

Troop 42 High Adventure 2018

Tahosa High Adventure Base, Denver Area Council - Alpine Adventure

Thursday, July 26th – Saturday, Aug 4th, 2018

Youth participants: Logan (co-SPL), Chris (co-SPL), Ernie, Daniel, Justin, Nic, Keagan

Adult participants: Mr. Schloss, Mr. Cole, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Deignan

Trek Overview

7/26	Thursday	Travel from Cedar Rapids to Tahosa High Adventure Base, near Ward, CO
7/27	Friday	Getting familiar with Camp Tahosa, COPE
7/28	Saturday	Via Ferrata in Idaho Springs, watercraft on Tumblesom Lake, Camp Tahosa
7/29	Sunday	Horseback riding in Estes Park, shakedown at Camp Tahosa
7/30	Monday	Trek Day 1 – Fourth of July Trailhead to Caribou Lake
7/31	Tuesday	Trek Day 2 – Caribou Lake to Monarch Lake
8/1	Wednesday	Trek Day 3 – Monarch Lake to Cascade Falls
8/2	Thursday	Trek Day 4 – Cascade Falls to Coney Flats
8/3	Friday	Trek Day 5 – Coney Flats to Camp Tahosa
8/4	Saturday	Travel from Tahosa to Cedar Rapids

Trek Detail

Thursday, July 26

~ 6:45 AM (CDT)	Sunny and cool. Scouts and adults arrive at St Elizabeth-Ann Seton church, Hiawatha, load their packs and gear on the Troop 42 bus, pose for pictures.
~ 7:00 AM	Depart for Colorado. Traveling on the bus is pretty nice. With the trail packs stowed at the back of the bus, each person can have a pod of four seats to themselves, but generally they group together to talk and play games. Ernie, Justin, Daniel, & Nic played games such as Munchkin and Coup. Chris, Logan, Mr. Schloss, and Mr. Deignan played Euchre.
~ 12:00 PM	Partly cloudy, blue skies to the west. Lunch at Culver's in Lincoln, NE.
~ 4:00 PM	Mr. Cole threads the needle and we bypass thunderstorms to the north and south.
~ 5:30 PM (MDT)	Dinner at Wendy's in Sterling, CO. Refuel the bus with gas.
~ 6:30 PM	First sighting of the Rocky Mountains.

~ 8:30 PM

Twilight. Arrive at Camp Tahosa (~14.5 hrs travel time). Unload base camp packs and gear. Gear is shuttled down to our campsite while Scouts hike there (~5-10 minute walk). Setup tents in the dark. Cracker barrel (Oreos, granola bars, pretzels, cheese puffs, sliced chunk cheese).

Get ready for bed. Put smell-ables in the bin and put the bin in the shed. Lights out.

Friday, July 27

~ 6:00 AM

Blue skies, partly cloudy. Wake-up and get ready for the day.

While at campsite, the New York troop, who is sharing our campsite, tells us there was a moose in camp. Mr. Cole tells us he'd really like to see a moose somewhere on our trip.

Hike down to the dining hall.

~ 6:50 AM

Camp Tahosa morning flag ceremony, songs, and announcements by staff.

Camp Tahosa is winding down a summer camp for girls called Angel Fire. Friday is the last day of their camp and the campers will depart Friday evening or Saturday morning. Angel Fire is typically the last week of Tahosa's summer programming. When it concludes and camp is cleaned up, the majority of the camp staff will depart Saturday and Sunday, leaving a skeleton crew.

~ 7:00 AM

Breakfast at the dining hall. Egg flatbread sandwich, Fruitle (apple hand pie), cereal, and yogurt.

After breakfast, Trek Guide David leads our troop on a hike around Tumblesom Lake and then down to COPE to check it out. In the distance, we are treated to views of Mt Audubon and Sawtooth.

~ 12:30 PM

Lunch at the dining hall. Chicken nuggets, French fries, lettuce salad, cookie.

After lunch, the trading post opens. They offer Tahosa apparel and mementos, camping equipment, merit badge books and activity kits, knives, patches, candy, and pop.

