced in August. The runner-up essays can be read at [pulitzercenter.org/philmont](http://pulitzercenter.org/philmont)

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# The Ranger Mile: Dean Skyline

**Caleb Burns**

Associate Chief Ranger

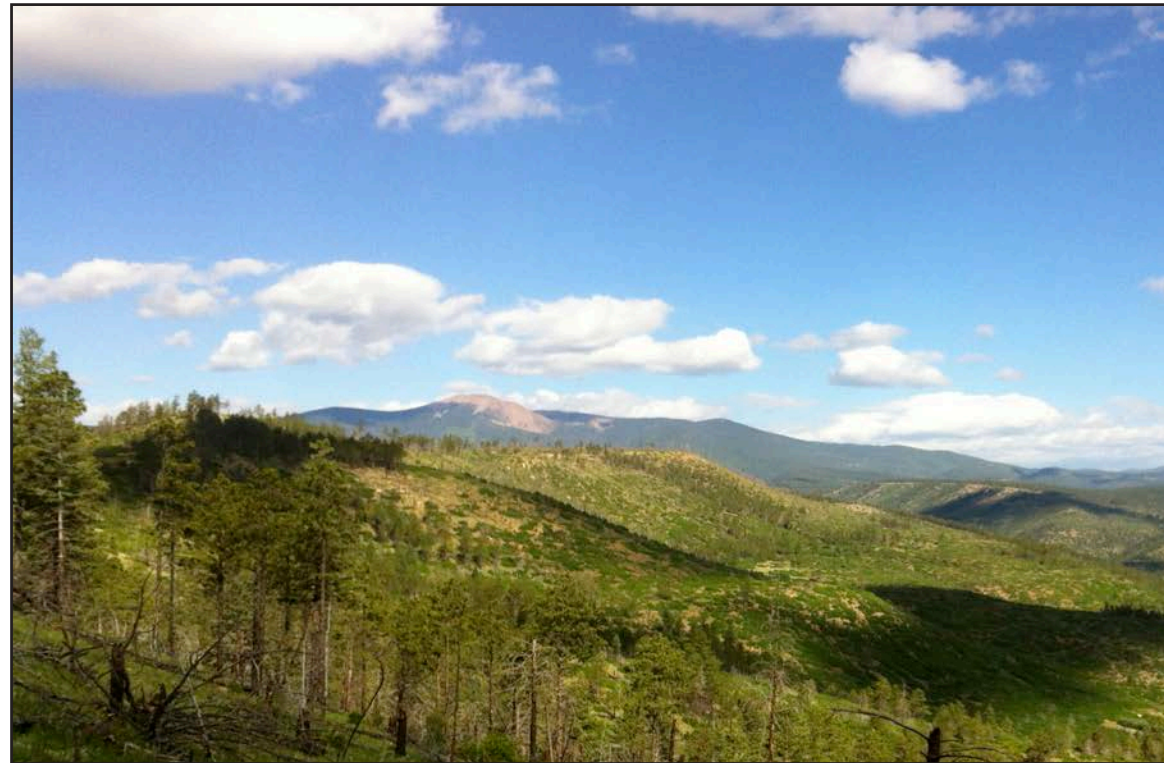
The next time you find yourself in the Baldy Region, instead of trying to catch a ride out from the Maxwell Turnaround; I recommend you hike on up to Head of Dean and then follow the road on up the hill and hike into Ponil via the Dean Skyline road.

It's a straightforward hike, but it is one of my absolute favorites. The ridge top offers up some of the best views on the Ranch. It only takes a little effort to get up there and is well worth the trip.

Once you make it up the hill from Head of Dean, the work is pretty much over, but the hike is just starting to get interesting. The ridge top is very open and sunny, but there is usually a good breeze so you stay reasonably cool while you hike. The views of the mountains, canyon, and rock formations are spectacular.

Swing by Elkhorn Camp and top off your water bottle at the well if you are running low. Find a good shade tree and enjoy the quiet and the views while you wait for your Micropur to work its magic. Once you are ready to carry on, hop back on the road and keep hiking toward Ponil. Take time to appreciate the opportunity to see the mountains of Colorado, the Tooth of Time, and everything in between and beyond all at the same time.

Turn off the road when you reach the trail that leads down through the scrub oaks into Ponil. Pause for a moment and drink in one last view before you head down the hill to drink in that root beer in the Cantina. The trail will split soon and you can choose between hiking down to Dean Cutoff Camp or going straight to Ponil.



