

Being a Chaperone

- This is an educational program, an extension of the school. Classes/activities are curriculum based and cover a variety of subject areas.
- SAFETY of everyone at camp is top priority.
- Students should NEVER be unsupervised. Supervision and discipline are shared by all leaders.
- The school (not camp) is responsible for distributing medications to students and emergency care. The camp staff is trained in first aid and CPR, plus, quick access to 911 services is available.

Secrets to Chaperone success: Get to know the children (their names, their personalities), and set a good example for them. Be on time to all activities. Remind them to take responsibility for cleaning and other duties. No raids, no scary stories, no damaging of property, no hurting others' feelings. Keep tabs on everyone (12 is a lot of kids!).

The duties of a chaperone: Chaperones supervise children during classes, meals and clean-up, evening activities, break times, and overnight in cabins. Chaperones role during programs is to maintain safety and order. Class teachers might ask for some help in classes, such as assisting with equipment, keeping students involved, etc. This responsibility is not to be taken lightly, keeping in mind student safety and the goals of the program! Teamwork among all the leaders is essential to success!

During classes: Discipline is shared between the camp staff, teachers and chaperones. Please help to monitor student behavior, and keep them attentive. Cell phone use (please turn off) and other distractions are discouraged. Chaperone help is needed during several activities. We hope everyone learns together!

During break times: Groups should stay together. Activities include: (risk activities must have camp staff)

Play at the Courtyard	Camp store	Rest, change at cabin
Practice skit/song for camp fire	Play at ball field	GPS Hunt (ask staff)
Ed Center Hands-on Room	Games	Group hike

Overnight in the cabins: A good method is to settle the students down step by step. First make sure everyone is comfortable (they have their clothes, supplies, etc.). Everyone stay inside the cabin. Everyone get your bed clothes on, and finish in the bathroom. Everyone get in bed. Okay, lights out. No more flashlights. Whisper only. Now, quiet. Good night! They will invariably wake themselves up in the morning, but an alarm is a good idea.

Safety and medical: Safety is our first concern, and we want to be completely prepared for any weather. As long as students can be happy and safe outside, the program will include outdoor activities. All YMCA staff members are trained to monitor and recognize severe weather. Cabins and buildings serve as severe weather shelters.

Students are encouraged to use water bottles, drink plenty of water, available several places around camp.

All student medication will be kept in the infirmary, locked (except such "keep with you" medications such as asthma medicine or epinephrine pens), and should be in the original prescription container, with clear instructions. Chaperones can help students remember to take their medications. Students needing medical attention should go with a chaperone to the infirmary, to see the school nurse.

Coffee is available in the dining hall, and a **soda pop** machine is in the administration office for adult use.

Enjoy, and ***THANK YOU***

for being part of a great program!

We appreciate your help and good work!