

Scouts trek 82 miles through New Mexico

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Photos



Scouts from Hamburg Troop 48 and Wantage Troop 153 after they completed the 82-plus-mile trek back to base camp.



The scouts at Deer Lake Mesa Camp in Colorado.

Scouts from Hamburg Troop 48 and Wantage Troop 153 or Crew 630-J4 had the adventure of a lifetime when they went to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. this past July.

Their adventure began when the crew members landed in Colorado Springs, Colo. Acclimated to the elevation, the crew hiked the Red Rocks and viewed rock formations, toured the Olympic Training Center, and had a whole day of white water rafting before heading to Philmont Scout Ranch.

Philmont is in the Sangre De Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains called the Magic Mountains and consists of 137,000 acres of land given to the Boy Scouts by Waite Phillips. It is still a working cattle ranch.

Crew 630-J4 chose trek 8 which had them hiking 62 miles and experiencing programs like .30-06 reloading and shooting, rock climbing and rappelling, spar pole climbing, western lore and branding, horseback riding, fly fishing and fly tying, shot gun reload and shooting and homesteading.

They climbed to the peak of four mountains. Mount Phillips is 11,721 feet, Trail Peak is 10,250 and is the site of a B42 bomber that crashed in 1942 near the summit, Big Red is 11,024 feet,

Comanche Peak is 11,326 feet and the Tooth of Time which is 9,007 feet. The crew hiked from camp to camp carrying all they needed on our backs. By the time Crew 630-J4 finished the trek they had hiked more than 82 miles in 10 days.

The scouts ranging in age from 14 to 17 had four adults accompany them. Three generations were on the trail at one point as a grandparent joined the scouts for the first three days. Two Crew Leaders, a Navigator, a Chaplain Aide and a Wilderness Guia helped the scouts adhere to the Leave No Trace principles. In one camp they participated in a four hour conservation project, where they helped to redevelop a trail to a campsite.

After the trek was over and they hiked into base camp through the Tooth of Time, they all paused and had their picture taken under the arch that said, "We made it."

— Submitted by Crew Reporter Ian VanCarpels

Crew 630-J4

On June 28th the members of Crew 630-J4 embarked on a journey of a lifetime. They boarded a plane headed for Colorado Springs CO. Once there they would become acclimated to the elevation and do some fun things before they headed for their ultimate destination, Philmont Scout Ranch.

Philmont Scout Ranch is "Scouting Paradise". Philmont is in the Sangre De Cristo Range of the Rocky Mountains called the Magic Mountains and consists of 137,000 acres of land given to the Boy Scouts by Waite Phillips. It is still a working cattle ranch.

Each year scouts from all over come to experience scouting at its finest. Crews of 12 choose a trek that will take them on the trip of a lifetime. Crew 630-J4 chose trek 8 which had them hiking 62 miles and experiencing programs like .30-06 reloading and shooting, rock climbing and rappelling, spar pole climbing, western lore and branding, horseback riding, fly fishing and fly tying, shot gun reload and shooting, and homesteading. We climbed to the peak of four mountains. Mount Phillips is 11,721 feet, Trail Peak is 10,250 and is the site of a B42 bomber that crashed in 1942 near the summit, Big Red is 11,024 feet, Comanche Peak is 11,326 feet, and the Tooth of Time which is 9,007 feet. The crew hiked from camp to camp carrying all they need on their backs. By the time Crew 630-J4 finished their trek they had hiked 82+ miles in 10 days.

The scouts ranged in age from 14 to 17, Four adults accompanied them on their adventure and had quite the adventure themselves. A grandparent actually joined them for the first three days and we had three generations on the trail at one time. We had two Crew Leaders, a Navigator, a Chaplain Aide, and a Wilderness Guide that helped us adhere to the Leave No Trace principles. In one camp we participated in a four hour conservation project. We helped to redevelop a trail to a campsite.

Before the scouts left their small towns in Sussex County NJ , they participated in a program called the Watchu Experience. This program prepared them for their trip. For eighteen months the scouts and adults alike trained, bought equipment, and met regularly to assure they were prepared for this undertaking. The eighteen month training culminated in a simulated Philmont weekend where we were trained in hiking procedures, cooking, appropriate gear, bear bag safety, and an overview of our trek. The Watchu Experience provided us with all the knowledge we would use in the backcountry of Philmont.

Philmont Scout Ranch is the highlight of any scouts career. Philmont has a way of making you dig deep inside yourself and pull out strength that you didn't know you had. After the trek was over and we hiked into basecamp through the Tooth of Time, we all paused and had our picture taken under the arch that said " We made it". The feeling of accomplishment is something that I will hold close for the rest of my life along with the memories of Crew 630-J4.

Crew 630-J4
Crew Reporter
Ian VanCarpels