

From the President

An Exciting Year

Our 50 year anniversary celebration is coming up quickly. It will be a great opportunity to get together to reminisce about all the great memories throughout those years; and of course, some of us have more stories than others (ask Greg Hillman about the earliest years!).

As we all know, we have had our "ups and downs" over those years, but the troop has endured. We provide a great family program and encourage a healthy lifestyle. We allow our scouts opportunities to grow and develop and become better leaders through these opportunities. Many of us can attest to what scouting has taught us and what the program has enabled us to do.

We've all been blessed to be a part of this great organization and the current and future

generations deserve our support to help provide them similar opportunities as well. To this point, I ask for your support.

As you are aware, we are no longer allowed to meet in the church due to changes in the insurance policy of the diocese. But we are fortunate to have our scout building, but that building is cold in the winter and wasn't intended for us to meet in during the winter months.

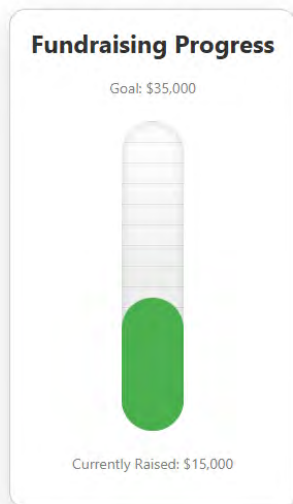
We got by last year, but we would like to heat and insulate the big bay to expand the meeting space available during the winter months. This is a project with an estimated cost of \$35,000, and with your help, we can make it happen.

I would strongly encourage you



to consider a gift between now and our anniversary event this September. Any amount would be appreciated. Please follow the link in this newsletter to start giving today, and let's plan to continue to meet for the next 50 years!

-Ken





50th Reunion Celebration!

Have you signed up, yet? Sign up online or just stop in - August 31, 2025

The Celebration is almost here!

Over the last year, we've been posting and promoting the 50th celebration. The time is almost here. On Sunday, August 31 we will be gathering at the Jim Potjunas Troop 101 Scout Center to celebrate the Troop's 50th. (Labor Day Weekend)

We've had folks sign up online, we've had a few people mail in. If you haven't yet, be sure to check out Alumni101.net for Reunion information and sign up soon! This helps us make sure we have enough food for everyone. If you forget, we still want to see you there!

So, what's happening?

If you were with us back in 2005,

we held a reunion very similarly to this one. We will gather at the building and have various games and activities for everyone to participate in. You can visit the Historic displays, catch up with friends, and compete in several activities.

From Noon to 1pm, join us in the Dutch Oven cooking competition. Judging will be done from 1pm to 2pm by anyone in attendance. Prizes to the top 3 dishes.

From 2pm to 4pm, you can also compete in the Cornhole tournament. Again, prizes to the winning team.

Around 6pm we will be having a campfire program. Want to lead or perform a song or skit? Gather your friends and let us know so we

can have the ultimate campfire program!

For those traveling into the area, last time we had a reunion like this – a few groups gathered at local restaurants the night before. If you plan on hosting one, let us know so we can put it on Alumni101.net for others to see. We'll also post a quick update on Facebook.

On behalf of the Alumni Board and Troop 101, I can say we are all excited to welcome everyone to the reunion and hope to see you there.

-Mr. Matt

PHILMONT EXPEDITION 2025



In our last issue, we reported on Troop 101 sending 2 crews to Philmont. A bucket list item for many, and a first time for nearly everyone, this once in a lifetime opportunity was just as they advertised it to be. By the time we returned from the trip, the scouts were all in agreement, saying proudly "I want to go back to Philmont".

Of the 23 Troop members that went to Philmont, 21 of us traveled by train from Cleveland on June 7th by train. It was an enjoyable trip, and a first time by train for almost everyone. Arriving in Raton, New Mexico, Troop 101 grabbed our bags and boarded a bus. Singing the entire

drive to Cimmaron and Philmont. There, we would meet with the last 2 members of our expedition. Corbet and Bridger Hoover, newly joined member of Troop 101.

