

**Included in this message:**

- [Details of the Watchu Mountain Adventure \(WMA\)](#)
- [WMA "Fast Pass" Check-in](#)
- ["Top Tip" coming!](#)

## Watchu Mountain Adventure Information

The following is a re-cap of the information provided at the March Briefing about the upcoming Watchu Mountain Adventure.

1. **Where:** Camp Wheeler at Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation. To get to Mt. Allamuchy Scout Reservation, take Interstate Highway 80 to Exit #25. Follow the signs to Waterloo Village. Pass Waterloo Village on the left side of Waterloo Road and the entrance to Mt. Allamuchy will be on the right, about 200 yards west of Waterloo Village and just before the I-80 underpass. Follow signs to Camp Wheeler and the Watchu Training Center.
2. **When:** 5:00pm Friday May 3 through 1:45pm Sunday May 5.
3. **Parking:** Lots will open at 4:55pm on Friday and close at 1:50pm on Sunday.
4. **Parking will be limited.** Please arrange for your crew to arrive in as few vehicles as possible. Use vans or have parents drop your crew off and return for Sunday pickup.
5. **Check-in begins at 5:00pm on Friday;** with late arrival through 6:30pm. The Watchu Trail of Discovery begins upon arrival and completing check-in. Please arrange your work schedule to arrive as early as possible. Come earlier rather than later to avoid the congested traffic on Interstate 80. To check-in, you must have:
  - Your crew's [Watchu Passport](#).
  - One copy of your crew's completed [Watchu Crew Roster](#) form (if not turned in the night of Fast Past certification). This copy will not be returned to you.
  - **Medical Records** for all crew members. All Medical Records will be returned to you on Sunday.

If your crew's Watchu Passport has been "Fast Pass" certified by the Contingent Registrar (see the [requirements](#) at bottom of the Passport) you will be off on the Trail of Discovery. However, if you are not "Fast Pass" certified, your check-in will continue and the status of each item on your crew's Watchu Passport will be reviewed:

- All crew members must be up to date with their **payments** (through February, not necessarily the April payment.) If any are not, the unpaid balance must be paid.
- Status of **BSA registration** for all crew members.
- Status of **BSA uniforms** for all crew members.
- Complete and turn in **Watchu Wilderness Pledge** form
- Have and show **Youth Protection** cards or certificates for all advisors.
- Have and show **CPR** and **Wilderness First Aid** cards or certificates.

- Have and show **Weather Hazard Training** cards or certificates.
  - Have and show **Trek safely** cards
  - Status of **BSA Swim Test** for all crew members.
  - Have and show **Safe Swim Defense** and **Safety Afloat** cards.
  - Status of **Airline Ticketing Info Form**.
  - Status of **Photo IDs** for all crew members.
  - ~~Have and show completed [Rafting Release / Permission](#) forms for all crew members. Note this item cannot be completed at this time.~~
  - Have and show completed **Colorado Tour Operator Release** for all crew members.
  - Status of the **Insurance Acknowledgement** for all crew members.
6. **Equipment:** Bring **ALL** equipment outlined in your *Guidebook to Adventure*. Patriots' Path Council will NOT distribute ANY equipment. You **MUST** bring **ALL** "Your Personal Equipment," all "Equipment Provided by Crew," and especially all "Equipment issued at Philmont" listed in your *Guidebook*, including your crew dining tarp with poles, tents for all crew members, toilet paper, crew cooking gear including pots, dish washing material, bear bags and ropes, and a plastic trash bag. Check out the [Bear Bags](#) video in the [On the Trail](#) section of the [Training Videos](#) page on the [Watchu Experience Web site](#) to see how to hang your smellables when setting up camp Friday night.
7. **Fuel:** 22 ounces of Coleman fuel (white gas) will be provided to each crew. Do NOT transport fuel in stoves or fuel bottles - of fuel before leaving home. 22 ounces will be much more than enough for the weekend, and any unused fuel will be collected at check-out. Butane canisters will also be available for purchase for crews using stoves with that fuel.
8. **Food:** Philmont trail meals will be provided for the entire program, except Friday supper. Your crew must bring a Friday evening bag supper or eat before arriving on Friday, as there will be no time to cook a meal. If you eat on the road, it is suggested you get most of the way to Mount Allamuchy before stopping to eat in the vicinity (Ledgewood, Netcong, or Hackettstown).
9. **Water:** The Watchu Mountain well is a safe source of water and does not need to be treated. Please help save time - all crew members should arrive with full water bottles. The well is within a half mile of all camp sites, and you will need water containers to transport crew water from it to your site for Saturday's dinner.
10. **Trash:** At Philmont crews must carry trash (trail meals packaging) until passing through a staffed camp which will accept it for disposal. All trash at the Watchu Mountain Adventure is to be carried in your packs and packed out on Sunday for disposal at home. Check out the [Trash Compacting](#) video in the [On the Trail](#) section of the [Training Videos](#) page on the [Watchu Experience Web site](#) for some pointers on how to minimize its bulk.

