



Philmont Scout Ranch, located 5 miles south of Cimarron in northeastern New Mexico, is the largest of four national Boy Scouts of America high adventure bases with more than 25,000 youth and adults attending each year. It provides wilderness backpacking experiences for youth 14-20 years of age, is home of the national training center for Scout leaders, and continues to operate as a working ranch.

## High Adventure at Philmont



About 20,000 participants each year elect a 12-day backpacking trek and another 2,000 choose the 7-day experience. Scouts and their adult advisors organize in crews of 7 to 12. The 12-day treks follow one of 35 different predefined itineraries hiking between 50 and 100 miles in mountainous terrain between 6,508 feet and 12,585 feet altitude. 7-day crews choose from 15 itineraries covering fewer miles. All take advantage of 36 different staffed camps – with activities ranging from Jicarilla Apache life to railroading and horseback riding to rock climbing – and 86 remote trail camps. Each camper carries all they need for their expedition in backpacks weighing 35-50 pounds and pick up extra food every 3-4 days on the trail.

## National Training Center for Boy Scouts

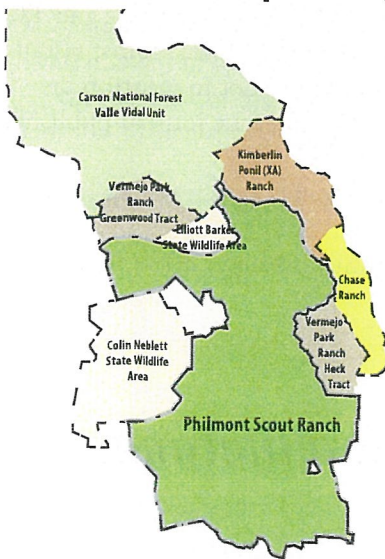
The Philmont Training Center hosts dozens of week-long training conferences for Scouting volunteers and professionals. Conferences range from Climbing Director and COPE Director Certification to Cub Scout Extravaganza and Games with a Purpose. A number of job-specific conferences are offered each year to support council and district volunteer positions. In addition to training conferences that advance the Scouting program, the Training Center provides age-appropriate programs for students' families. Approximately 4,500 Scout leaders and their family members attend the Training Center each year.



## Special Opportunities and Off Season Programs

Through the summer, roughly a thousand participants choose special treks focusing on STEM, conservation, or horse-packing Cavalcades. In the fall, winter, and spring several thousand Scouts and adults participate in Autumn and Winter Adventure backpacking programs, conservation- and leadership-oriented education, or fishing and hunting programs. Councils take advantage of the Training Center for council planning retreats, endowment tours, and fun weekends.

## 250,000 Acres of Wilderness Adventure



Philmont covers 140,177 acres owned by the Boy Scouts of America. Oklahoma oilman and philanthropist Waite Phillips donated the initial 35,857 acres in 1938, then another 91,538 acres in 1941. In 1963, through the generosity of BSA National Executive Board member Norton Clapp, the 10,098 acres around Baldy Mountain was purchased and added to the Ranch. The BSA purchased 2,684 acre Cimarroncita Ranch Camp in 2014.

The Ranch has use agreements with our neighbors giving access to just over 110,000 additional acres – all together a wilderness experience covering almost 250,000 acres.

- Since 1964, the NM Department of Game and Fish allows hiking through the 5,574 acre Elliot Barker State Wildlife Area.
- Beginning in 1988, the Carson National Forest allowed hiking and low-impact camping on 58,954 acres of the Valle Vidal unit. Philmont maintains three staffed camps and performs numerous conservation projects including stream restoration in the Valle Vidal.
- Ted Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch has allowed Scouts to hike and camp in the 11,216 acres of the Greenwood Tract since 1990 and the 11,162 acres of the Heck Place since 2011. Philmont maintains one staff camp and two trail camps on the Greenwood Tract and three trail camps on the Heck Place.
- A 2004 agreement allows Scouts to hike through the 5,216-acre North Ponil and Abran

watersheds of the Kimberlin's Ponil Ranch.

- The BSA signed a 50-year agreement with the Chase Ranch Foundation in 2013 to manage that 11,355-acre ranch and operate educational programs. Philmont uses two trail camps and a trailhead (turn around) on the Historic Chase Ranch.



## Environmental Responsibility

Waite Phillips wanted Philmont to remain a working cattle ranch that epitomized the American ethics of hard work and care for the land. Today, the ranch department maintains 300 miles of fence and 57 pastures for herds of 300 cattle, 150 buffalo, 300 horses, and 100 burros. Most participants experience Philmont's western legacy in their program.

Philmont also continues Waite's legacy of conservation. Every trek includes at least 3 hours of conservation work from trail building to habitat restoration. The conservation department maintains 375 miles of trail, removes 10 invasive plant species, recycles one-third of Philmont's solid waste, and manages projects such as Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout restoration project in the South Ponil Creek.