Corbet and Bridger are part of the 101 family, both currently registered members, as well as being connected to us through Ned Gold, as mom is Marianne. After meeting both for the first time in person, we spent the rest of that day, and the next one, preparing to head out on the trail.

Our journey began by traveling





to Deer Lake. This first leg of our trip was to be through the Ute Park Fire burn area of Philmont. This season, we were one of the very first groups to travel this route since the fires of 2018 that ravished over 36,000 acres.

That night, in the windy open area near Deer Lake, the moon shown brightly reflected in the still waters as we officially spent our first night on the trek.

In the morning, we set forth to Ute Gulch for our first commissary pickup. Passports stamped in with stamps that haven't been used in almost 7 years. That evening we stayed in Minnette Meadows and discussed some of the recovery efforts for the burn area.

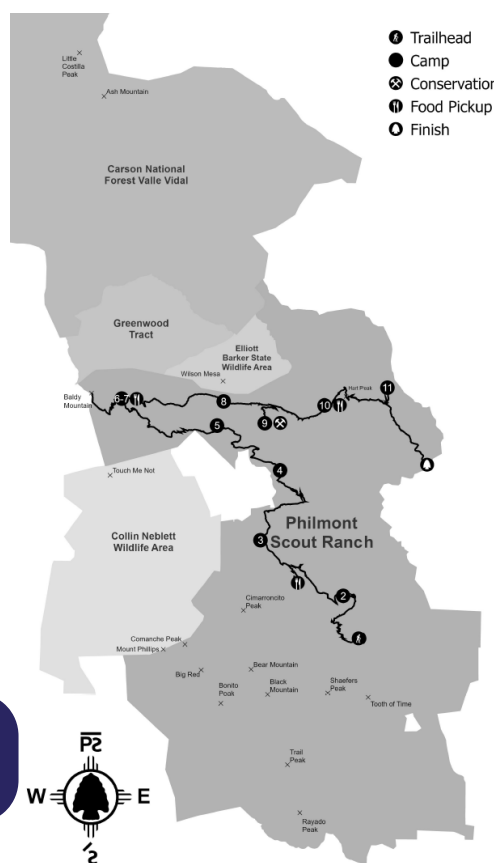
It was the last night with our Philmont guides. In the morning traveling to Cimarroncita for some Archery and Fire Ecology. A storm rolled in, and while it didn't last long – it did surprise our scouts with some hail. Laughing at the strangeness for us Ohioans seeing ice fall from the sky in the dessert. Spirits were high, which was good... the next stretch to the top of Mistletoe would strain the good mood as we had to carry our water from the bottom to the campsite at the top.

Most on the trip would consider this one of the more difficult days of the journey. In the morning, the trek to Head of Dean would take us through Santa Clause, a staff camp that has

been shut down but was still beautiful. At Head of Dean the COPE activities and sunset hike helped bring the moods back up and gave everyone a chance to relax and enjoy the stars.

It was on this next day that we would arrive in Baldy Town. Here we got some well needed and enjoyed showers and prepared for the journey to the top of Baldy the next day. At times it felt like we were walking straight up that mountain. But we made it! Spending a good bit of time at the top enjoying the scenery.

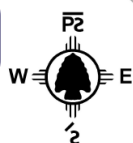
Three of our recent Eagle Scouts even re-took their Eagle photos at the top of Baldy. Some to take over as their official photo – others to have another fond memory of their accomplishments.



On a personal note, I, (Mr. Matt), will forever remember summiting Baldy while members of both crews cheered me on to the top.

From Baldy Town we traveled to French Henry for some blacksmithing and panning for gold. Then, it was off to Pueblano for the Continental Tie and Lumber Company campfire program and spar pole.

