

A REAL WILD TIME



The Boy Scouts of Troop 33 enjoyed a rugged outdoor adventure in New Mexico.

Scouts trek through New Mexico wilderness

FANWOOD — A crew of local Boy Scouts and their leaders changed their lives this summer with a 12-day trek through the mountains of New Mexico at Philmont Scout Ranch. Philmont covers 214 square miles, a vast expanse of wilderness, of which Boy Scout Troop 33 covered more than eighty miles in 11 days.

The group of boys and their leaders hiked from small camp to small camp, carrying their lives on their backs during the trek. Though hiking through bear territory and often inclement weather, the Scouts participated in backcountry activities at their stops, including rock climbing, burro racing, gold prospecting and the study of conservation, ecology and the ways of Mother Nature.

The Troop 33 crew also climbed Philmont's highest peak, Mount Baldy, which stands a towering 12,400 feet above sea level.

"They may meet only one other group of Scouts on the trail in an entire day of hiking," a *Backpacker* magazine editor wrote of the ranch. "Even in the most crowded camps, each Scout group camps in isolation, out of sight and sound of all other groups."

The local group made what amounts to a Scouting pilgrimage with their trip to Philmont, the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure camp.

Troop 33 meets regularly at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church on Monday evenings during the school year.