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Troop 25 Journeys To Philmont

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A Time of Our Lives, Troop 25 Journeys to Philmont | [Flag as inappropriate](#)

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By Jay Oh

Edited Anne Shearman

July 9th, 2011, a bright, sunny Saturday morning Crew 711D4 from Madison BSA Troop 25 departs on a journey that can only be described by its grand name, 'Philmont'. Through numerous weekend practice hikes, led by Scoutmaster Bill Sheehy, countless planning meetings, and a prep 'Watchu Weekend' designed to ready crews for their expedition, the crew of 12 Madison Scouts takes on what they describe as one of the best adventures of their lives. 'Philmont' is a Boy Scout Adventure Camp that offers backpacking journeys to 1st Class Scouts boys. It is located in the 'backcountry' of Cimarron, New Mexico with breathtaking views of the magnificent backcountry of the Rocky Mountains. This 12 day journey gave them an opportunity to come together as one unit, experiencing teamwork and group working skills that will last a lifetime, an opportunity that is not given to enough individuals. These 12 days will test and drive each individual not only physically, but also mentally, to their edge and really see what they are made up of on the inside.



Getting Started Credit [Anne Shearman](#)

The journey starts off with two packed days in Colorado Springs, guided by 'Blue Sky Adventures', ranging from exhilarating Whitewater Rafting down Colorado Arkansas River, to the sands from the Garden of the Gods, and up 14,110 feet to the Summit of Pikes Peak. With the hospitality of the University of Colorado, hundreds of scouts were offered a rec center of games, gym, a pool, lodging and much more. The next day the crew drove thru Colorado on their way to 'Base Camp' at Philmont Boy Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico where the real journey begins.

Ranger Mike Cirrotti, a 1st year staff member at Philmont, guided the Crew thru countless lessons of wilderness survival, group dynamics, and even made sure each one of the Crew had the best experience. Each Scout was assigned at least two jobs and each expected to be carried out flawlessly. Jobs range from Cooks to Navigators, to Clean up Crew and 'Spice Boy', to Crew Leader and many more. Throughout this trek, the group covered over 80 miles of hiking up ridges and down valleys as well as climbing two of Philmont's most famous peaks, 'Tooth of Time' and 'Baldy Mountain' (Philmont's highest mountain with an elevation of about 12,000 feet). The Troop engaged in countless activities such as Tomahawk Throwing, Black Powder Rifle Shooting, Spar Pole Climbing, and more. Through times of struggle where each individual needed to depend on each other, to the laughter peeling from tents pitched under a star-filled nights, 12 individuals, Adults & Scouts, came together in one brotherhood. From singing "America the Beautiful" to 'God's Country', to the last drips of water in Nalgene bottles, 12 pulled through together as one crew. Rick Faletto, Crew Chaplain Aid, expresses that he had an unbelievable time with the views and experience in a small, balanced team and would absolutely recommend it to any one who would

have the chance. John Hoover, lead advisor and Scout Master quotes, "I came back to Philmont half for my son, and half for the guys. It's not about me getting another tour around Philmont. I can see the sights from traveling, I can enjoy my time through vacations, I can do everything from other standpoints, but it's the true experience and journey through the boys' eyes that count." Dylan Anderson explains how he would have never thought how to prepare and deal with some challenges that came up if it have not been for Troop 25 and he absolutely walked away with a whole new mindset of skills and traits garnered from this trip. Noah Gertler, Crew Leader for 711D4 would like to pass along to others one of the countless lessons that he learned saying that, "It doesn't matter what, who, or how a problem happened. It matters on what you do to move forward and to do something that will make a difference." Jay Oh states, "One of the biggest things I learned from Philmont was what a true leader stands for. That a real leader is not the best of the best, they are not a superstar, or someone who calls all the shots. No, a leader is fearless, never showing their weaknesses on any judgment. To lead by example, and show the true attributes of an individual in a group. They are the ones who always have an answer to every question, either that being right or wrong, but never in doubt. A real leader may not be perfect, but they never quit."

As a trip from Philmont can never have any words to describe what it can bring to an individual, only its name can live up to what it stands for. Crew 711D4 BSA Troop 25, Madison, New Jersey completed their Trek #25 and left their boot marks on the trail, just as thousands have done before, and millions will in the future. Boy Scouts: Rick Faletto, Joseph Falco, Ryan Hoover, Dylan Anderson, Abraham Gertler, Vijay Prabakaran, Patrick "Treehy" Sheehy, Jay Oh, and Noah Gertler. Adult Advisors: John "Indiana Jones" Hoover, Jeff "Vin Diesel" Gertler, and Prabakaran "The Rock" Varadarajan. Photos and stories can only recollect the moments of such an expedition, but the memories shared together are what are left of the journey that formed a brotherhood.....a brotherhood that shared a "Time of Our Lives".

To be a part of the Scouting experience, join Troop 25 every Monday at New Life Fellowship Church. Contact Scoutmaster, Wayne Dieckmann, @ 973-377-0953.

Crew 711 D4, Troop 25 Madison, New Jersey

Scouts:Rick Faletto, Joseph Falco, Ryan Hoover, Dylan Anderson, Abraham Gertler, Vijay Prabakaran, Patrick Sheehy, Jay Oh, and Noah Gertler.

Adult Advisors: John Hoover, Jeff Gertler, and Prabakaran Varadarajan

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