

Summer adventure for Bernardsville Scout Troop



Boy Scout Troop 150

Members of Boy Scout Troop 150, based in Bernardsville, traveled to Cimarron, N.M., this summer for a 12-day trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Troop members include, front row, from left, Ethan Czerniecki and Alex Rundella, both of Bernardsville, Dillon Wintz of the Brookside section of Mendham Township, and Austin Mistretta and Chad Pisano, both of Bernardsville; back row, from left, Tim Browse of Brookside, Jamie Parker, Ben Ferrara and Andrew Lawson, all of Bernardsville, Troy Browse, of Brookside, and Tom Lawson and Chuck Pisano, both of Bernardsville.

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BERNARDSVILLE – While their friends enjoyed summer by going to the shore, eating ice cream on hot days, and relaxing, a group of Boy Scouts from Troop 150 in Bernardsville had other plans.

They decided to travel to New Mexico for a 12-day trek that covered 71 miles. The nine boys, accompanied by three adults, carried everything they needed to survive on their backs.

From Sunday, June 30, through Sunday, July 14, the crew traveled through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M., 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.

The ranch encompasses 214 square miles of wilderness with trails that climb from the base camp, at 6,500 feet, to the summit of Mount Baldy, at 12,441 feet.

During the trip, the Scouts climbed four peaks: Mount Phillips, Comanche Peak, Trail Peak and the Tooth of Time.

The group also participated in backcountry programs that included shotgun shooting, rifle shooting, archery and horseback riding.

Although the scheduled rock climbing program was rained out, activities included a conservation project in which the Scouts learned about and participated in the upkeep of Philmont's trails.

Along the way, the Scouts encountered tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs and often-inclement weather.