## Dynamic Community



From early-June to mid-August, about 350 campers arrive (and depart) every day for 12-day treks, and another 400 participants and family members arrive every Sunday for week-long courses at PTC. When 85 fulltime and nearly 1,200 seasonal staff members are added, there are 6,000 people at Philmont on any summer day – roughly the population of Taos. To support this population, Philmont packages and distributes 375,000 2-person trail meals each year, serves about 1,500 meals per day in the four base camp dining halls, and purifies and delivers nearly 200,000 gallons of pure water daily from the Headquarters Public Water System.

Philmont also operates several museums that are open to the public:

- Philmont Museum-Seton Memorial Library (currently in a temporary location) houses the personal collection of E. T. Seton. In 2018, it will be joined by the National Scouting Museum, currently in Irving, TX, in a new 19,800 square-foot facility.
- Villa Philmonte, a 1927 Spanish-Mediterranean house, was Waite and Genevieve Phillips' summer home before they donated it to the Boy Scouts of America.
- Historic Chase Ranch Museum, on the ranch founded in 1869, showcases ranch life from the Colfax County War period through present.
- Kit Carson Museum at Rayado commemorates the original 1849 settlement by Lucien Maxwell and Kit Carson.



## Good Neighbors



Some of Philmont's trail meal components in addition to maintenance parts, materials, and equipment are purchased from vendors in Cimarron and throughout Colfax County. The major food supplier for the dining halls, Shamrock Foods, supplies Philmont from their Albuquerque distribution center.

While there are no definitive figures, the more than 25,000 participants and 1,000 staff at Philmont certainly have a substantial positive impact in hotel rooms, restaurant meals, groceries, transportation, and art and souvenirs – not to mention tax revenue – from Albuquerque to Raton. In 2016, the Albuquerque Journal published some specific information\*:

- Main Event Transportation receives \$250,000 from Scouts traveling between Albuquerque Sunport and Philmont.
- Colfax County estimates 8,000 Scouts and family members arrive in [and

depart from] Raton on Amtrak Southwest Chief train each year.

# *Wilderness adventure memories that last a lifetime.*

Philmont Scout Ranch • 17 Deer Run Road • Cimarron, NM 87714  
www.philmontscoutranch.org (575) 376-2281

\* Rayburn, Rosalie, "Philmont Scout Ranch a major economic, social player in northern New Mexico", *Albuquerque Journal*, Original publication July 10, 2016, <https://www.abqjournal.com/805089/good-neighbor.html>



# Philmont Facts

## Philmont and Our Neighbors

Founded 1938 with donation of the Ponil country from Waite Phillips. Initially called Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp. Renamed Philmont Scout Ranch with Waite's second gift of the south country in 1941.

140,177 acres (219 sq miles) owned by Boy Scouts of America:

- 1938 gift from Waite Phillips: 35,857 acres
- 1941 gift from Waite Phillips: 91,538 acres
- 1963 purchase made possible by Norton Clapp: 10,098 acres
- 2014 purchase of Cimarroncita: 2,684 acres

Approximately 103,477 acres accessible through land use agreements with our neighbors:

- Elliot Barker State Wildlife Area: 5,574 acres
- Carson National Forest Valle Vidal unit: 65,507 acres
- Vermejo Park Ranch: 22,378 acres

- Kimberlin's Ponil Ranch: 5,216 acres in North Ponil and Abran watersheds
- Chase Ranch: 11,355 acres

375 miles of maintained trails on Philmont property

36 staffed camps and 86 trail camps provide 984 campsites with 409 bear cables

Where the mountains meet the plains at Philmont:

- Lowest elevation (Kit Carson/Rayado): 6,508 ft
- Basecamp elevation: 6,696 ft
- Highest staff camp (Clear Creek): 10,240 ft
- Highest trail camp (Mt Phillips Camp): 11,640 ft
- Highest elevation on Philmont (Baldy Mountain): 12,441 ft
- High elevation on any trek (Little Costilla): 12,585 ft

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## Programs for Scouts, Leaders, and Families

16 different high adventure programs offered

- Backpacking (12- and 7-day expeditions)
- Cavalcade (8-day horsepacking expedition)
- STEM Trek (12-day STEM-oriented backpacking expedition)
- ROCS (Roving Outdoor Conservation School) (21-day conservation and environmental education expedition)
- Trail Crew Trek (14-day trail-building and trekking expedition)
- Order of the Arrow Trail Crew (14-day OA service and trekking expedition)
- NAYLE (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience) (6-day leadership course)
- Rayado (20-day backpacking leadership development expedition)
- Ranch Hands Trek (16-day ranching and horsepacking expedition)
- Philmont Staff Association Trek (7-day backpacking expedition)

- Mountain Trek (6-day backpacking expedition for children of PTC participants)
- Volunteer Vacation (7-day conservation expedition)
- Autumn Adventure (various length cold weather experience)
- Leave No Trace Master Educator treks
- Winter Adventure (various length backpacking experience)
- Fly Fishing Invitational (3 days)
- Sportsmen's Adventure (various lengths)

10+ weeks of leadership development conferences at Philmont Training Center

- PTC conferences vary from year to year based on the needs of the Scouting community
- In 2017, 50 different courses in 82 sessions were planned through the summer and fall seasons
- The Training Center also offers 11 different age-appropriate programs for family members of those attending conferences.