After visiting the trading post, Scouts decide to play "Assassination" game. In this game one or more people are designated as an "assassin" and the rest are their "marks" who the assassins must assassinate. The assassins were chosen by the SPL through an extra-secretive selection process (circle-up with backs to the center, chosen assassin raise your left leg...). Once the game begins, the assassins attempt to make eye contact with their mark, wink at them ("... to blink with one eye."), and then this "victim" is assassinated. There was a cap set at how many marks could be assassinated within a certain amount of time (IE: 1 mark per 45 minutes, etc.). At the end of the day, each victim gets to tell an elaborate tale about how they were assassinated (this seemed to be the favorite part of the game). Also at the end of the day, the remaining marks can accuse

the assassin(s) and win the game, but two marks must agree on the accused. If they are correct, that assassin is out and the game continues until all of the assassins are identified or there aren't enough marks to accuse an assassin (1 or 0 marks left). If the accusers are incorrect, they are both out of the game. If there are multiple assassins, they must also assassinate the other assassin(s) to win.

- ~ 2:30 PM Partly cloudy. Hike back down to COPE. Scouts participate in COPE challenge games with NY troop. Light rain begins and the group moves to a nearby pavilion. The rain soon passes and the scouts move to low COPE. During this time, heavier rain moves in along with some small hail.
- ~ 4:30 PM The rain stops and the Scouts move down to the high COPE course.
- ~ 6:00 PM Partly cloudy. Dinner outside the dining hall. Hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, lettuce salad, and strawberry shortcake.
- After dinner, hike back to the bus. Mr. Cole discovers the passenger side rear inside tire is going flat. Make plan to call for tire repair or replacement in the morning. Cracker barrel and games on the bus.
- Nic was unmasked as the first assassin.
- ~ 9:00 PM Clear sky, big moon. Get ready for bed. Put smell-ables in the bin and put the bin in the shed. Lights out.

Saturday, July 28

- ~ 6:15 AM Sunny, light clouds. Get ready for the day. Hike from campsite down to dining hall.
- ~ 6:45 AM Flag ceremony and staff announcements.
- ~ 7:00 AM Breakfast at the dining hall. Bagel, cinnamon roll, cereal, and yogurt.
- After breakfast, prepare and gather gear for the day. Scouts played Gaga Ball.
- ~ 9:00 AM Trek Guide David drives us and the Hawaiian troop, who just got back from their trek, to Idaho Springs for Via Ferrata (Italian for "iron road"). En route, we saw a fox stopped for a scratch in the middle of the highway. We traveled on the Central City Highway, which passed through the towns of Black Hawk and Central City, which had many, many casinos.
- ~ 10:00 AM Arrive at AVA Colorado Zipline, Idaho Springs, for Via Ferrata (<https://www.coloradozipline.net/via-ferrata/>). The adventure began with the Scouts donning climbing harnesses and helmets (each had a funny name scrawled on the front), seat-belted into the bed of a beat-up truck, and then driven to the starting point. After going through town a little ways, we went off-road up the mountain side. It was a thrill-ride as we went up and over several hills like a roller-coaster. The ride culminated with the driver gunning the truck

down a hill and straight at a super-steep incline. As everybody is doing the mental math on whether the truck is going to make that incline, our eyes get wider and wider. The driver stepped on the brake at the last minute, backed into a turn, and we all pile off.

The Via Ferrata uses iron bars driven into the cliff side as feet holds and hand holds. The Scouts used lobster clips (2) to attach themselves to a thick braided wire which was also attached to the cliff. As they reached termination points of this wire, the Scouts would detach one of the claws and clip in to the next wire. Once it latched, they'd disconnect the second claw and clip it, too, onto the next wire. The cliff climb started out pretty easy and then progressively got more challenging. While climbing along the cliff, we were treated to spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and the ground below us.

After some lateral climbing, we climbed up to a spot where a suspended bridge started, but then ended in the middle of the span. We walked out towards the last of the treads and then stepped out into the air for a 50 foot free fall. We were clipped into a wire which slowed our descent as we got closer to the ground.

We did some additional Via Ferrata and then crossed a couple of suspended bridges with different tread configurations. It was cool to look down and see how far we were off the ground.

This was followed up with a rappel down a cliff face. Some would call it a semi-controlled "lowering" rather than a true rappel.

Our adventure culminated in 3 different ziplines.