A unique view of Baldy Mountain from Dean Skyline. Caleb Burns/ Ranger Department

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# Indian Writings: Celebrating 60 years of Archeology, Education and Internship

**Alex Cenci**  
Staff Photographer

The sun beats down on North Ponil Canyon, making for another hot, dry day. Dirt swirls and blows in the wind, and a crew crouches to the ground, brushing and scraping away at the thin crust of the Earth. As the Scouts clear away the dirt, items are revealed: bone beads, projectile points, detail flakes, sandstone tiles, and so much more. These artifacts are what Indian Writings has been celebrating for the past 60 years.

Indian Writings was the first staff camp at Philmont Scout Ranch, established in 1956. It all started when an Archeologist Sam Bogan came out to the Philmont property for an expedition in 1941. He brought a group of Boy Scouts he had trained, and together they excavated many of the rock shelters in the area, all the way down to the original floor levels. Soon after, proposals were written to ask for an official archeology program to be started at Philmont, and Indian Writings was started years later.

More can be learned about this first expedition from Bogan's book *Let the Coyotes Howl*. Not many people are certain why Bogan brought the Scouts on the expedition, bringing the start of Archeology in the Boy Scouts, but Justin Langlois, the Archeologist at Indian Writings, has a theory.

"When you're doing the whole outdoors thing and you're giving an experience, why not give an experience doing this?"

Regardless of the reason for starting the program, there are many good reasons for its continuation.

"Archeology in Northern New Mexico is sort of a black hole, not a lot of people do it," Langlois said. "The driving force of Archeology in Northern New Mexico in the Cimarron area is Philmont Scout Ranch."

If it weren't for the program at Philmont, there would be a significant gap in the North

American Archeological Record, with no clues about who lived in the region or what occurred there. Because of the Indian Writings program, many archeologists and aspiring archeologists made their way through Philmont and contributed to the many fantastic discoveries. Another reason for the program's continuation is for educating the Scouts on the negative impact of taking artifacts from sites.

"When you're an Archeologist it's like an open door for people to tell you about the stuff that they've stolen," Langlois said. "Not a lot of people realize it's not okay to take things."

Back in the 1940s, when the program first started, Scouts were allowed to take things they found. The field has changed a lot since then and taking artifacts is no longer permitted. The staff at Indian Writings work to make sure crews understand the ramifications of taking the artifacts. More information can be learned when examining the context in which an artifact was found. The knowledge gained by studying it can be shared with others for years to come.

"Every projectile point that a Scout finds, picks up, and takes home is information lost," said Langlois.

While the archeology program is great for educating Scouts and keeping up the archaeological record in Northern New Mexico, it is also an amazing opportunity for the staff that work there.

Most of the staff members at Indian Writings are interested in pursuing archeology and/or anthropology, and working in the program has helped them gain hands-on experience in the field that is essential for making some major decisions. Renne Baldwin, a Program Counselor, is one of the staff members who has benefited from her time at Indian Writings.

"This is definitely giving me archeology and anthropology experience and it's letting me know what I like most about archeology

and the least," she said. I'm trying to help tailor that a little bit."

Baldwin will be starting her sophomore year as an Archeology major at the University of Minnesota. For her, part of the appeal of archeology is being able to work out what the past was like and how the previous inhabitants lived.

"I like that it's a big puzzle that you're trying to solve," she said. "You get lots of little puzzle pieces and you're trying to figure out how they fit into a whole."

Another Program Counselor, an Eastern New Mexico University student, Andrew Moore, is learning skills that will be beneficial for his future goals.

"Field and lab work is part of what I hope to do, and I do hope to teach it one day so teaching Scouts... really helps out here," Moore said.

Moore has also enjoyed focusing on a subject he has always enjoyed.

"I always had an interest in the Southwest, I grew up here... so once I got here I kind of realized this is what I want to do, stay here in the Southwest," said Moore.

Even the staff Archeologist, Justin Langlois, has gained some additional experience while working at Indian Writings.

"As an Archeologist, you don't really get to excavate a lot, it's about five percent of what Archeologists actually do," he said. "Archeologists do mostly survey and most of the work that I've done has been survey... Having the ability to go somewhere and dig at a very specific site for three months at a time is really good... So I'm definitely expanding what I'm seeing when it comes to excavation."