11. **You may use rotating or permanent** (refer to WG26) **crew assignments**. Before arriving on Friday your crew should have selected all the permanent youth leadership positions - Crew Chief, Chaplain Aide, Wilderness Pledge *Guia*, Navigator, and Crew Reporter(s). There will be briefings for each of these positions on Shakedown Mesa during the weekend - check the schedule for times. Also, there will be ample free time in the schedule for you and your crew to work on crew member responsibilities, crew development, trek planning, and required crew skills (cooking, etc.). This is your weekend - make the most of it.
12. **Uniforms:** Complete official BSA uniform for all, with nameplate for advisors (sometimes unofficially called Class A). Your entire crew will report to Watchu Mountain in complete official BSA uniforms. Check the [Uniform Fact Sheet](#) in your Crew Member Guide or on the Web site. Advisors, please wear your Watchu nameplate on the right pocket flap. If you have an OA pocket flap patch, the nameplate goes above the Boy Scouts of America designation over the right pocket. Trail clothes, of course, are appropriate for the Saturday hike.
13. **Money:** All members of your crew must be up to date with scheduled Philmont payments to Patriots' Path Council. Alert your crew members to bring cash if they intend to buy extra Patriots' Path Council Philmont patches, expedition T-shirts, expedition hats, extra Philmont food, etc. The Watchu Mountain Outfitters Trading Post will be open at posted times throughout the weekend, and is stocked with great backcountry items. Check the [Trading Post](#) on the Web site for prices and details.
14. **Weather:** Philmont training is best in the rain. Pray for rain during the Watchu Mountain Adventure! The spring weather will bring out an assortment of friendly bugs so be prepared with your bug repellent.

Watchu will be a simulated Philmont adventure. The intent is to give your crew an opportunity to evaluate the crew's "Philmont readiness" in a Philmont-like setting. The crew should "find the gaps" between where the crew is and where they need to be to guarantee a great trek. After the Watchu Mountain Adventure there will be about fifty days until the first lift-off to close the gaps. Good luck and have fun!

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**Watchu Mountain Adventure Fast Pass Check-in:** Fast pass check-in will save you and your crew valuable time during the very busy Friday night of the Watchu Mountain Adventure. Check your [Watchu Passport](#) for details. It is not too late to qualify for Fast Pass. Watchu Staff members will be at the Council office in Cedar Knolls Tuesday evening, April 9, from 7:00 to 8:00pm, to certify your crew for Fast Pass Check-in.

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**Top Tip coming!** Shortly we will send out a Watchu Gram, titled "Hiking is a Team Sport," which has been voted the Top Tip by advisors over and over again. The Watchu Team strongly advises all crew members to read it, understand it, and internalize it. We expect you and your crew to put the tip into action at the Watchu Mountain Adventure. Be ready for a pop quiz on it, maybe with prizes.

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**Phil Fact:** The Dolds Brother's Warehouse in Cimarron was built in 1848 by M.R. Whiteman as a freighting depot for the Andres Daws stage line, and was one of many warehouses and supply stores that were in much demand during the heyday of the Santa Fe Trail. The original adobe structure, severely damaged by fire in 1939, is mentioned in Zane Grey's book *Fighting Caravans*, written while he was staying at the St. James Hotel.

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The Watchu Mountain Adventure is but a few weeks away! Can you feel the spirit?

*M. R. Whiteman*

Cimarron, New Mexico Territory