

1995 Venture Trip 2/2

August 5 – August 20

Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico

Troop 275 – Ames, Iowa

1995 Venture Crew Photo:

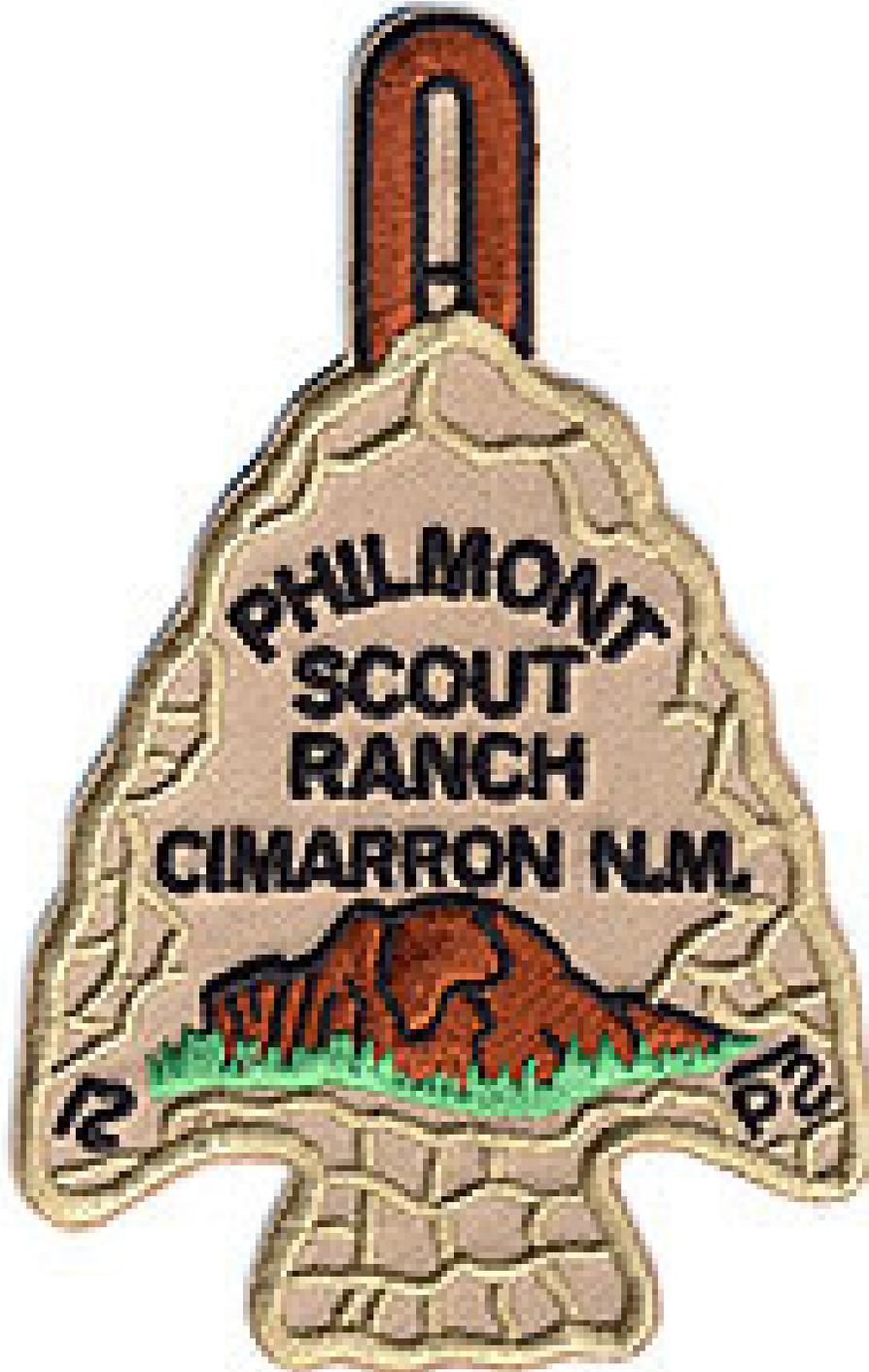


Back L to R: 1) Nathan Casey, 2) Jacob Hiett, 3) Andrey Bittner, 4) Evan Jeffrey, 5) Chris Meyer
Front L to R: 6) Ryan Jeffery, 7) Tom Meyer, 8) Mercedes Volk (Ranger), 9) Dion Harmon, 10) Tom Casey

