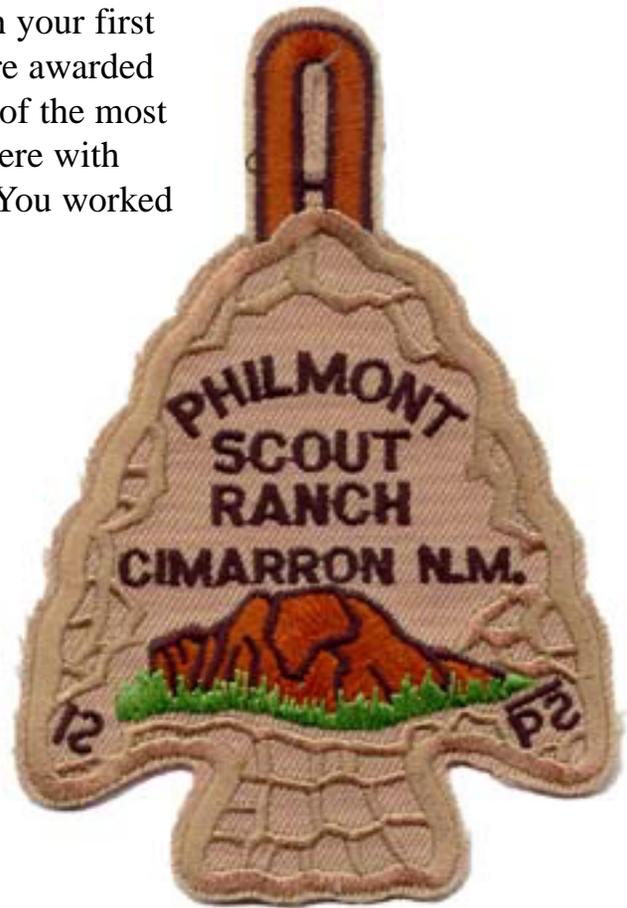




Starting A Philmont Collection

The ISCA Getting Started Collecting Series

Collecting Philmont patches usually begins with your first trip to Philmont. At the closing campfire, you are awarded your first Philmont Arrowhead Award. It is one of the most important patches in your collection, right up there with your Eagle Scout Award. Don't EVER trade it. You worked hard for it. You EARNED it!



Philmont Arrowhead Award



While there, you also made your first trip to the Tooth of Time Traders – the main Philmont trading post. You probably also



made it across the street to the Seaton Library and Museum (and Trading Post of the Training Center). And maybe even the Kit Carson Museum (and trading post).



As of 2004, if you bought one of each patch available, you would come home with a collection of over 50 patches, 4 -5 neckerchiefs, 10 to 20 neckerchief slides, and potentially several hundred dollars worth of stuff. And that's just the "official" items.

Every night after campfire, there is patch trading on the tables outside the snack bar. Not that this is the only time or place (trading can happen out in the backcountry), it is just the most concentrated. Council Shoulder Patches (CSPs) and Order of the Arrow flaps (flaps) are the most commonly traded items.

Don't get sucked into one of those six-of-yours-for-this-rare-staff-patch-of-mine trades. If you don't know what you're trading for, it could turn out to be a private issue made by someone purely for profit.



Many crews or contingents (from all over the world) attending Philmont take the opportunity to design patches, neckerchiefs, hats, and tee shirts for their members. While tees, hats and neckerchiefs are fun to trade, by far the most action comes with the contingent patches.

The cost of contingent patches is most reasonable (even for individual crews), and their small size allows them to be carried at all times (cargo pockets are great). The patches that seem to carry the most trading “power” are the CSP type. Your contingent will have to get council authorization to have them made. They can also prove to be a good fundraiser for the trip.

So to summarize and over simplify, the common types of Philmont Patches include:

- Arrowhead Awards
- Trading Post Patches
- Training Center Patches
- Museum Patches
- Staff Patches
- Contingent Patches

Many of these are readily available for the beginning collector. Just keeping up with the yearly out-put of Philmont is a daunting task. For advanced collectors, the historical patches of Philmont go back to 1939. These are catalogued in Philmont Millennium 1, Volume 1. Sold at Philmont or available on the web at www.PhilmontM1.com

— Mike McAdams

