



Patriots' Path Council, BSA

Welcome all 2010 Philmont Advisors

Howdy pardner!

October 1, 2009

All hands want to welcome and thank you on behalf of the young folks you will work with and train for their great Philmont adventure. We are certain it will be a once in a lifetime experience for you as well. Hold on to your hat and get ready for the excitement!

Often we are asked; how do you keep older scouts and venturers active in scouting? Well, climbing the high mountains of New Mexico is one approach. Your crew has begun an exciting ten-month journey, which will climax in New Mexico. And we, the Watchu training team of Patriots' Path Council, will be there to help you every step of the way. We invite you to give us a call at any time for personal assistance.

Here are some preliminary tips which will help guarantee your success:

- ***The Watchu Experience 2010 Advisor Guide:*** This booklet is packed with the necessary and vital information you need to prepare your crew for a successful Philmont trek. It also details how the Watchu training team will help you succeed. In particular, the Crew Preparation Checklist outlines on a month-by-month basis the tasks that must be completed prior to your leaving for New Mexico. Your *Advisor Guide* is included in this mailing.
- ***2010 Crew Member and Parent Guide:*** Mailed to all participants in September, the *Crew Member Guide* introduces each crew member and his or her family to what Philmont is about and what they can expect during the ten months of the Watchu Experience. Confirm that each crew member received their copy.
- ***Advisor Briefings:*** All advisors are expected to attend the four Advisor Briefings. They are packed with important information and helpful tips. Mark your calendar and reserve the November, January, March and June dates; see the center insert in your *Advisor Guide*. Don't forget to reserve the back-up dates in case a briefing must be postponed because of bad weather or other reasons. On the back of the schedule is a map to the briefing location - Calvary Presbyterian Church in Florham Park.
- ***The Watchu Experience Web site:*** Check into the Watchu Web site on a regular basis for up-to-the-moment Watchu information. The site includes helpful tips, frequently asked questions, crew development essentials, videos about equipment and Philmont camping techniques, and excellent trek planning information. Copies of all Watchu and Philmont documents are provided and can be downloaded. Go to www.watchu.org to begin your adventure now.
- ***Watchu Passport:*** The "Watchu Passport", an outline of all Patriots' Path and Philmont requirements, was distributed to the Lead Advisors in September. The details associated with each line item are described on the back of the document.

Your Lead Advisor will have an opportunity to review your crew's Passport and crew preparation status with the Watchu Administrator before or after each briefing.

- **Watchu Crew Roster:** Your Lead Advisor should complete the "Watchu Crew Roster" which was distributed to him/her in September. The roster is used for Watchu administrative purposes. You will have an opportunity to review and update your copy with our Watchu administrator before or after each Advisor Briefing. In March your crew will receive the official Philmont multi-page roster form to complete and submit to Philmont during your check-in.
- **Recruit a full crew:** Recruit a full crew of 12 members, with back-ups for possible dropouts. Philmont expects and Patriots' Path requires all crews to have 12 members, with no less than three adults and no more than four who are over 21-years-old. All Philmont processes are based on a crew of twelve. We guarantee a crew of twelve trekkers costs less and works best.
- **Watchu Mountain Adventure:** Prepare your crew for the Watchu Mountain Adventure. It will run from 5:00pm Friday, April 30 through 2:00pm Sunday, May 2, 2010. All crew members are expected to attend this fun, exciting, and inspirational event. Make certain this gets on everybody's calendar now. Note this will be an SAT weekend. Alert your crew members now and have them schedule SAT for another weekend. All who attend and complete the weekend will earn the beautiful Watchu Mountain Adventure patch.
- **Financial Assistance:** Should you or any of your fellow advisors be in need of financial assistance, please contact Bob Morris. Complete a copy of the "2010 Warren Wheeler Adventurership Request" with "2010 Philmont Advisor" written in RED at the top of your form. Although this application is specifically designed for Scouts, your completed application will assist Bob when making your appeal to the Adventurership Committee. You must be a registered Scouter in Patriots' Path Council and your application must be received by November 1.

Adios for now. See you at the first briefing on Wednesday, November 11, 2009.

Happy Trails!

Bob

Robert Morris

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Enclosure: *2010 Advisor Guide*, with Advisor Briefing Schedule insert

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