1995 Venture Crew T-shirt:



1995 Venture Crew Patch:



1995 Map(s):

n/a



1995 Venture Crew Journal 2/2

Troop 275 Venture Trip – Crew 807Y
Philmont Scout Ranch
Cimarron, NM
August 5-20, 1995

Prepared by Dion Harmon.

August 5, 1995 - Saturday - Day -1 - Elevation 1000'

We leave Tom M.'s house at 8:30 AM. Lunch in Lincoln, Nebraska at McDonalds. At 15:30 we stop in Kearney at Cabela's for the purpose of getting a smaller rod case for Tom M's fly pole. He didn't get it, but Andrey got a Generic Person Whomper (it changed a lot over the course of the trip) and Jake got a compass he didn't like. Also, we stopped at McDonalds for ice cream before leaving town. At about eighteen hundred hours we arrived in Ogalalla (Lake McConaughy campground). We have to buy some sugar for the bug juice (it came without it -- strange). Ravioli is for dinner, and we choose numbers for the duty roster. One of the tents is missing a stake. At about twenty two hundred hours some "young hoodlums" set off fire crackers nearby the campsite.

August 6, 1995 - Sunday Day 0 --Elevation about 2500'

We get up about 6:15 AM. Oatmeal and hot chocolate for breakfast. Some try cold cereal with tang (dry). We are on the road about seven thirty. We arrive in town at eight o'clock and Tom C. has to replace a balding tire. This takes about an hour. We stop in Brighton for lunch at Blimpie's. Shortly after, we stop at the REI in Denver, Colorado. There we discover that Ryan left his wallet in Brighton -- luckily they found it and will send it to his house. Stop at Wal-Mart in Manitou Springs at 15:15 to buy ground cloth. Arrive at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument at eighteen hundred. We try attempt to get to the outback campsites, but give up and decide the 4WD road there is too long and too treacherous. Finally we go to a campsite with some amenities. Mosquitoes are bad tonight. We do, however, have a nice view of the Dunes. Unfortunately we do not have time to hike up them this year. During dinner, due to Evan's pulverizing of the noodle packets (he must like powder, or something) a pan of hot water falls over but no one is injured. Dinner consists of Raman noodles and Cup-a-Soup. Before sleep, we go to the recreation room and play some ping-pong and take showers. Apparently the Little Cafe has good hamburgers.

August 7, 1995 - Monday Day 1--Base Camp Elevation 6621'

Breakfast is the usual, oatmeal, but today we get a treat - hot cider. Mosquitoes are even worse this

morning. We are on the road by seven thirty. We stopped in Trinidad, CO, for a "second breakfast" of doughnuts. We arrive in Philmont at ten thirty. Meet our ranger, Mercedes Volk. Standard checking in procedure. Campfire dull, but better than last time (and shorter too).

August 8, 1995 - Tuesday Day 2 --Cathedral Rock Elevation 7760'

Mediocre breakfast. Very short hike to campsite. We decide to trek up to get our food instead of doing it tomorrow. Long trek back, but a beautiful view from Window Rock (elev. 8312'). We arrive in camp at nineteen hundred hours and discover that we are one dinner short, though an extra lunch strong. And, although Mercedes asked specifically for it, we got no Mac & Cheese tonight. We decide to eat the spreadables, to the disgust of many. After dinner, Mercedes reads us a Dr. Seuss bed time story (*Horton Hatches an Egg*). It was very popular. Jake recites Rinderccella. Thought Tom Sawyer and Robin Hood would prove too scandalous.

