

# The Watchu Network

Chief Watchu communicates with all Patriots' Path contingent crew advisors (adult members of the crew) by e-mail, using the Watchu Network. Each crew, in turn, should create its own Family network so that each crew member and his or her family can be kept informed with information about the Watchu Experience and Philmont, as well as crew-specific messages about meetings, shakedowns, or other crew activities.

Messages are either **Watchu Grams** (information about crew development, equipment, trek selection, May's Watchu Mountain Adventure, and traveling with the contingent), **Reminders** of up-coming events, or **Alerts** (changes to previously issued information). Alerts require immediate attention from the crew advisors. Watchu Grams should be distributed to all crew members and their families by the Family Network - they will answer many of the questions that are asked year after year. Watchu Grams will also be posted on the [Watchu Experience](http://www.watchu.org) Web site ([www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org)) - to see all sent to date, go to the [Quick Links](#) and select [Watchu Grams](#). In addition, there may be a limited number of general messages containing information that may be of interest to advisors and crew members though not necessarily related to Watchu or Philmont.

An advisor who regularly checks e-mail should be designated to forward all appropriate messages to all crew members and families via the Family Network. The responsibility for the various kinds of messages - equipment, crew development, etc. - should be shared among the crew members in order that no one person is overwhelmed by the wealth of information that will be sent.

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**Are all advisors for your crew getting these messages?:** Each crew should verify that every advisor is receiving messages sent by Chief Watchu - if not, please advise the [Chief Watchu](#) with the addresses that should be added.

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**Providing a secondary e-mail address is recommended:** The Watchu Network has proved to be an efficient means of providing information. However, at times there are issues with Internet Service Providers (especially Comcast) either bouncing messages as suspected 'spam' or failing to deliver them in timely manner. It is suggested that each advisor (and especially the Lead Advisor) provide [Chief Watchu](#) ([ChiefWatchu@watchu.org](mailto:ChiefWatchu@watchu.org)) with a secondary e-mail address, using a different service, to assure that all Watchu Alerts and Watchu Grams are received. The secondary address can be one you already have, or one created just for Watchu. Internet services like Yahoo, MSN's Hotmail, or Google's Gmail are good choices. Gmail has the added benefit that many e-mail programs, such as Outlook, can be configured to link to

your account, and messages will be delivered to your regular Inbox exactly the same as those sent to your normal address. Instructions on how to do that are on the Google Web site.

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**Messages sent to Chief Watchu are moderated:** Chief Watchu gets a huge volume of spam messages, and there are times when several days worth of messages are held for moderation. All the spam is deleted, and any valid messages are approved and delivered. That initial approval of a message includes pre-approval of any future messages, which will be delivered immediately rather than held for moderation. Chief Watchu recommends that all Lead Advisors, and any other advisors who think they may send a message sometime in the coming year, send a message to [Chief Watchu \(ChiefWatchu@watchu.org\)](mailto:ChiefWatchu@watchu.org) now that can pre-approve you for all future messages. There is no need for anything in the body of the message, but the subject line should be distinctive, such as "PHILMONT 2020." Note this pre-approval is address, not person, specific for the address you are sending from, and does not have to be the one where you receive advisor messages such as this. If you receive messages at a home address but more often send from a work one, send messages from both your home and work addresses for approval.

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**Advisor Guide coming!** Copies of the [Advisor Guide for the Watchu Experience and Philmont Expeditions](#) will be distributed to each crew's advisors at the upcoming Advisor Briefing in October. That booklet (which is also available as a [Quick Link](#) from the [Watchu Experience](#) Web site, [www.watchu.org](http://www.watchu.org)) is jam-packed with information you will need throughout the Watchu Experience. Keep it handy and refer to it often.

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**Tip:** All Watchu Grams will include an MS Word copy as an attachment. Printing the copy will provide cleaner reproduction for sharing and filing.

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The Philmont spirit lives on!

Chief Watchu