- ~ 1:00 PM Depart Idaho Springs. Sack lunch en route. Ham and cheese sandwiches, Cheese-its, apple, Backpacker Chews cookies.
- ~ 2:00 PM Overcast, thunder. Arrive back at Camp Tahosa.
- During the Via Ferrata adventure, Mr. Cole stayed behind to arrange the repair or replacement of the flat tire. The repairman came out from Longmont, CO, and ended up replacing the tire since it couldn't be repaired.
- ~ 3:00 PM Scouts decide to go on an afternoon hike on the St Vrain trail, which starts just outside the entrance to Camp Tahosa. Along the trail, we meet several mountain bike riders. Thunder can be heard, but rain holds off.
- ~ 4:00 PM Still overcast. Arrive back at Camp Tahosa and hang out by the lake to wait for permission to take watercraft out on Tumblesom Lake. While waiting, the wind calms and the lake stills to become a mirror.
- ~ 5:00 PM Scouts take kayaks and a canoe out on the lake. Thunder is overheard and the Scouts return to shore.

~ 6:00 PM

Light rain. Dinner at the dining hall. Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, peas, salad, and ice cream sandwich.

After dinner, the Scouts return to Lake Tumblesom in kayaks. They declare themselves sovereign nations and splash attack each other. Afterward, we hike back to our campsite so the Scouts can change into dry clothes and hang their wet ones out to dry. Then it is off to the bus for cracker barrel and card games while sharing music and enjoying the bus LED light show.

Shared music selections:

- "Sound of Silence" – Simon & Garfunkel
- "Convoy" – CW McCall
- "John Deere Green" – Joe Diffy
- "Landslide" – Dixie Chicks
- "Blitzkrieg Bop" – Ramones

Assassination stories and then head back to our campsite.

~ 9:30 PM

Get ready for bed. Put smell-ables in the bin and put the bin in the shed. Lights out.

Sunday, July 29

~ 7:30 AM

Sunny and blue skies. Wake and get ready for the day. This morning we were treated to the sounds of elk in the Okpik meadow. We couldn't see them, but we could hear them very well.

Okpik (pronounced, "ook-pick") is a winter program at Camp Tahosa where participants pack a sled with a large mound of snow, pull it to a meadow on the southwestern side of Tumblesom Lake, and then build a two person snow shelter using the snow and some long wooden poles. They spend the night in their shelter.

Hike from campsite down to dining hall.

~ 8:00 AM

Breakfast at the dining hall. Pancakes, sausage, cereal, and yogurt.

After breakfast, the trading post opens up.

After visiting the trading post, we hike to the bus to retrieve our trail backpacks and gear for the shakedown this afternoon. Also hike to and from our campsite to retrieve the gear that will be needed on our trek.

Depart Tahosa with the New York troop for horseback riding at National Park Gateway Stables, Estes Park.

~ 1:15 PM

Horseback riding. My horse's name is Todd. We ride in several groups. My group is led by a guide who is from southeast Iowa. On the ride we see Deer Mountain to the south. We pass by a tree that has been struck by lightning something like 8 times. It certainly looked like it had been. We also ride

through Hidden Valley on the return leg of the loop. Our guide tells us that the valley takes its name from the fact that the cartographers accidentally left it off their initial maps and rather than admit their mistake, they left it off their map.

~ 2:45 PM

Arrive back at the stables. Sack lunch. Ham and cheese sandwiches, Cheese-its, apple, Backpacker Chews cookies.

After lunch, while we wait for Tahosa staff to pick us up, we walk down to the Rocky Mountain Gateway Welcome Center just to the southeast of the stable. The center has a shop and restaurant.

The air is hazy upon our return to Tahosa.

~ 5:00 PM

Shakedown meeting with our trek guide, Meghan. Meghan is a student at Purdue University and originally from Oklahoma. Meghan was a Philmont trek guide, but got evacuated during her Philmont training due to the Ute Park fire. She was reassigned to Camp Tahosa and spent most of her time on treks with other crews. Meghan attended Philmont with her Venture Crew in 2017 and thought it would be cool, cool, cool to return as a trek guide the following year. Our trek was to be her last at Tahosa.

During the shakedown meeting, Meghan went over the packing list to make sure each of us had the proper equipment and clothing.

~ 6:00 PM

Dinner at the dining hall. Chicken parmesan, ziti noodles, green beans, lettuce salad, ice cream sandwich.

After dinner, we received our trek tents, which were on loan from Philmont, and set them up to make sure they were in good working order. It was a good thing we did as there were a few broken parts that needed to be replaced. These are 2-person tents with only enough room for sleeping gear.

~ 8:15 PM

Overcast and foggy. Return packs to the bus. Cracker barrel, music and chatting. Hike back to our campsite.

~ 9:00 PM

Warmer air temperature than past nights. Get ready for bed. Put smell-ables in the bin and put the bin in the shed. Lights out.