Additions:

Tonight Mercedes was evaluated. A guy came by and gave her a moderately hard time (though probably not as hard a time as we gave her).

August 9, 1995 - Wednesday Day 3 --Sawmill Camp Elevation 9200'

Evan has an early morning nose bleed, which recurs throughout the day. Because of the TP in his nose, we dub him the walking Molotov cocktail. The trail breakfast is ok. An eagle's nest is pointed out by Mercedes. Supposedly a golden eagle; we didn't see it. We stop by the ice cave on the way out of camp. It is chilly and has a small entrance. Ryan gets stuck (maybe he didn't - it isn't clear). We have a trail mixup near Cimmoncinto (we missed a big sign). We have our dutch oven dinner of peach cobbler. We also have spaghetti. The hike today seems long compared to yesterday's. We skip the program (.30-06 rifles).

Mercedes reads Dr. Seuss (*To Think I Saw It on Mulberry Street*). Roses and thorns. Advisors coffee is uninteresting. Tell Mercedes the Australian jokes. Evan does his Velveta monologue.

Additions:

Today Jake popped one of the rubber bands off of his braces. The braces continue to be a problem throughout the trek.

August 10, 1995 - Thursday Day 4--Comanche Peak Elevation 11299',

Red Hills Camp Elevation 10240'

Most get up early for the much-talked-about sunrise. It was beautiful; one could see an Oklahoman

ridge 130 mi. away. Raisin Bran and Nutri Grain Strawberry bars for breakfast. Mercedes catches up with us at a Kodak moment. Takes her leave at Thunder Ridge Camp. Much up hill to Comanche Peak Camp and the trail was very crowded until after lunch, when it started to rain. Our lunch is Graham Crackers and PBJ plus jerky and pineapple bits with grape drink. We take the trail over Comanche peak. It has a worse view than our lunch spot, however. We decide against the Phillips peak side hike because it is raining cats and dogs and there is lightning in the area. *Steep* descent to Red Hills camp through a stream. Much relief when camp is reached. We find a fairly poor campsite, but adequate. All are tired. We soon discover that the toilet paper got wet. Open air latrine (our first). Beef stew, lemon drink, fruit compote for dinner. Some write post-cards.

**August 11, 1995 - Friday Day 5 Crooked Creek Camp Elevation 9360',
Porcupine Camp Elevation 9070'**

Breakfast of instant oatmeal (maple and brown sugar), Power Bars (they bend back!), and beef jerky. The Power Bars were not well liked. Gradual downhill most of the day's hike. Many crossings of the stream that the trail followed. Brief uphill to Crooked Creek Homestead Camp. Andrey and Dion shovel shit. Nathan and Ryan fetch water from so-called creek (only 1' foot wide, and it took two trips to find). All strip bark from trees for the tack shed. We finished two. Our theory is that they tear it down every winter so that scouts can build it up again. Lunch was squeeze cheese and Ritz crackers with spice beef sticks. We were harassed by very aggressive chickens (Butch!) throughout. Ten minute walk to campsite. End of 2.5 hours hiking today. Sun lasts for two hours and wet gear is dried before it drenches us again. We also have some difficulty finding the bear cable, although it was not hidden. A strange trio of tents is formed during the early part of the storm. Jake loses two more rubber bands from his braces. Dinner of turkey stroganoff and peaches and cream pie. Evan cuts himself on his own knife while preparing the pie. The dinner was well liked by most.

