

1965



FACTS

FACTS ABOUT PHILMONT

FUNCTION

Philmont Scout Ranch is a 137,000-acre tract of land near Cimarron, New Mexico, owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America, as a camp for older Scouts and Explorers.

In addition to providing boys with a vigorous program of outdoor activities, Philmont offers a well-balanced training program for volunteer leaders, and is maintained as a year-round working ranch.

HISTORY
OF THE
LAND

In 1841, a Spanish land grant of 96,000 acres was made to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda of old Mexico for the purpose of colonizing the territory with Mexican citizens. The grant consisted of a large swath of land on the east side of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range where Philmont is presently located. In 1844, Lucien B. Maxwell, scout, trapper and long time friend of Kit Carson, settled in the territory and married Beaubien's daughter. Through his marriage he soon came into possession of Beaubien's land, and eventually bought out Miranda's share. In 1846, the U. S. Government claimed the territory. A government survey showed that Maxwell's land contained more than 1,700,000 acres. This caused litigation, so that the grant was not confirmed until 1860 after which it was renamed the Maxwell Land Grant. In 1869, due to the conflict over land titles and timber and mining operations, Maxwell--the largest individual land holder in North America--sold his interest for \$650,000. It was immediately resold to an English syndicate for double the amount. In 1922, an Oklahoma business-man, Waite Phillips, bought the land which he used for farming, livestock operations, and a vacation home.

THE
PHILLIPS
GRANTS

In 1938, Waite Phillips--in order that "many, rather than few" should profit from his resourceful land--donated 35,857 acres of the most scenic, best-improved portion of this estate to the Boy Scouts of America. This section of land became the "Philturn (after the benefactor's name and "Good Turn") Rockymountain Scoutcamp".

In 1941, Mr. Phillips donated additional land, residence, and ranch buildings, livestock and operating ranch equipment contiguous to Philturn, bringing the total acreage to 127,000. The camp was re-named "Philmont Scout Ranch". At the same time, he gave the Boy Scouts of America the Philtower Building in Tulsa, Oklahoma as an endowment, the income from which is used to operate and develop the camp.

CLIMATE
AND
TOPO-
GRAPHY

Philmont has an annual rainfall of 16 inches; days are hot, nights cool.

The western boundary follows the backbone of the Cimarron and Agua Fria Mountains, offshoots of the Sangre de Cristo. The land

is abundant with juniper, pine, oak, spruce, fir and aspen, as well as over a hundred varieties of plants and grasses. Elevation ranges from 6,400 to over 12,000 feet above sea level. The highest point is Baldy Mountain, 12,441 feet. The mountains are interspersed with stony, bald-faced buttes, the most prominent of which is the "Tooth of Time".

Two rivers flow through the Scout Camp, the Cimarron and Rayado. Over 1,100 acres of grazing land are irrigated.

ANIMAL
LIFE

The largest and smallest of mammals--the buffalo and shrew--are found at Philmont. There are 60 species of mammals in all, plus 9 species of squirrels, a dozen of mice, 16 kinds of bats, and over 200 kinds of birds.

Over 3,000 mule deer have been recorded.

CAMP
ACTIVITY

The Philmont camping season is open from June 19 to August 31. Applicants must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and at least 14 years of age. Catering to chartered units, Philmont has no maximum size for groups. Minimum size group is one adult leader and two boys. Each group must have its own adult leader 21 years or older.

A Philmont expedition lasts 12 days. During this time the boys hike and camp along the rugged mountain trails. Activities emphasize hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, conservation, Moskeet, gold-panning, archeology, horseback riding, and training in various Scouting skills. Boys are able to explore many exciting places of interest.

Since the camp's inception, more than 150,000 men and boys have attended.

During the expedition boys receive training in wilderness sanitation, Dutch oven cooking, axemanship, foot care, back-packing, burro packing and how to use a map and compass. Veteran wranglers instruct boys on how to handle a horse. A ranger accompanies each expedition for the first few days.

VOLUNTEER
TRAINING

The Volunteer Training Center is essentially for men, although families may participate in the program. It is a family-centered, vacation-type training experience. While the man is learning there are activities for the family.

Courses are taught in Leadership, Organization and Extension, Camping, Health and Safety, Conservation, Finance, Public Relations, and various Scouting programs.

Facilities include a recreation building, playground for children, nursery, dining halls, conference rooms. Families live in tent cities. Utility buildings provide showers, refrigerators and automatic washers.

Activities feature tours of the ranch, hikes, crafts, horseback riding, barbecues, parties, and square dancing.

Boys over 14 whose families attend volunteer training may take a 6-day mountain trek.

THE RANCH

Under the leadership of the ranch superintendent, the ranch has year-round responsibility for the farms and orchards, timber management, cattle, sheep, horses, conservation and range management. During the summer a Conservation Work Camp is operated where boys may learn fundamental methods of conservation. The ranch maintains the largest remuda of saddle horses--nearly 300--of any ranch in New Mexico, and a pack string of 250 burros. Livestock includes Hereford cattle and 50 buffalo (American bison).

Over 50 men are employed full-time to maintain and operate the ranch and camp.

CONSER- VATION

A multiple-use conservation program is an integral part of the Philmont operation. The program, which coordinates the management of soil, water, range, forest, and wildlife resources, is balanced so that no area of the ranch becomes overused or underdeveloped. Each phase of the conservation program is supervised by a full-time specialist.

Each boy essentially performs conservation work during his trip to Philmont. Scouts are encouraged to leave camp areas "better than they found them."

The conservation program includes building erosion dams and stocking fish, riprapping and willow planting, tree pruning, deer counting, building cattle trails, and erecting water troughs for game.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Villa Philmonte--the original year-round retreat of Waite Phillips. It is now used as part of the Volunteer Training Center.

Kit Carson House--home of the famous scout and trapper. It was built on the site of the famous Santa Fe trail after Lucien Maxwell acquired the Beaubien-Miranda Grant. The home has been restored by boys under the supervision of the camp director.

Indian Writings--Ancient pictographs by early man. At this site Scouts may participate in archeological excavation.

"Tooth of Time" --a 9,000-foot butte which lies to the southwest of Scout Headquarters. It is the best-known landmark at Philmont.

Cyphers Mine--where boys may explore a working gold mine.

Waite Phillips Mountain--favorite mountain climbing area at Philmont. The slope ascends 11,711 feet.