

LOCAL SCOUTS ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

This summer, BSA Troop 58, sponsored by the Blanchard-Currey Post 1040 of The American Legion in Delmar, participated in two of Scouting's premier events: National Jamboree and a 12-day Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Jamboree

First to leave town were three Troop 58 Scouts: Troop 58G Senior Patrol Leader, Lizzy Cable, her twin brother, Ben, and Stella Naumovitz, accompanied by Stella's father, Troop 58 Committee (Board) Member, Adam Naumovitz. Beginning July 19, the four of them joined 61 other Scouts and Adult Leaders from the local Twin Rivers Council at the 20th National Jamboree at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

"Jambo," is a gathering of thousands of members of Scouts BSA (formerly Boy Scouts of America) and is usually held every four years. Male and female Scouts throughout the United States and all over the world join together for ten days of fun and adventure. For many Scouts, this is a once in a lifetime adventure that allows them to participate in high adventure activities including white-water rafting, rock climbing, and mountain biking and gives them the opportunity to practice camping skills and leadership within their Troop.

This year's Jamboree marked the first time female Scout Troops were able to attend. Prior Jamborees welcomed Venturing, Explorer and international Scouts, but in 2019, young women were welcomed to participate in all aspects of the Scouts BSA program. Troop 58G's Lizzy Cable served as Senior Patrol Leader for the 10-person Twin Rivers girls Troop.

At Jambo, some of the Troop 58 Scouts went ziplining or shot a rifle for the first time, while others completed merit badges in genealogy or cooking. Scouts slept two to a tent and were responsible for cooking their own meals and managing their daily schedules. While at Jamboree, the Troop 58 Scouts participated in a large-scale service project assembling "Flood Bucket" cleaning kits to help families affected by flooding.

Stella Naumovitz said, "I decided to go to Jambo because it had so many new things to experience. There were concerts, whitewater rafting, ziplining, rock climbing, and so much more! I made friends from all over the country and learned a lot about leadership. I'm so glad I went and I'll never forget my time there."

"Jamboree offered me tons of opportunities for leadership," said Ben Cable, "and I took those offers up." Indeed, Ben served as Quartermaster and Head of Logistics for the 45-person Twin Rivers boys Troop. In that capacity, Ben was responsible for making sure that "all equipment and planning was done before we went." Ben added, "my favorite aspect of Jambo was the fact I could talk with other Scouts from around the country and hear about what it's like to be from where they are."

Jambo Photos:

Lizzy Cable, Ben Cable, Stella Naumovitz, Adam Naumovitz

Lizzy Cable, Stella Naumovitz

Stella Naumovitz, Adam Naumovitz

Philmont

Meanwhile, on July 21st, six Scouts and three Adult Leaders from BSA Troop 58 flew to Denver on their way to Philmont Scout Ranch, located in Cimarron, New Mexico. The participating Scouts were Dylan Cady, Chris Cutsogeorge, Jacob Cronce, Gregory Courtney, Charlie LaDue and Vince Piccinini. The Adult Advisors accompanying the Scouts to Philmont were Assistant Scoutmaster, Nathan Courtney, and Troop 58 Committee members, Nate Cady and Jim Cronce.

Philmont is Scouts BSA's largest High Adventure Camp. It covers 140,177 acres of rugged mountain wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rocky Mountains in northern New Mexico. Crew members choose an itinerary ranging from 7 to 12 days and covering between 52-84 miles. The crew of Scouts and their adult advisors carry everything they need to survive during the trek on their backs while hiking from camp to camp. They participate in backcountry programs along the way including rock climbing, mountain biking, fly-fishing and gold prospecting. Along the trek, Scouts endure tough challenges including backpacking in bear and mountain lion territory, steep climbs, and often inclement weather.