**August 12, 1995 - Saturday Day 6 Phillips Junction -Elevation 8960,
Beaubien Camp Elevation 9440'**

Dry granola cereal, banana chips, beef sticks, and hot chocolate for breakfast. Cereal was not well liked. Another damp morning for breaking camp. Jake pops another rubber band. Half an hour to Phillips Junction. We meet a dentist advisor from another crew who partially fixes Jake's braces with a Leatherman tool. We get two rolls of much needed toilet paper (we neglected to pick up any at the last food pickup). Most go to the trading post for some candy. Short hike to Beaubien (pop. 14). We set up camp leisurely. Lunch of tuna salad spreadables, saltine crackers, and raisins. Seventy-five minute walk to conservation site. Safety speech, intro to tools: McCloud, shovel, and maddock. Another hike to end of trail. Cut up some trees. Fill up hole with rocks and dirt. Dion gouges finger. Pat trail. Return to trail head and tell staff person Australian jokes. Chuck wagon dinner of biscuits (burnt), beef stew, peach cobbler, and hot chocolate. Liked by most. Report from cleanup crew (Nathan and Jake) resembles a horror story. Also, the advisors say the coffee was terrible (half of it was grounds). Hang bear bags in

the dark.

August 13, 1995 - Sunday Day 7 Beaubien Camp- Elevation 9440'

Sleep in. Peaches and cream oatmeal and beef jerky for breakfast. Wash clothes. Some trouble starting fire for showers. Some shower. Turkey spreadables, crackers, raisins and trail mix for lunch. Try to lasso saw-cows. Most are moderately successful. Brand boots and Ryan brands Pemmican Bar. Do unsupervised conservation work, which consists of lugging big logs to the rear of the staff cabin. Dinner of lasagna (kind of), and banana pudding. Advisors go to advisors *tea* and scouts sit around and blab about various interesting topics. Advisors bring back tea bags.

August 14, 1995 - Monday Day 8 Fish Camp Elevation 8560', Agua Fria Camp Elevation 9200'

Some sleep under the stars. Morning begins with a slight drizzle but a beautiful sunrise. Breakfast of Frosted Flakes, beef jerky, nutter butter granola bars, grape drink, and the usual hot chocolate. Everything is damp. Food pickup at Phillips Junction again. They have only one lunch #7, chicken spreadables. They try to give us four of them, but we trade one for an extra breakfast,. We also receive a pancake breakfast the day *after* our layover day, when we would have had time to prepare it. Of note is the fact that after this pickup we are carrying 33 meal packages. Some get yet more candy. Short hike to Fish Camp, where we get a short tour of Waite Phillip's favorite hunting lodge. It had nice couches there, many buffalo rugs, a \$20,000 wooden table, and the remains of the last big horn sheep and the last grizzly bear on the ranch. We missed seeing a rat jump out of the attic. After the lodge tour we tied some flies and tried our hands at casting. We left for Agua Fria Camp shortly because the weather did not look promising. Set up camp in the drizzle amidst many cow pies. Eat a lunch #7 (which, for the record, consists of Chicken spreadables, club crackers, fig bars, and raisin packages -- "ingredients: raisins"). Most nap until dinner. Tom M went fly fishing and caught a 6-inch inch rainbow trout while Ryan tried to burn things with a magnifying glass. Dinner of chicken soup and green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy (chunky and very plentiful), and lemon pie for dessert. Slight problems involving pie.

August 15, 1995 - Tuesday Day 9 Abreu Camp Elevation 7248'

Get up earlier than usual in anticipation of long hike today. Breakfast, of Rice Crispies and Pemmican Bars. Hike to Fish Camp where Dion has some problems finding a non-staff latrine.