After climbing the Spar Poles in the morning, it was off to Elkhorn. This was where our service project to Philmont was taking place, and after using the old trail we were working to replace, it was easy to see why it was going to be a huge



improvement. We actually had a lot of fun creating the new trail, leveling it, and working together in the service project.

After Elkhorn it was time to head to Ponil. This was easily the busiest campsite we'd been to in our journey so far... and we're still discussing if it's better to have Crunchy or Creamy root beer. If you have to ask, you may never know the truth ("Creamy is best" – Mr. Matt). In Ponil, the campfire program was fun, and our scouts



Writing so they could use the Atlatl, while Crew B would continue to the top of the hill for a beautiful sunset in Coyote Howl.

In the morning, it was off to see an actual T-Rex track before hiking to the extraction t Six Mile gate. Then it was back to Base Camp for Closing Campfire, and a wonderful Dinner at the Lambert Hotel in Cimmaron.



showed their spirit taking over at the end and singing songs as other crews joined in or clapped from the sidelines. It's incredible to see just how excited and happy our boys can get when having a good time. Eventually, they had to tell us it was time to go to bed, or I'm sure they would have continued through the night.

Crew B, code name "Wampus Cat" would get the opportunity to shoot in the Cowboy Action, and both crews would get to shower during the day. Crew A, with a couple of nicknames surrounding Dr. Pepper, would need to wait to shoot in the morning.

Our last full day on the trail brought both crews over Hart Peak, and into Indian Writing. There, Crew B had some time to use the Atlatl (Spear Bow and Arrow) while Crew A was a few hours behind. This was the first night our crews wouldn't stay in the same camp. Crew A would stay in Indian



As we said farewell to the Hoovers and took a flight home, we took note of some fond memories of our time at Philmont. Smart watches helped compute how many miles we'd taken. An average showed we backpacked around 71 miles on the trail. There was an additional 63 miles of in camp miles. Totaling about 134.3 miles.

What an amazing trip. Highly recommended for those considering it the next time Philmont rolls around.



Technical Changes

How Technology can enhance the Scouting Program

Technology hasn't always been a part of Scouting. In fact, visiting alumni, as well as some current scouters from the "Good Old Days" have lamented the presence of it on campouts. Love it or hate it, Troop 101 figured it out years ago that you need to embrace change if you want to stay relevant. Now at 50 years old, Troop 101 has continued to show its willingness to include, and set boundaries, for technology in our Scouting program.

In the late 90's, Troop 101 partnered with a young startup called TroopMaster. The software tracks campouts, activities, advancement and special awards for Troop 101, and has done so for the last 25 years. In the early 00's, Troop 101 joined the internet and started Troop101.net. Originally created by Mike Kunz, who went on to work for Amazon and Microsoft, the site has continued to evolve over the last 25 years. Thanks to Mr. Matt's career as an Application Developer, the site also features many tools that help plan members, meeting programs, finances and more. Scouting has also

brought technology into merit badges like Computers, Digital Technology, Programming, Robotics, etc. And existing badges like Astronomy, Space Exploration, and Nuclear Science also come to mind as tech focused badges.

When Dr. LaPolla took over as Scoutmaster, he asked Matt to create an app that would have a charcoal calculator for members to use in Cooking activities. This evolved into the Troop Cooking app that is now freely available on both the Android and iOS app stores.

For Philmont this year, several parents were worried about the lack of cell service. While there are more areas with service today than in years past, Mr. Matt was able to create a texting relay that received messages sent by satellite and redirect them to parents.

In just the last 10 years, we started hosting the Troop website at the Scout Building. The Photo gallery continues to grow. And the tools we use to plan, coordinate, and run Troop activities continues to push boundaries.

Most of our Technology is second-hand. The computer in the conference

room was donated around 2013. The Finance and Advancement PCs in 2018. And the 4 laptops we have for scouts to use at meetings were donated between 2017-2019 as well.