Monday, July 30

~ 6:00 AM

Clear blue sky and bright moon. Wake and get ready for the day. Double-check that we have all the items from camp that we'll need on our trek.

~ 7:00 AM

Breakfast at the dining hall. Scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns & breakfast potatoes, cereal, and yogurt.

After breakfast, we distribute the crew gear and all food for the trek. Some of the tent-mates divide up the tent parts between the two while others decide one of them will carry the whole tent. Re-pack our trail backpacks. Scout packs average weight is ~ 35 lbs. Adult packs average weight is ~ 45 lbs.

~ 8:30 AM Meghan gives overview of the map to the Scouts.
Bring packs to parking lot to load onto the truck for transport to the trail.

~ 9:00 AM Leave Camp Tahosa for the trailhead.
The last four miles was on extremely bumpy dirt road.

~ 10:00 AM Mostly sunny. Arrive at Fourth of July trailhead (lat: N39.995219; lon: W105.634256, elevation: 10,120').
Meghan reviews map orientation, triangulation, Leave No Trace principles, and trail etiquette.

~ 11:00 AM Begin hike on Arapaho Pass Trail. SPL is Chris.
During the hike, there are 2 primary roles which are rotated through the crew for the duration of the trek:

- “Navi-guesser” – keeper of the map, navigator or sometimes guesser.
- Pacesetter – leads the crew and sets the pace.

Lunch on trail. Philmont Lunch #3

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crackers • Cheese wedges • Beef and cheese sticks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange energy chews • Corn nuts • Lemon-lime Gatorade
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There are other hikers using this trail. All appear to be day hikers.

~ 2:30 PM Mostly sunny and breezy. Cross Continental Divide.
Along hike down to Caribou Lake, Mr. Deignan decided his pack was too heavy and so he decided to toss his sleeping bag down the mountain side (actually, it slipped from his pack and tumbled down). Luckily, the bag tumbled down about 3 switchbacks and ended up right alongside the trail where we were going to hike.

~ 3:45 PM Arrive at Caribou Lake campsite. It is a very picturesque site in a little box canyon. The lake is so clear that we can see the Lake Trout swimming (and jumping) from 150' away. There is still some snow up on the mountain sides.

Starting elevation: 10,100'	Ending elevation: 11,163'
Minimum elevation: 10,100'	Maximum elevation: 11,964'
Actual distance: 4.84 mi.	Dist with elevation: 10.84 mi. (3 mi/1000' up)
Moving time: 2hr:41	Avg moving speed: 1.84 MPH
Stopped time: 2hr:20	Overall avg speed: 1 MPH

There is a family of 3 that camped ~500' or so to the northwest of us.

When we arrive at our campsite, there is a typical evening routine for the Scouts:

- Get the smell-ables in 2 piles. One is for the smell-able items we won't need for the night. These go in the marmot bags which get stuffed in tree branches ("caching") to keep them off the ground. The other pile is for the items we will need yet that night (dinner, first aid kits, toiletries, and other smell-ables). These will go in the "oops" bags, later, and these, too, will go into tree branches.
- Identify bear-muda triangle for proper location of food prep area, sleeping area and smell-ables caching area.
- Set up tents. Ideally, the tents will be placed in close but irregular grouping (not in a circular formation nor in a straight line).
- Water bottles are placed together to get refilled. This includes the smell-able bottles.
- Unpack gear for tents (ground mats, sleeping bags, sleep clothes)
- Place backpack with cover in appropriate location away from the tents for the night.

Assigned crew duties:

- Cooking detail (light stove, boil water, and prepare food)
- Clean-up detail (sanitize personal dishes and utensils before dinner, wash dishes after dinner)
- Water detail (Gather water from water source, filter water with gravity filter, provide water for cooking, and refill water bottles for next day)
- Marmot & oops bag detail (cache and retrieve bags from trees)

~ 5:30 PM Start boiling water for dinner.

~ 5:45 PM While still sunny, the wind picks up and the temperature drops so that it becomes very cold.

Dinner. Philmont Dinner #1

- Beef Stroganoff ("Good, with a lot of crunchy texture")
- Pretzels
- Nut and chocolate trail mix
- Teddy Grahams

~ 7:30 PM Roses, Thorns, & Buds. Scouts each take a turn telling the group something good about their day, something bad about their day, and then something they are looking forward to.

Planning for the next day. Set goal to wake and be on the trail within an hour.

