

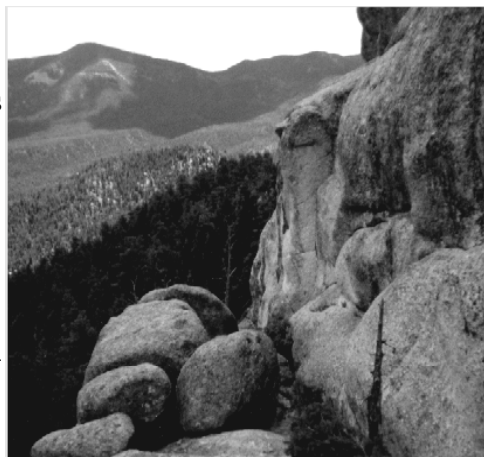
## Troop 888 Philmont Expedition: Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

The "big idea" was given wings four years ago in July of 1995 during a course entitled "Scoutmaster Camping Skills," at the National Volunteer Training Center at Philmont. What was this "big idea?" *Everyday during the*



*summer months, about 400 Scouts from all over the country, and many places around the world, set out on a challenging, backwoods, backpacking trek amid the 215 square miles of Philmont Scout Ranch in the mountains of northern New Mexico. And also every day, about 400 Scouts return, after spending ten days hiking and camping in the beautiful and rugged mountain country. During those ten days, what you get to see and do is quite unforgettable. One day a group of Scouts from the North Myrtle Beach Area will participate in this high adventure experience.*

This last July, twelve Scouts and four Adult Scouters brought the idea to life. Reservations had to be made two years in advance, and extensive planning was carried out in order to get the two eight-person crews from our area properly outfitted and ready.



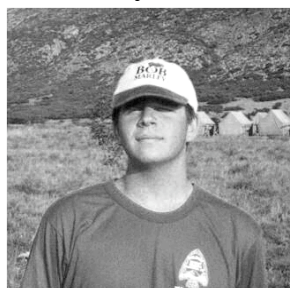
We left from St. Stephen's Church on July 10 and drove to Atlanta, GA where we boarded a jet and flew to Colorado Springs. There we were driven to Cimarron, New Mexico, and on July 13 our Philmont experience began. (continued on page 4)

## Crew Leaders' Accounts of Their Mountain Treks

**(Jeff Bialecki: Crew Leader 713-G-1)** On July 10th, Philmont crews 713-G-1 and 713-G-2 left from St. Stephens to start on their long journey to what is called "Scouting Paradise." We drove to Atlanta Georgia, spent

Seated from left to right - CREW 1: Austin Shelley, Charles Horton, Jason Hardee, Daniel Sloope, Bob Doyle (Ranger), CREW 2: John Christianson (Ranger), Tripp Collins, Greg Spatholt, Steven Sloope, Michael O'Neill. Standing from left to right - CREW 1: Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Jeff Bialecki (Crew Leader), Timothy Green, CREW 2: Jeff Silverberg (Crew Leader), Will Hall, Ms. Spatholt, Mr. Dutton

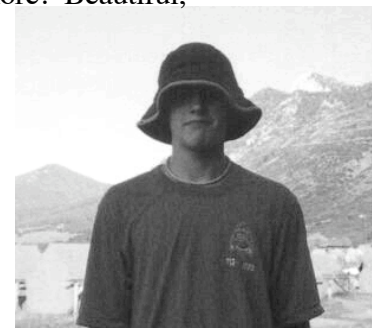
the night there, took a plane to Colorado Springs, and then took a bus to Cimarron, New Mexico. Finally on July 13th, we started our trek through the rugged Rocky Mountains. The scenery was beautiful. Seeing all the



sights that Philmont had to offer was well worth all the hiking. The hikes were not that bad, and only a couple of the people in our crew were slow throughout the whole trip. Our pace may have been a slow one, but at least we all made it. If you ever have the chance, I encourage you to go to

Philmont. It is the exact opposite of the beach. If you go, you will love it.

**(Jeff Silverberg: Crew Leader 713-G-2)** Philmont was everything we expected and more! Beautiful, Aspen-covered hills, star lit, azure skies, and even a couple eagles soaring high. But what we didn't expect was all the fun we had. From black powder shooting to the chuck wagon dinner, we had the experience of a lifetime. Even the hiking wasn't that bad.



It is so beautiful in Philmont that it was hard to decide what to take a picture of first. The views from the (continued on page 4)