Troop 58's Crew selected a 12-day itinerary covering 59 miles in Philmont's North Section. Their Trek began at Base Camp where the Crew met Ranger Allan Kafir, a sophomore at Northeastern University. Allan introduced the Crew to Philmont's Survival techniques including installation of a dining fly at the Trek's campsites and hanging the Crew's food 10 feet above the ground, out-of-reach of any bears. Allan stayed with the Crew for the first two days of the Trek.

Highlights of the Trek included visits to backcountry camps staffed by musicians and actors, dressed in period garb, who regaled Crew members with stories and songs from frontier life at the turn of the 20th century. Arriving at Camp Santa Clause on July 24, Crew members enjoyed 12-gauge shotgun shooting and a visit by Santa Claus, himself, who entertained Crew members at the campfire by answering any and all of their questions about life at the North Pole.

Another highlight of the Trek was catching daily glimpses of Baldy Mountain, elevation 12,441 feet. Ultimately, on Day 10, the Troop 58 Crew summited Baldy. After enduring daily rainstorms on each of their previous days, their hike up Baldy was on a sunny, beautiful day. At the top, Crew members were met by a festive atmosphere in which Crews from across the country celebrated having reached, too, the zenith of their itinerary.

Upon their arrival back at Base Camp, Crew members appreciated having been disconnected from their devices and the stresses of day-to-day, modern life. Instead, during the Trek they had learned about self-reliance and reliance on their fellow Crew members for the basic tasks of

hiking to their destinations, finding water, protecting themselves from daily rainshowers and cooking their meals. Along the way, they entertained each other with jokes and were entertained by Philmont's outstanding staff. There was something new for each Crew member, including muzzle-loaded shotgun shooting, horseback riding and summing a 12,000 foot mountain. They all matured and learned to appreciate the amenities of modern life.

Dylan Cady, Troop 58's Crew Leader, said, "Philmont was the experience of a lifetime. It's a place that fosters personal growth as well as team-building and creating positive group dynamics."

Chris Cutsogearge, the Crew's Chaplain's Aide and Troop 58B's Senior Patrol Leader, said that Philmont is so magnificent that, "Scouts from across the country go to it. I can say with confidence that Philmont has changed me for the better and I am truly blessed to have gone there."

Jacob Counce, the Crew's Wilderness Pledge Guide, said that at the beginning of the Trek, he really missed the comforts of home. But, Jacob said, "after a few days, I adapted to Philmont and was able to enjoy myself." By the end, Jacob recognized "how much I had grown and changed, both physically and mentally in just a little over a week. I guess you could say that Philmont has magic, an invisible kind of magic, that sneaks into your heart, body and mind, right under your nose."

Crew member Vince Piccinini remarked, "normally, my life is cluttered with plans and things to do, but while at Philmont, my mind was clear and I could just think."

Philmont Photos:

Group shot, Top (L-R): Jim Counce, Nate Cady, Nathan Courtney

Bottom (L-R): Charlie LaDue, Jacob Counce, Chris Cutsogearge, Allan Kafig, Dylan Cady, Vince Piccinini, Gregory Courtney

Vince Piccinini, Felix the horse, Wrangler

Dylan Cady with Baldy Mountain in background

Jacob and Ranger Bucky

Troop 58 Crew approaching Baldy

Charlie, Vince, Gregory, Jacob, Dylan, Chris

Crew approaching Baldy

Chris with handkerchief that he successfully targeted with a muzzle-loaded rifle

Adult Advisors: Jim Counce, Nathan Courtney, Nate Cady

In the final photo, Adult Advisor Jim Counce is photographed in front of a display at the National Scouting Museum, located at the Philmont Scout Ranch, for the Antarctica Service Medal.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctica_Service_Medal Jim is a two-time recipient of this honor for his service as an Aircraft Structural Mechanic, Stratton Air National Guard Base. Jim and his

crew make annual two-month long trips to Antarctica to assist the National Science Foundation operations there.

For more information about Troop 58, please go to: <https://www.troop58.us/>
Find us on Facebook at Scouts BSA Troop 1058