Assassination stories.

Scouts retire to tents. Adults take a short hike. On hike, they spot a large white-tailed buck. It would be a great night for stargazing, but it is just too cold from the wind.

~ 9:00 PM Back in tents. Lights out.

Tuesday, July 31

~ 6:00 AM Clear blue sky, patchy frost on the ground. Wake, pack-up, and break camp.

~ 7:00 AM Depart Caribou Lake and continue along Arapaho Pass Trail, following Arapaho Creek. SPL is Logan.

~ 7:45 AM Breakfast on trail. Philmont Breakfast #4.

- Turkey deli bites
- Maple and brown sugar bar
- Crunchy peanut bar
- Cinnamon Pop Tarts
- Spiced apple cider

~ 8:15 AM Continue on Arapaho Pass Trail. The trail descends down a valley with lush vegetation and beautiful flowers. Arapaho Creek is joined by more and more streams and gets steadily bigger.

~ 9:30 AM Stream crossing using downed trees.

~ 11:45 AM Lunch. Philmont Lunch #1

- Crackers
- Sriracha peanut butter
- Berry buzz bar
- Beef stick
- Fruit punch
- Gatorade

~ 12:30 PM Continue on Arapaho Pass Trail to Monarch Lake. For most of the day, we have the trail to ourselves and nature. Once we get to the lake, we are met by several groups of people of all ages who are visiting the lake for the day.

As we approach the lake, the crew looks for a campsite within permitted bounds. We decide to look for campsites along the southern or western side of lake. Tucked in the southwestern corner of the lake is a public beach. Adjacent to the beach is a public bathroom (no running water), which after the sriracha peanut butter, many are glad to see. We are also able to drop off our accumulated garbage in a bear-proof bin.

After a rest, we continue the loop on the north side of the lake. As we approach the east end, a small group scouts ahead to determine if there is a good

campsite or if we need to look elsewhere away from the lake. The small group finds a great site nearby and close to Buchanan Creek so we don't have far to get water.

~ 5:30 PM

Mostly sunny. The main crew arrives at the campsite near the east end of Monarch Lake and begins the evening routine.

Starting elevation: **11,163'** Ending elevation: **8,379'** (500' lower than Camp Tahosa)

Minimum elevation: **8,379'** Maximum elevation: **11,163'**

Actual distance: **13.23 mi.** Dist with elevation: **NA - No elevation gain**

Moving time: **5hr:33** Avg moving speed: **2.4 MPH**

Stopped time: **5hr:04** Overall avg speed: **1.2 MPH**

Dinner. Philmont Dinner #5

- Chicken fried rice ("Good as long as you're not expecting it to taste like chicken fried rice.")
- Cheddar cheese Combos
- Chips ahoy

Roses, Thorns, and Buds.

Planning for the next day. Decide to have hot breakfast before departing our campsite.

~ 9:00 PM

Partly Cloudy. In tents. Lights out.

Wednesday, August 1

~ 6:00 AM

Clear sky. Wake and prepare to have a hot breakfast. Break camp and pack up while cooks are making breakfast.

~ 7:15 AM

Breakfast. Philmont Breakfast #2

- Beef stick
- Apples and cinnamon instant oatmeal
- Whole berry blast bar
- Mango chia bar
- Hot chocolate (saved from B#4)

~ 7:45 AM

Clear sky. Depart Monarch Lake camp on Cascade Creek Trail, following Cascade Creek. SPL is Chris. At several points, the trail has great overlooks to the creek below. There are some small falls and rapids in the creek.

As we are hiking, a group of girls in leis and some in grass skirts overtakes us. We step to the (mountain) side of the trail, let them pass, and then continue on our way. Soon an even larger group of girls comes up from behind us. Their coach explains that they are a cross country group out training for the day. Several more groups pass us throughout the day.

We approach our permitted destination area and begin looking for a good place to camp. We spot a decent campsite near the creek, but are a little worried about potential "widow-maker" trees. We decide to continue hiking up the trail to see if there is a better spot.

~ 10:00 AM

The crew climbs the trail adjacent to the majestic Cascade Falls and spots "the bucket list" campsite. It is situated right next to the top of the falls. There is an easy approach to a pool where we can get water and space a little bit up where all of the tents can fit.

