

Westfield boy scouts hike through Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico

Published: Friday, September 21, 2012, 6:10 PM

By [Suburban News](#)



Participating the trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains were, (back row, from left) Peter Foltz, Alex Kalos, Dan Maran, Elijah Wagner; (front row, from left) Tony Hayeck, Ian Hutchinson, Drew Hopper, Jack Levine and Rahul Nair.

A crew of nine teenage Boy Scouts and three leaders from Westfield Boy Scout Troop 72 went on a life changing summer trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico this past July.

Philmont Scout Ranch covers 214 square miles of vast wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to as high as 12,441 feet. Each summer, over 20,000 scouts from all over the U.S. participate in the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure camp. During their trek, the Scouts hiked 105 miles over 10 days.

The group of Scouts and their leaders carried everything they needed to survive during the trek on their backs while hiking from camp to camp. They participated in backcountry programs along the way including rock climbing, spar pole climbing, horseback riding and shot gun shooting.

The trek included a conservation project where the Scouts helped build new trails. Along the trek, the Scouts endured tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory and steep climbs. The highlight of the trip was reaching the summit of Mt. Baldy;

Philmont's highest peak. The mountains and terrain were beautiful and entirely different than here at home. The mountains were covered in Ponderosa Pines, Aspens, Juniper Pines and Scrub Oak.

There were several days when the crew hiked 11 hours before arriving to their next campsite. Despite the number of scouts that attend Philmont each summer, there were days the crew did not see any other people. The boy scouts in attendance were: Peter Foltz, Anthony Hayeck, Andrew Hopper, Ian Hutchinson, Alexander Kalos, Jack Levine, Daniel Maran, Rahul Nair, and Elijah Wagner.

Philmont Scout Ranch has served nearly one million participants since 1938.

For information on how to join Boy Scouts Troop 72 of Westfield, contact Scoutmaster, David Maran at 908-654-1373.



TO NEW HEIGHTS...Under the leadership of David Maran, James Wagner and David Foltz, Boy Scouts from Troop No. 72 in Westfield recently conquered a 102- mile hike in 11 days at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Pictured, Scouts at Baldy Mount, Philmont's highest peak at 12,400 feet.

Watchung Scout journeys on 11-day New Mexico hike



Tony Hayeck

Tony Hayeck displays an elk head found during an 11-day hike in New Mexico.

Posted: Friday, September 7, 2012 3:00 am

By ROB DAVIES, Contributing Writer

WATCHUNG – Resident Tony Hayeck, 16, was among several Boy Scouts from Troop 72 who traveled to New Mexico to take part in an 11-day hike in the mountains of near the Philmont Scout Ranch.

Carrying everything they needed with them as they trekked up to the scout camp, the Scouts were able to put their knowledge to the test.

Philmont provides a great way for Scouts to experience the wonders of nature as they hike through the trails of New Mexico and travel up the highest peak of Philmont, Mount Baldy.

“You’re out backpacking in the wilderness. It’s really quite an experience,” said Hayeck.

At the peak, the Scouts were treated to a view of the several states that border the mountainous peak. The trip up the mountain took troop members the entire day, taking in the natural sites as they hiked.

A wide variety of different activities including branding, rock-climbing, and shotgun shooting were planned during the Scouts' stay at Philmont.

One of the more interesting activities that Hayeck participated during his stay was burro racing. For this activity, Scouts got to ride the burros that the ranch maintains.

"It was a lot of fun. It was pretty interesting being able to ride the burros and ride along side them," said Hayeck. "It was pretty cool because the burros were kind of big."

Challenges also presented themselves to the Scouts during the trip. Issues like having to cook their own food and clean the dishes after gave the sense of independence for the Scouts.

The weather became a factor as well, as humidity and extreme heat beat upon the fellow campers as they tried to stay cool.

"It was about 80, 90, 100 degrees every day, but it wasn't like New Jersey where it is more humid," said Hayeck. "It was very dry. I didn't feel the heat very much because it wasn't very humid."

When asked what trip would he attend next, Hayeck said he "wasn't sure" about where exactly it will be but that he looks forward to his next trip. He did say that he was considering going to the Boy Scout Jamboree this year in West Virginia.