The hike to Abreu Camp was our longest yet, though it, was not our hardest. The views of the Rayado Canyon and, at times, beyond were breathtaking. We played leapfrog with our sister crew and another crew near the beginning of the hike. Shortly before our descent to Abreu, we came across a crew from Missouri that we have seen a few times before. They were eating lunch while enjoying one of best views we've seen yet. We arrive in Abreu shortly after noon. After we set up camp, eat lunch, and take some showers, we troop off to the cantina for much root beer. We then sat and watched the stream for

a while, waiting for the adobe brick-making program. The program involved mixing dirt, sand, straw, and water together to make a mucky slop called adobe, which we used to mortar some adobe bricks onto a wall of the cantina extension they're building. There is a slight rush to prepare dinner when we hear that they might run out of Mexican dinners. During preparation, Tom M. hooks a small fish in the stream (so he says, we never saw it). The dinner is fairly successful, although we had some trouble making the sopapillas. In spite of this, they were the most popular item. Some question the wisdom of eating food that smears honey all over your face in the middle of bear country. Unfortunately, we missed the burro racing due to the long preparation time for the sopapillas. After dinner, the bear bags were speedily hung and the scouts raced off for more root beer. Some decided to sleep out under the stars. Surprisingly, it does not rain -- one of the few such nights on the trail.

August 16, 1995 - Wednesday Day 10 Crater Lake Camp 8400'

Tom M. sees two deer while getting water this morning. Everyone is cheery, as usual. Breakfast of Pop Tart wannabe's, raisins 'n Spice Oatmeal with the usual dry questions on the packages, and beef sticks. We arrive in Crater Lake Camp before noon after one of our usual fast-paced hikes. Along the trail Nathan sights a green snake and at Aguila we see a deer. Shortly after arriving in camp, we caught sight of a deer that reappeared periodically throughout the afternoon. After we find our campsite, we consume another lunch #7 and lazily set up camp. Most lay around watching mini-bears, napping, and snacking. After breaking a bear rope, all of us minus Tom C. and Nathan went to spar-pole climbing. After Evan climbed a pole, it started raining. We returned to camp and bummed around for a while until it stopped raining. Then we started dinner of Chicken with egg noodles and pudding. We saw Mercedes walk by our campsite with another crew, all female. Advisors go to advisors coffee, though they avoid the coffee. Scouts once again blab. The campfire gets mixed reviews. The general consensus is that it was better than Beaubien's, but slightly short because they were missing three people. Mercedes came over afterwards and read us two more Dr. Seuss stories: *Yertle the Turtle*, and *The Lorax*. She stayed afterwards to socialize until twenty three fifteen.

Saying of the Day: "Chicks don't dig maggots."

August 17, 1995 - Thursday Day 11 -Shaefer's Pass Camp --8735'

Some get up and see the sunrise at the site of last night's campfire. Breakfast of Toastettes, beef sticks and Raisins 'n Spice Oatmeal again. We finish the spar pole climbing program at Crater Lake Camp before we hit the trail. Note: Jake recites Ridercella to select of Mercedes's all-female group and he develops a small following. We arrive in Miners' Park Camp at, about ten thirty - a hike of slightly under an hour. Since we can't climb until thirteen thirty, we decide to fix the pancake breakfast. The pancakes are good, but take a long time to prepare and clean up. The hike to the rock wall takes about 30 minutes, most of it on our way to Shaefer's Pass. When we arrive, a staff person informed us that we would have to wait half an hour while a detachment of Mercedes's crew arrived. Apparently, they got lost somewhere. When they arrived, one of them asked the question which became our quote of the

day. The intro and safety speech are amusing. Most of our crew tried the left climb (the "even harder climb"). On the way to camp, Dion leaves his water bottle behind at a stream (eighteen minutes back!). At the camp, we see a great, many deer. Dinner of turkey stroganoff and peach cobbler. Some sleep under the stars.

Saying of the Day: "Is Rindercella here?"