Starting elevation: **8,379'** Ending elevation: **9,285'**

Minimum elevation: **8,379'** Maximum elevation: **9,285'**

Actual distance: **4.04 mi.** Dist with elevation: **6.74 mi.**

Moving time: **1hr:54** Avg moving speed: **2.1 MPH**

Stopped time: **1hr:00** Overall avg speed: **1.35 MPH**

After making camp, Meghan went over some merit badge requirements for camping and backpacking with the Scouts.

~ 11:45 AM

Lunch at Cascade Falls campsite. Philmont Lunch #8

- Crackers
- Sunbutter
- Strawberry waffle
- Red Gatorade

While exploring our campsite, Keagan decided to clean the trail dust off his hiking boots (or maybe he slipped and accidentally fell in the nearby pool). The water was pretty cold and so Keagan quickly jumped out. While his boots and socks dried, he borrowed Nic's Crocs.

~ 1:15 PM

Cloudy. Side hike to Mirror Lake. Meghan stays behind with Logan, Ernie, and Keagan to enjoy some leisure time (and maybe a nap). Chris, Daniel, Justin, Nic, and the adults continue on the Cascade Creek Trail hoping they can make it all the way to Crater Lake. The going is much faster without our trail packs on. We encounter a few people on the trail.

~ 2:45 PM Arrive at Mirror Lake. Its name is quite appropriate as the reflection of the surrounding forest and mountains shines off the surface of the lake. While enjoying the view, we chat with a friendly woman and her companion. She takes a group picture.

~ 3:00 PM We decide there is not enough time left to continue on to Crater Lake, so the group heads back to Cascade Falls. Along the way, there are a few sprinkles from the clouds, but the rain holds off.

~ 4:15 PM Arrive back at our campsite.

Starting elevation: 9,285'	Ending elevation: 9,285'
Minimum elevation: 9,285'	Maximum elevation: 10,350'
Actual distance: 5.74 mi.	Dist with elevation: 8.94 mi.
Moving time: 2hr:24	Avg moving speed: 2.4 MPH
Stopped time: 0hr:30	Overall avg speed: 1.9 MPH

Some of the Scouts and adults cool their feet in the stream. We can't leave them in very long - that water is cold!

~ 6:45 PM Partly cloudy and hazy. The haze is coming from a wildfire (Silver Creek Fire?) that is burning way to the west. Dinner. Philmont Dinner #8

- Spaghetti with meat sauce ("Oh, man, this is good!!")
- Pizza Combos
- Oreo

To reduce the amount of clean-up after dinner, some of the group decide to eat from the spaghetti pouch rather than from their bowl/cup.

Roses, Thorns, and Buds.

Assassination Stories. The assassin(s) remain at large.

Planning for the next day. Set goal to wake and be on the trail within 45 minutes.

We are treated to a pretty Rocky Mountain sunset.

~ 8:30 PM Partly cloudy. In tents and lights out.

Thursday, August 2

~ 5:30 AM Clear skies. Wake, pack-up, and break camp.

~ 6:15 AM Depart Cascade Falls campsite and head back down the Cascade Creek Trail. SPL is Logan.

~ 7:00 AM

Breakfast on the trail. Philmont Breakfast #8 (Thu)

- Turkey sausage links
- Brown sugar honey oat granola
- Peanut butter and jelly trail mix
- Dried fruit blend
- Strawberry fig bar
- Cran-raspberry drink

Along the way, we stop and filter some water out of the Buchanan Creek to refill our water bottles.

After the trail diverges from Buchanan Creek, we continue our climb toward the divide. We spot another large buck off in the woods.

~ 11:15 AM

Lunch in meadow below, but in sight of the Continental Divide at Buchanan Pass. In the distance, we see a man and a boy making their way down from the pass. Philmont Lunch #4

- Crackers
- Honey peanut butter
- Blueberry buzz bar
- Chicken stick
- Orange Gatorade

~ 12:10 PM

Partly cloudy and breezy. After climbing several switchbacks, we reach the Continental Divide.

The crew drops their packs, Meghan stays behind, and the rest of us begin the climb up to the peak of Sawtooth Mountain. Along the way there is a false summit, but beyond that the climb gets easier. Almost to the top, someone created a little bowl-shaped bunker. It was big enough that all of the Scouts could hunker down and sight with their trekking poles. Also close to the top of the mountain, the Scouts saw a pika. Some said it had a green Mohawk. Others thought it might have been carrying some green moss.

~ 12:45 PM

Mostly cloudy. We reach the peak (Sawtooth - 12,332').