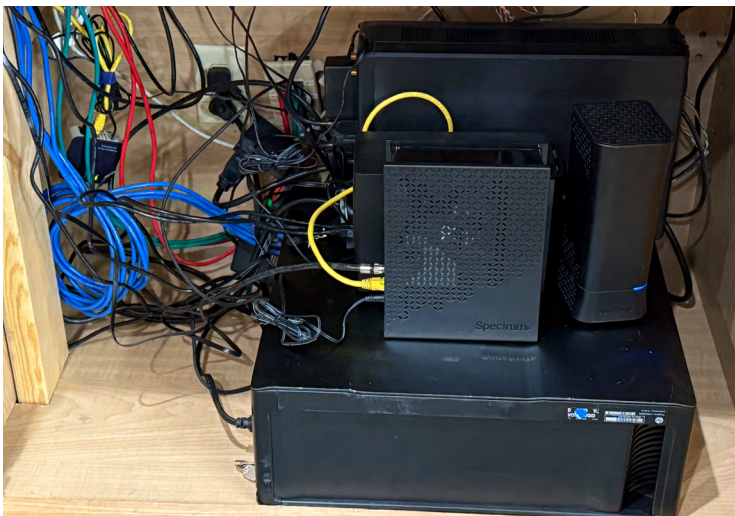


Other technology, like the 3D Printers and Laser Cutters were brand new when they arrived, and have received many hours of use, printing and cutting fun projects. The Troop even purchased a few drones that can be operated with Cell Phones for some fun

activities flying in the skies.

While the Troop doesn't really need more computers, occasionally a need does arise. And, some of these computers are pushing 10 years or more of service. One computer sadly just took a tumble off the desk and now lies in non-functional pieces. So, if you're replacing some office machines, or it's time for the annual family upgrade. If you're going to just throw away your PC, let Mr. Matt know. We might be able to give that machine a few more years of service with Troop 101.

Can you think of ways Technology can enhance Scouting? Let us know your thoughts!





MORE PHILMONT PHOTOS - 2025



TROOP 101
ALUMNI QUARTERLY

7

Ken LaPolla	President
Jason Paisley	Scoutmaster
Charles James	Committee Chair
Brandie Wagner	Finance
Alex Stirling	Secretary
Tammy Price	Assistant Secretary
Matt McCracken	Web & Newsletter
Shelly Taylor	Past President
Carmine DelliQuadri	Director at Large
Jeff Faulk	Director at Large
Chris Stringham	Director at Large

Editor / Stories Wanted

Write for the Alumni Newsletter

It's time for a new editor. Are you interested in collecting or writing for the Alumni Newsletter? Please let us know by sending an email to newsletter@troop101.net.

In addition, we want to share your story. Have a memory of your time in Scouting? Want to let friends know something amazing going on in your

life? Send those in! We would love to share these memories and stories on our Facebook page or in future issues.

Again, email us at:
newsletter@troop101.net

Thank you for making the Troop great, and for sharing the great stories you have to tell.

The 101 Club



The 101 Club is an all-new way to help. As always, being an Alumni member is free, and entitles you access to awesome things like the Newsletter and the Troop website.

Being part of the 101 Club is a way to become more involved and help with the growing costs of supporting the Troop 101 Scouting program. This includes maintaining and insuring the Troop equipment, helping families in need, and more!

To show you're a member of the 101 Club, everyone that joins will receive a special patch to commemorate their membership! We will also feature your name in the Alumni Newsletter as a

club member, and supporter of what we do.

Scan the QR Code to join today! All donations of at least \$101 qualify.



Upcoming Troop Events & Activities

August

1-3 - Crew 101 Whitewater Rafting
13-17 - D-Day Point-2-Point
31 - 50th Reunion

September

5-7 - Crew 101 Sailing Trip
12-14 - Moraine State Park

October

17-19- Tomlinson Run
27 - Halloween Party

November

14-16 - Seven Ranges
29 - Alumni Holiday Gathering

December

14 - Troop Holiday Party