Since that first Scout excavation in 1941, Philmont has been enticing aspiring and professional archeologists to come dig into its dirt. Thanks to the official program at Indian Writings, archeologists and Scouts alike can come and make their own discoveries and contribute to the extensive record kept here at Philmont.



**Owen Pritchard uses a trowel to scrape away dirt and look for artifacts at the Indian Writings dig site in North Ponil Canyon. The site is believed to be from 700 to 900 A.D. and was originally used as a field house by the Ancestral Puebloans before being turned into a midden - otherwise known as a trash dump.** Alex Cenci/PhilNews



**Renee Baldwin oversees the process the crew is making on the dig. If anything is found at the site, it is collected, catalogued, and put into the repository for all archeologists to have access.** Alex Cenci/PhilNews



**Program Counselor Renne Baldwin demonstrates how to use a trowel before allowing a crew to begin working at the dig site. The tool is used to remove layers of dirt in order to uncover artifacts buried in a site.** Alex Cenci/PhilNews



# Waite's Way: Perpetuating the Ranch

**Suzannah Evans**  
Staff Writer

Accompanied by two Wranglers, 13 high school aged Ranch Hands spent two weeks at Philmont. The first week was spent at various Staff Camps, learning how to care for horses and riding techniques.

"We saddled horses, threw hay, and went on trail rides," said Ranch Hand Ryan Rodriguez-Flores.

The second week was spent on a Cavalcade.

"We spent about 4 to 6 hours in the saddle, typically," said Rodriguez-Flores.

"We got a little sore, but it was worth it," said Becca Atherton.

The Ranch Hands program offers teenagers the unique opportunity of experiencing what ranch life is really like.

"I like horses, but I haven't really had any opportunities to work with them. I would like to have a job with them in the future, maybe being a wrangler or something. This is a good place to get that experience," said Atherton.

This program allows the Ranch Hands to experience both the work side and the more fun side of raising horses. The participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

"Normally, I am very stressed out with school, but doing just the ranch work at the different Staff Camps, it was manual, but it was still enjoyable," said Atherton.

Atherton credits the care of the horses themselves as one of the more enjoyable aspects.

"Knowing that you're doing it for the horses and knowing that you don't have to worry about anything else except taking care of them," said Atherton.

A highlight of the trip included a sunrise hike up Baldy.

"I love it here, the mountains... it's cool," said Rodriguez-Flores.

Another high point was a steep ride from the Valle Vidal into Rich Cabins.

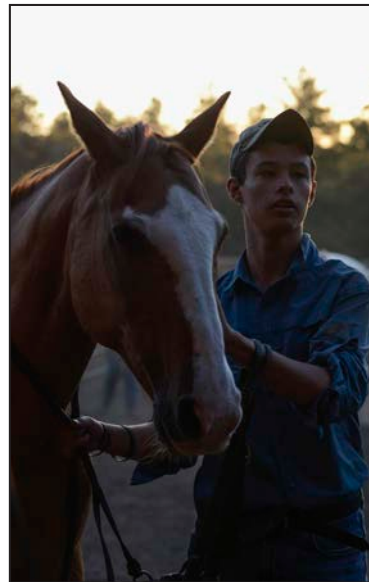
Rodriguez-Flores explained that they had to ride down the hill in a zigzag formation because of the grade of the slope.

"We had to get off at a couple of places and lead them," said Atherton.

Despite the slope, they enjoyed the ride.

"Afterwards, you feel like you have some serious horse skills," said Atherton.

Both Atherton and Rodriguez-Flores hope to return to Philmont as Wranglers someday soon.



**Connor Sroka catches one of the horses and prepares to bridle it for the morning ride.**  
Alex Cenci/PhilNews



**Ranch Hands Will Korb, Micah Fansler and Becca Atherton take a minute to get ready and rest before helping to get the horses ready for the first ride. The Ranch Hands and Wrangler staff often have to rise early in order to get the horses fed, groomed, and tacked for the first ride of the day.** Alex Cenci/PhilNews



**Eric Spoerl brings a saddle out to the horse being held by Connor Sroka as Micah Fansler assists Bonnie Watts with tacking another horse.**  
Alex Cenci/PhilNews