After following the Buchanan Pass Trail down some switchbacks, the group heads off the trail a little bit to a nearby snowfield. Snowballs, snow angels, and snow antics in August!!

The group departs the snowfield and continues the descent. We spot a good sized hole just off the trail that is certainly some creature's home. There are animal bones next to the hole and some nearby.

As we descend the trees get taller. In places the trail is overgrown with trees. Going down is tough (some think it worse than going up) because there are lots

of rocks that make for uneven ground and they like to roll. This makes paying great attention necessary to avoid a misstep or rolling an ankle. Buchanan Pass trail meets up and becomes the Beaver Creek trail.

~ 5:00 PM

Partly cloudy. Arrive at Coney Flats and find a good campsite. There are other campers in this area. Coney Flats is an area often used by off-road four-wheelers.

Starting elevation: **9,285'** Ending elevation: **9,792'**
Minimum elevation: **8,800'** Maximum elevation: **12,332'**
Actual distance: **12.67 mi.** Dist with elevation: **23.27 mi.**
Moving time: **6hr:41** Avg moving speed: **1.9 MPH**
Stopped time: **4hr:37** Overall avg speed: **1.1 MPH**

~ 6:45 PM

Dinner. Philmont Dinner #10 ("Thanksgiving Dinner")

- Chicken
- Stuffing mix
- Dried cranberries
- Chips Ahoy

~ 7:45 PM

Rose, Thorns, and Buds.

Assassination Stories. It was revealed that there were 2 assassins - Daniel and Mr. Cole. Though, Mr. Cole won the game by assassinating everyone, including the other assassin. The last person alive was Justin who was assassinated due to some trickery (or fast thinking, depending upon whose story you believe) by Mr. Cole during a dinner prep mishap.

Planning for the next day. Set goal to wake and be on the trail within 45 minutes.

~ 8:00 PM

In tents and lights out. Breezy and some light sprinkles overnight.

Friday, August 3

~ 6:00 AM

Cloudy. Wake, pack-up, and break camp.

~ 6:45 AM

Some periodic light sprinkles. Depart Coney Flats campsite and follow Coney Creek Trail. SPL is Chris.

Breakfast while hiking on the trail. Philmont Breakfast #1

- Beef jerky
- Chocolate chip granola bar
- Peanut butter and jelly bar
- Raisins
- Animal crackers

- ~ 8:30 AM Arrive at planned pick-up area at Beaver Reservoir. Rather than wait for the transport to arrive, the group decides to hike the remaining distance to Camp Tahosa.
- We hike around the reservoir and as we depart the area, it begins raining. The group stops to put on rain gear and our pack covers. We follow County Road 96 back to Camp Tahosa.
- ~ 9:15 AM We arrive at the camp entrance and take a few photos. Then the Scouts hike up the entrance into camp belting "When the Scouts Come Marching In".
- Starting elevation: **9,792'** Ending elevation: **8,858'**
 Minimum elevation: **8,858'** Maximum elevation: **9,792'**
 Actual distance: **6.06 mi.** Dist with elevation: **NA - No elevation gain**
 Moving time: **2hr:12** Avg moving speed: **2.7 MPH**
 Stopped time: **0hr:10** Overall avg speed: **2.4 MPH**
- Drop off crew gear at dining hall.
- Showers!! Fresh(er) clothes!
- Stow trail packs back on the bus and organize for Friday needs and Saturday departure.
- ~ 12:30 PM Lunch at the dining hall. Chicken patty, French fries, lettuce salad, chocolate chip cookie.
- After lunch, we depart for Estes Park.
- ~ 2:30 PM Arrive at Estes Park. Follow a riverwalk along Fall River. Stop for some ice cream. Do some window shopping and visit some of the shops.
- Dinner at Poppy's Pizza and Grill - Salads, sandwiches, pizza.
- ~ 7:20 PM On our drive back to Camp Tahosa, Mr. Cole finally gets to see his moose. We were able to see the moose from the bus as we drove past, just a little outside of Estes Park. We also saw a young buck on the side of the road a bit closer to camp.
- Arrive back to Camp Tahosa. Finish organizing gear and then hike down to our campsite.
- ~ 9:00 PM Get ready for bed. Put smell-ables in the bin and put the bin in the shed. Lights out.

Saturday, August 4

- ~ 5:30 AM Wake, pack-up our gear, fold up tents, police our area, and hike down to the bus.

~ 6:00 AM Depart Camp Tahosa.
Breakfast on bus. Granola bars, other food leftover from travel and cracker barrel.