August 18, 1995 - Friday Day 12 -Base Camp Elevation 6621'

Our sister crew got up at five to see the sunrise on Shaefer's Peak, and trooped right through our campsite. Two does ran through camp a little later. Breakfast of fruit bars and Frosted Flakes. Short hike to Shaefer's Peak. Nice view. Trek to Tooth is interrupted regularly by false teeth. Trail to Tooth is mostly boulder hopping and very strenuous. View is incredible and we take three identical group pictures. Eat the last #7 on some large boulders in Tooth Ridge Camp. Steep trail back to base Camp. Near the end Andrey sped up the pace considerably -- undoubtedly in anticipation of Mt. Dew high. Slight mix up with tent assignments. After check-in, most take showers. All meet at snack bar and go over evaluation sheets. Dinner of chicken patty, mashed potatoes and gravy, and carrots. Ice cream is also available for dessert. The closing campfire is somewhat disappointing. It was a kind of weak imitation of the one we had in 1993. Afterwards, all retire to snack bar. Mercedes shows up sometime and most socialize until about twenty two thirty.

August 19, 1995 - Saturday Day 13 Ogalalla Commercial Campsite (Meyer's Campground) Elevation about 2500'

Most gear is packed before breakfast. Breakfast of pancakes, sausages, cold cereal, and somewhat fresh fruit. Checkout is fairly rapid. We all take a final group picture with Mercedes before we leave. Some trouble starting Tom C's truck and have to borrow some jumper cables. We stop at a Wal-Mart in Castle Rock, CO to buy some of the above mentioned items. Subway for lunch. Tom C. takes car to Ford dealer for a new alternator and we are delayed a couple of hours. Meanwhile, the rest of us amuse ourselves. Some browse in the bookstore next to Subway. We stop at REI in Denver to get some stuff. When we arrive at our campsite we set up camp rapidly, only to sit around until Valentino's is ready for us. The annual stuff-your-face-till-you-burst takes place. Afterwards, we waddle as best we can to the cars and drive back to camp.

August 20, 1995 - Sunday Day 14 HOME!!!! Elevation 1000'

Breakfast of Tang, oatmeal, and hot cider. Lunch at McDonalds in Lincoln, NE. No incidents. Arrive home. Check tents and return all crew gear. All return to their homes. Trip over.

Some other sayings along the trail:

- At. Philmont, every day is a bad hair day.
- If it's stationary it's food. If it's moving, cook it longer.
- Stationary black specks are, seasoning. Moving black specks are extra protein.
- John Wayne toilet paper: Its rough, its tough, and it don't take no shit from nobody.
- It's not a real day at Philmont until Evan bleeds.
- Murphy knows backpacking.

Addresses:

Ranger: Mercedes Volk

Home: 105 Churchill Cir.
Southlake, TX 76092-9300

School: 715 Stadium Dr. #2221
San Antonio, TX 78212-7200

email: Mvolk@trinity.edu

Advisors:

Casey, Thomas
818 Ridgewood
Ames, IA 50010
(515)232-5546

Meyer, Thomas
1020 Mesa Verde
Ames, IA 50014-3948
(515)292-8579
email: meyer@iastate.edu

Scouts:

Bittner, Andrey
1112 Roosevelt Ave.
Ames, IA 50010-5874
(515)232 (350)3
email: cbittner@iastate.edu (mother's account)

Casey, Nathan
818 Ridgewood

Ames, IA 50010
(515)232-5546
email: dcasey@iastate.edu (mother's account)

Harmon, Dion
222 Wildflower Dr.
Ames, IA 50014-3400
(515)292-2489
email: dharmon@iastate.edu

Hiett, Jacob
1214 Garfield Cir.
Ames, IA 50014
(515)292-5944

Jeffrey, Evan
237 Wildflower Dr.
Ames, IA 50014-3466
(515)292-7713 (personal)
(515)292-3576 (parental/familial)
email: ejeffrey@iastate.edu

Jeffrey, Ryan
237 Wildflower Dr.
Ames, IA 50014-3466
(515)292-7713 (personal)
(515)292-3576 (parental/familial)

Meyer, Chris
1020 Mesa Verde Place
Ames, IA 50014-3948
(515)292-8579
email: shmndrik@iastate.edu