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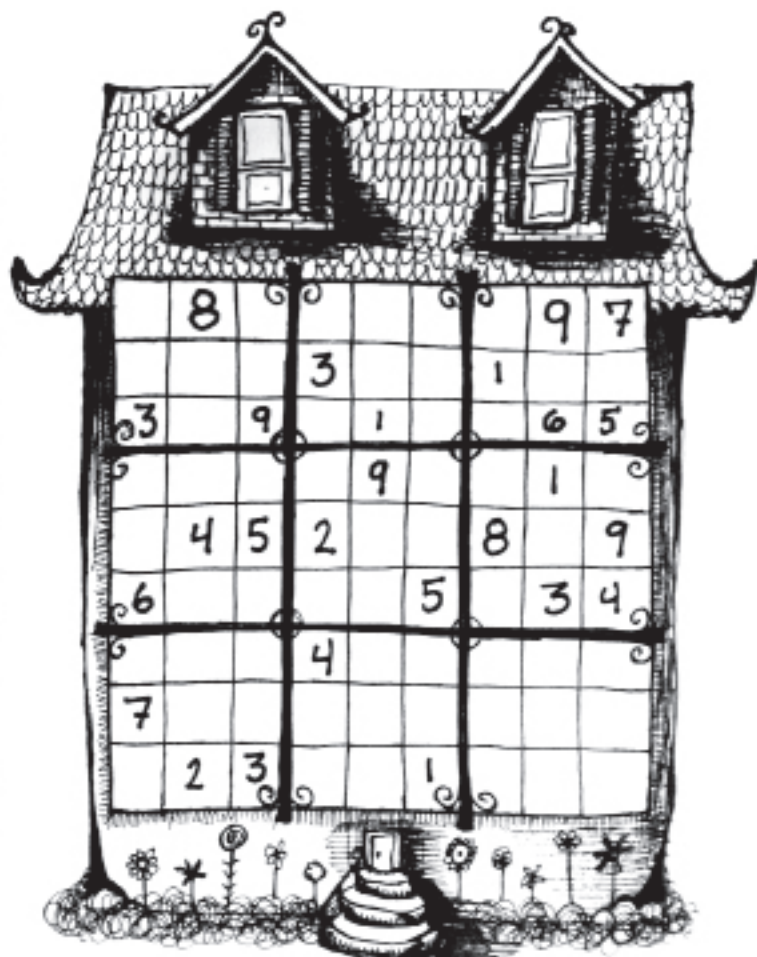
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4	9	3	8	1	6	5	2	7
5	6	1	7	3	2	4	8	9
7	8	2	4	9	5	6	1	3
2	4	7	3	6	8	9	5	1
8	1	6	9	5	4	7	3	2
9	3	5	1	2	7	8	4	6
3	2	8	5	7	9	1	6	4
1	5	9	6	4	3	2	7	8
6	7	4	2	8	1	3	9	5

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



Games drawn by Cassidy Johnson

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# Preparing the country for Philmont

**Suzannah Evans**  
Staff Writer

Being prepared is a big part of any Scouting organization. Philmont has to pay extra close attention to this sentiment. Hiking up the mountains requires preparation and the right gear.

While not unattainable by any means, Philmont is not a simple walk in the woods. Past participants can attest to the unique adventures that Philmont offers and will testify that being prepared is everything.

"To me, it comes down to three things: if they show up on time, all get along with each other, and they're all in good shape – they're going to have a great trek," said Associate Director of Program Eric Martinez.

Martinez and Director of Program, Mark Anderson, have been on a mission to ensure that the crews coming to Philmont are ready to have fun the Philmont way.

Anderson wanted a way for crews to be more prepared before they arrived at the Ranch.

Initially, he had Martinez write

the Philmont Shakedown Guide with the help of the Associate Chief Rangers during the fall of 2014. Based off feedback from the shakedown guide, Anderson realized that what the Ranch needed was a more tangible and interactive training resource.

"Mark said, 'What if we loaded up a Suburban with a bunch of gear and sent two people all around the country training advisors in how to prepare their crews?'" said Martinez. "It was at that point that I said, 'I want that.'"

This developed into the PASS and PAW programs. PASS stands for Philmont Advisor Skills School and PAW for Philmont Advisor Workshop. Each of these programs are held in cities across the USA. PASS programs are an 8 hour event and have a hands on aspect, while PAW is a 2 hour event. PSR-PASS is offered at Philmont and is a multi-day event during the fall.

These programs help to ease fears and to answer any questions that the advisors might have.

This affirmation also helps make the pre-trek orientation and Ranger training at Philmont run more smoothly.