~ 12:00 PM Lunch at Wendy's in Kearney, NE.

~ 5:45 PM (CDT) Dinner at Culver's in Des Moines, IA (Jordan Creek).

~ 8:15 PM Arrive back at St Ann-Elizabeth's.
Unload personal gear, distribute tents and ground cloths to be dried and cleaned at home, and greet families.
Group photos
Dismissed

Adventurer Interviews

What was your favorite part of our whole trip?

Chris	Summiting Sawtooth.
Logan	Summiting Sawtooth.
Justin	Via Ferrata. It was fun working the lobster claw clips and climbing around the cliff face.
Daniel	Summiting Sawtooth. It was cool to see the sheer drop off from the top and just being able to climb a mountain.
Ernie	Getting to camp after the long hikes – especially at Monarch Lake because this was our longest hike.
Keagan	Via Ferrata. Rappeling since this was my first time & ziplines because they were higher than ones I'd done before.
Nic	Via Ferrata. I liked climbing around the cliff. Also, thought it was really cool to share that experience with my friends, even those that didn't like heights.
Mr. Schloss	The best part was experiencing this adventure with other members of my troop. It was rewarding to see the Scouts step up, use their Scout skills, and have such a great time doing it.
Mr. Cole	The hike from Caribou Lake to Monarch Lake. Seeing the head of Arapaho Creek and then how it grew as more and more streams joined it and we traversed down the valley.
Mr. Ryan	Camping at Lake Caribou. It was cool to camp just below where we crossed the Continental Divide and be surrounded by mountains. In the evening as we lounged before dinner, we could see the fish swimming in the lake from quite a distance. In the morning, we woke to frost on the ground. It was a picturesque and serene setting made better by sharing it with fellow Scouters.

What advice would you give to someone going on their first backpacking adventure?

Chris	Know that the higher altitude makes hiking more difficult. It's tough to catch your breath.
Logan	Bring extra socks and be prepared to stink. Also, don't eat a lot of junk food on the very first day.
Justin	Bring more water carrying capacity. I would have brought 5 liters instead of just 4.
Daniel	Keep everything as small as possible and go on a lot of practice hikes with the weight you plan to carry.

- Ernie Do lots of practice hikes and learn to love nuts because the trail meals have a lot of them.
- Keagan Don't over-pack. I had an extra shirt. I was glad that I brought clothes just for sleeping in.
- Nic Drink lots of water. Have a duty roster created and duties assigned before the trip starts so there is fair distribution of the tasks. Actually get in shape. Go on a full weekend or at least an overnight backpacking outing to get a sense of what the full trekking experience will be like.
- Mr. Schloss Be prepared, physically and mentally, for the challenges and you will have the most fun possible. Practice, practice, practice. It pays off.
- Mr. Cole Don't underestimate the challenge of hiking down the mountain. The tough terrain and loose rocks really banged up my toes.
- Mr. Ryan Take care of your feet before and during the trek. Clip your nails beforehand. Adjust your socks during rest stops and take care of any hotspots before they become a problem. KT tape is pretty nice to protect areas prone to blisters (thanks for sharing, Mr. Cole!). Let your feet air outside of your boots and socks once you make camp or on a long break.

Appendix

Hiking Summary

Summary	Actual Distance (miles)	Avg Moving Speed (MPH)	Avg Overall Speed (MPH)	Elevation Gain (feet)	Distance with Elev. (miles)
Monday	4.84	1.84	1	2000'	10.84
Tuesday	13.23	2.4	1.2	--	
Wednesday	4.04	2.1	1.35	906'	6.74
Wed side hike	5.74	2.4	1.9	1065'	8.94
Thursday	12.67	1.9	1.1	3532'	23.27
Friday	6.06	2.7	2.4	--	
Total without side hike	40.84	2.15	1.27	6438'	60.16
Total with side hike	46.58	2.17	1.33	7503'	69.10

Observed Plants

(amateurly identified)

- White and Yellow daisies
- Black-eyed Susan
- Gerber Daisy
- Holly
- Red Raspberry
- Blueberry
- Indian Paint Brush
- Bluebells
- Goldenrod
- Clover
- Dandelion
- Juniper
- Aspen

Observed Animals

(also amateurly identified)

- White-tailed Deer
- Fox
- Gray Squirrel
- Elk (by sound only)
- Lake Trout
- Pika (with a green Mohawk?!)
- Moose