

Parish News

Scout trek through New Mexico wilderness ... a 'life-changing' experience

by Chris Baldasare Sr.

Sixteen Scouts and eight adult leaders (divided into two crews of eight Scouts and four adult leaders) from Troop 121 went on a life-changing summer trek as they hiked 85 miles over 12 days through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. 300 scouts arrive every day at Philmont and 300 scouts hit the trail every day. From Ohio, we had a total of 96 scouts make the trip for a total of eight (8) crews of 12 in each crew. We were assigned Crew number 2 and 3 out of the eight from Ohio.

Philmont covers 214 square miles of vast wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to as high as 12,441 feet.

St. Peter's Boy Scouts and their advisors carried backpacks with everything they needed to survive during the trek while hiking from camp to camp.

The group climbed Baldy Mountain (12,441 feet) and participated in backcountry programs along the way including spar pole climbing, blacksmithing, branding, rock climbing & rappelling, gold mining and panning, explored Lucien



The St. Peter's Scouts

Maxwell's Aztec Mine, toured historic French Henry, toured pioneer Kit Carson's former home and participated in the Rededication to Scouting Ceremony.

A conservation project allowed the Scouts to learn and participate in the upkeep of Philmont's ecosystem. Along the trek, Scouts endured tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs, and often inclement weather.

"Summiting Baldy Mountain with my son was truly a memorable experience," said Christopher Baldasare Sr.,

Baldy mountain here we come! Kenny Ousley and Jake Randall on day four of their trek hiking to Baldy Town. (Baldy Mountain in the background)

Panning for treasure



Scoutmaster of St. Peter's Boy Scout Troop 121. "The 1,000-foot elevation changes while trekking on the steep rocky trails added to the exhilarating experience, both physically and emotionally."

"The daytime sky was the bluest of blues and the night sky was even more amazing. The thousands of stars in view to the naked eye were unbelievable," Boy Scout Kenny Ousley said. "It was hard to imagine that we were looking at the same sky that people back home were seeing. It's something my dad and I will always remember and cherish, since we can't experience it here in Ohio."

Scout Reid Studer added, "By day the temperatures reached the 90s. There was no cooking by fire, due to a statewide ban on fires. Meals during the day included

nuts, trail mix and peanut butter."

"The overall Philmont experience was such a great experience. I liked the Philmont Ranch because we learned so much about the history of the West," said Scout Isaiah Corso-Phinney. "It was fun getting to know the troop in an entirely different way. We could lean on one another. We just seemed to mold together. It was very eye-opening and helpful to learn all these things about my friends. It was an honor to be there. It was quite different from Ohio."

"With the clouds at my feet and seeing airplanes flying below me, it dawned on me just how high we climbed," Eagle Scout and Trek Crew Leader Christopher Baldasare, Jr. said.

The crew made what amounts to a Scouting pilgrimage with this trip. Philmont Scout Ranch is the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure camp and the largest youth camp in the world, serving nearly one million participants since 1938.

For more information on St. Peter's Boy Scout Troop 121, visit www.bsatroop121.com

CREW 2 -- 617-D2

LEAD ADULT - Christopher Baldasare Sr.
CREW CHIEF - Christopher Baldasare II
CHAPLIN AIDE - Isaiah Corso-Phinney
GUIDA - Bailey Dauterman

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|----|-----|--------------------------|
| 1 | 121 | Christopher Baldasare Sr |
| 2 | 121 | Phillip Dollish |
| 3 | 121 | Michael Schopieray |
| 4 | 121 | Todd Studer |
| 5 | 121 | Christopher Baldasare II |
| 6 | 121 | Isaiah Corso-Phinney |
| 7 | 121 | Bailey Dauterman |
| 8 | 121 | Noah Dillinger |
| 9 | 121 | Zachary Dollish |
| 10 | 121 | Evan Free |
| 11 | 121 | Shaun Schopieray |
| 12 | 121 | Reid Studer |

CREW 3 -- 617-D3

LEAD ADULT - Dr. John Weilbacker
CREW CHIEF - Andrew Weilbacker
CHAPLIN AIDE - Robby Baker
GUIDA - Matt Cicila

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| 1 | 121 | Dr. John Weilbacker |
| 2 | 121 | Andrew Anschutz |
| 3 | 121 | James Ousley |
| 4 | 152 | Cliff Cicila |
| 5 | 121 | Jack Bennett |
| 6 | 121 | Taylor Dauterman |
| 7 | 121 | Patrick Gilbert |
| 8 | 121 | Kenneth Ousley |
| 9 | 121 | Jacob Randall |
| 10 | 121 | Andrew Weilbacker |
| 11 | 121 | Robbie Baker |
| 12 | 152 | Matt Cicila |



On top of Mt. Baldy



This is how we hike!

View of Baldy Mountain