"They've seen it, and even if

they don't remember everything, they've at least seen it and they realize that the Philmont Method works. And when they show up and the Ranger is teaching them what they need to do, it's not a totally foreign concept to them – they've seen it," said Martinez.

It was an interaction that Martinez had with an advisor in 2012 that fuels his desire to help prepare advisors and, in turn, crews for what to expect.

"One thing the advisor said was, 'We'll do what Philmont asks, we understand that, we just wish we had known this ahead of time because we prepared this way, this is how we trained, and now we have to do differently from how we've prepared,'" said Martinez.

This was a turning point in Martinez' mindset. He felt the need to help prepare those coming on trek so that they were ready for the Philmont way rather than just showing up and then getting the instruction for the Philmont camping method.

The PASS and PAW programs cover topics such as: Philmont-issued gear, participant bought gear, how to travel to/from Philmont, physical preparedness, the various crew leadership positions, and how to form a Philmont committee within your

troop or crew.

Martinez is adamant that participants don't need to spend \$1000 on gear.

"A lot of them don't know that the MSR Thunder Ridge Tent is an awesome tent that they can use for free. They can put the wear and tear on our tents, not on theirs and then instead, put that money into a nicer pair of boots or a nice rain jacket," said Martinez.

Last year, Martinez drove a total of 27,446 miles across the USA. He spent a total of 99 nights on the road, educating 1152 Advisors about the ways of Philmont.

"It was way bigger than anyone was expecting, especially Mark and I, we thought that we were going to get maybe 300-400 advisors attending overall," said Martinez.

In addition to the unexpected numbers, advisors have been more than satisfied with the course.

"The feedback has been amazing," said Martinez.

The PASS and PAW programs seem to have been just what people needed. "Seeing the Philmont-issued gear was super helpful," said Andy Potter, a first time advisor from Ohio who attended the PAW course in Detroit, MI.

Not only are the programs helpful, they are easily accessible

and inexpensive too. With seven weekend courses at Philmont, 34 Field-PASS courses and 32 PAW courses around the country from Seattle to Orlando and San Diego to Boston – many advisors set aside time to attend, some even driving from as far away as seven hours. "It was in the evening, we got to go after work," said Allen Fingerle, also from Ohio.

For many, this has eased and even erased fears or concerns and made Philmont feel more attainable. "I would say that it should be made mandatory, or suggest it heavily that someone attend the meeting," said Potter.

Martinez is currently organizing the next round of PASS and PAW programs. This year, there will be six instructors in three teams of two traveling all around the country. Two new regions this year are Florida and the Pacific Northwest.

For the 2016 PASS and PAW season, all the trainings will be completed by Thanksgiving to give participants more time to get in shape and plan shakedown hikes and to better cater to Christmas wish lists for gear.

## 2016 PASS/ PAW Locations







**Charles Agnew, 9, practices his roping at Ponil on Thursday, July 21, 2016. Agnew is a participant in the Sidewinder program, a group of 9-10 year olds whose parents are participating in training at PTC.** Skyler Ballard/PhilNews



**Top: Eliza the goat reaches out to eat a leaf at Abreu on July 21, 2016.** Nathaniel Aron/PhilNews

**Right: Ranger Nolan Buland instructs crews on how not to use Red Roofs during their first day lessons of the trek.** Skyler Ballard/PhilNews



**Right: Crew 709-Q2 hikes toward Tooth Ridge where they will be spending their last night on the trail. The crew's journey was filled with memories of program and wildlife encounters, even a close encounter with a rattlesnake earlier on their trek.** Clay Helfrick/PhilNews



**Fifteen-year-old Nathanael Thabault plays violin during the after show of closing campfire on July 21, 2016. "By the time I'm 18 and ready to apply here I will have been playing for 9 years," said Thabault.** Clay Helfrick/PhilNews



**Harrison Briscoe, a Philmont Ranger, is relaxing at Cimarroncito after a game of frisbee. Briscoe is passing through Cimarroncito on his way back to Base Camp after leaving his crew that morning.** Thomas Officer/PhilNews

**Left: Sarah Cobb enjoys her new grass crown that her crew and fellow staff member Rebecca Wiebke made for her.** Lex Selig/PhilNews



**Top: Indian Writings Program Counselor Emma Bryant points out a petroglyph during a tour. The petroglyph is assumed to be created by the Ancestral Puebloans and possibly refers to clans houses within the population. The circles representing the structures they lived in and the animal prints symbolizing the different clans.** Alex Cenci/PhilNews