



Boys Scout Troop 67 of Wharton NJ joined with Troop 109 of Randolph to form Crew 711F3

The crew set out on July 9, 2012 for a 12 day High Adventure Trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in north east New Mexico where the great plains meet the Rockies.

This was not just a hike! After 18 months of training and the "Watchu Mountain Experience" a program ran through the BSA Patriots' Path Council to prepare us for the adventure, we were ready for anything.

We started from Denver Colorado and toured for two days visiting the US Air Force Academy, Garden of the Gods, Pike's Peak and Echo Canyon White Water Rafting, we even rescued another group of rafters from the class 4 rapids on the Arkansas River.

Then on to Philmont Scout Ranch (214 square miles of rough back country in NM) Spirits were high and the trail rough but we were on the top of our game. Our oldest member of the 12 man crew Dave Whipple (Lead Advisor) at 51 years

to the youngest at 13 years old endured 10 days of hiking some 70 miles and climbing elevations of close to 12,000 feet. We are all ready to do it again because living the adventure is what life is really about and what these boys got out on the trail could not be taught from any book or classroom. These boys learned to rely on themselves and each other with nothing more than what they wore on their backs. They cooked, washed their clothes, took care of blisters and built a bond that will last them their whole life.

Along the way we would stop off at Staffed camps for program, anything from horse rides to gold panning and lasso roping. We did rifle shooting, black smithing and best of all at night if we were near a meadow, we would "Meadow Crash" and run out to the meadow with just our sleeping bags and sleep under the stars and gaze out over the "MilkyWay", watching shooting stars and the serenity of the mountains.