

Patriot's Path Boy Scout Troop 8 hikes 109 miles in 11 days

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Pictured (from left) are Glen Corbitt, Mark Kellstrom, Bernie O'Connor, Tristan Thomas, Drew Macchia, Sean Foy, Mike Cerratti (Ranger), Harris Eisenhardt, Justin Corbitt, Griffin Kenny, Colton Taylor, Al Thomas and Edward Mostert.

A group of nine Boy Scouts and three adult advisers from Boy Scout Troop 8 headed to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, the premier high adventure base of scouting. It turned out to be an adventure of a lifetime. The boys and leaders hiked over 109 miles in 11 days with full backpacks in the early July heat. Each day the hikers would stop at a different camp to do various activities such as rock climbing, shotgun shooting and tomahawk throwing just to name a few. One of the most humorous activities was burro racing. For a trip like this you need to be in condition. Prior to leaving for Philmont, the crew trained for more than 12

months, taking numerous hikes with full packs. The crew also studied about safety, food preparation, water purification, weather conditions and possible animal encounters. "The trip was amazing and I highly recommend that all Boy Scouts visit Philmont at some point in time," said Colton Taylor of the Troop 8, 703K2 crew. "This is leadership training that you experience firsthand." Each summer over 20,000 Boy Scouts and adult leaders visit Philmont. This year 20 crews and 240 crew members from the Patriot's Path Council attended, one of the largest contingents of the 300 Boy Scout Councils in the country.