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## Philmont Participants

More than 1 million Scouts and Scouters (adult leaders) have participated in high adventure programs at Philmont

- 1939: 193 participants (first year of operation as Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp)
- 1942: 275 participants (first year of operation as Philmont Scout Ranch)
- 1950: 2,017 participants
- 1963 (25th anniversary): 12,413 participants
- 1988 (50th anniversary): 18,141 participants
- 2012: 23,325 participants
- 2013 (75th anniversary): 21,712 participants
- 2014: celebrated 1 millionth participant
- 2017: 21,147 participants

Typical annual high adventure attendance during decade of 2008-2017: 22,282 participants or about 2,300 crews (7-12 people per crew, average 10)

On average 35 crews, or 350 high adventure participants arrive per day during the summer season.

4,500 Philmont Training Center participants and family members during the summer season.

Across all programs, more than 25,000 Scouts, adult leaders, and their families attend Philmont each year. From late June through early August, nearly 6,000 people are staffing and participating in programs at Philmont each day – about the population of Taos, NM

85 fulltime staff; 1,200 seasonal staff during the summer, 90 seasonal staff in fall and winter.

# Seasons at Philmont

The most active time at Philmont is the summer season

- Seasonal staff begin to arrive for training in the middle of May
- The first week of conferences at PTC start the first or second Sunday of June
- "Scatter" (opening and staffing the backcountry camps) is June 5-7
- The first crews arrive June 8; crews arrive daily until the end of the season
- The last crews arrive August 14
- The last crews end their trek on August 21
- "Gather" (closing down the backcountry camps) is August 19-21
- The last summer conferences at PTC end the second or third Saturday of August

Philmont programs continue year-round

- PTC Fall Conference
- Philmont Leadership Challenge
- Autumn Adventure
- Winter Adventure
- Fly Fishing Invitational
- Sportsman Hunting Adventures
- Wood Badge
- Volunteer Vacation
- Leave No Trace Master Educator class
- Council Endowment and Planning Retreats

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## Philmont is a Working Ranch

Philmont is home to roughly 200 head of cattle (predominantly Hereford cows), 150 buffalo, 300 saddle horses, and 100 burros.

Horses and burros are used for participant programs and ranch work.

There are 57 pastures between 50 and 17,000 acres each separated by 300 miles of fences.

Cows are summered in high mountain pastures and wintered in low, sheltered pastures. They receive supplemental protein and hay from January through May.

Horses and burros are wintered in more rugged foothill pastures and receive protein and hay when needed.

Philmont farms about 300 acres of forage crops in 15 fields using flood and pivot irrigation.

Approximately 90,000 acres at Philmont are classified as range or grazeable woodland. The remainder is classified as timber land. Both are managed for maximum environmental sustainability

Philmont has over 2,000 acre-feet of water rights with some priorities going back to the 1860s

Invitational hunts for elk, mule deer, turkey, antelope, bison, black bear and lion.

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## The Environment and Conservation

Average annual rainfall: 15.9"; the July mean high and low temperatures are: 83.9 to 43.5 degrees; the January mean high and low temperatures are: 45.0 to 20.0 degrees.

Philmont has been Sustainable Forestry Initiative certified since 2003. About 1,000 acres of timber are improved each year through thinning and harvest.

75 tons of recycling in 2016.

1,809 acres of invasive species removed in 2016.

Native wildlife include mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn antelope, black bear, mountain lion, lynx, coyote, bobcat, blue grouse, and Merriams turkey.

77,500 volunteer service hours of trail building, habitat restoration, and other conservation work each year.

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## Serving a Community of 6,000 People

Philmont has 4 reservoirs supplying 36,420,338 gallons of water and 68 individual wells producing 2,672,181 gallons of water annually to 34 state-approved water systems. The main water system serving base camp can deliver about 200,000 gallons of pure water daily.

There are 2,737 roofed structures on the Ranch.

The four dining halls in base camp serve more than 5,000 meals daily at the season peak.

In 2016, the commissary ordered and delivered:

- 9,592 gallons of milk
- 7,020 lbs of bacon (7.1 miles if laid end-to-end)
- 29,744 apples
- 79,632 tortillas (1.4 acres if laid flat on the ground)
- 4,130 lbs cheese
- 21,000 lbs deli meat
- 4,000 sack lunches

During the off season, 375,000 2-person trail meals are produced - and consumed during the season.

The Philmont trading post, the Tooth of Time Traders, was Outdoor Retailer of the Year in 2011 and 2012; Top 100 Specialized Outdoor Retailer 2014 and 2015.

In 2017, the Tooth of Time Traders sold more than:

- 30,000 tee shirts
- 6.4 miles of belts
- 8,200 belt buckles
- 14,500 Nalgene water bottles
- 20,000 topographical maps
- 120 ukeleles
- 3,700 pairs of hiking socks
- 46,500 patches (not including Arrowhead awards)

The motor pool maintains 121 vehicles traveling over more than 200 miles of roads on the Ranch.

78 solar power generating stations produce 175kw per day (mostly to run water purification systems and backcountry radios).