

Nature's Classroom Chaperone Guidelines

Welcome to a week of Nature's Classroom Institute! We are happy to have you here as a chaperone for your school. To make the transition easier for you, below will be our chaperone expectations and different roles you can play during your time here with us.

Required Roles:

1. To supervise students during all transitions and breaks in designated areas (dorm, playground, field, etc.)
2. Encourage students to be prepared for their next activity five minutes early.
3. To stay with the students overnight in the dorms
4. To get students to activities and meals on time.
5. To pick students up after all activities at the meeting point, made clear on arrival.
6. Sit at tables during meals and help supervise students during their Waitron roles.

Optional Roles:

1. Feel free to attend any and all activities. If you go to field group or classes, please go as an observer and let the instructors handle any behavioral redirection unless they ask for your help or you are there to aid a particular student.
2. If you would like to participate as a student in any of our simulations feel free to do so as long as you do not hinder the participation of the students.
3. If you would like to participate as a character during a simulation please let the Education Director know.

General Guidelines:

- 1, Parent chaperones are welcome to observe any of the classes or field groups their child is not participating in as to not hinder their participation during the activity (unless otherwise given permission by administration).
2. As an organization, we do not consider ourselves a camp. We are an educational facility that adheres to the same policies as schools have.
3. Please refrain from telling the students about the upcoming activities throughout the week. They are subject to change due to weather, etc. And it is important to their welfare and experience that they do not know the activities in advance.
4. Students should not be outside the dorms past 9:00pm (unless land lab students) or before breakfast (unless a waitron or have a Land Lab Chore). Please do not scare students while in the dorms or while they are walking from place to place in the dark. We would like to make sure this is a safe space for them. Alternatively, if you hear students scare one another, kindly ask them to stop.
5. Most teachers implement a 10:15pm bedtime with a 7:00am wake-up call. You can create your own bedtime routine, however, please follow the dorm expectations set during the beginning of the week.
6. NCI has zero tolerance for bullying, especially physical altercations. If students are to fight and it becomes an unsafe environment for the other students or themselves they will be asked to leave.
7. If a student injures themselves by way of a twisted ankle, etc. that keeps them out of more than two activities they will either need to see a doctor or have a parent come get them.

Meal Expectations:

1. We ask that all chaperones stay the full meal at their table to help support the students during table conversation, clean up, and anything else they need.
2. The adults have the same expectations as the students, and must ask the waitron to get up unless there is an emergency or someone needs help.
3. If the staff waitron is raising their hand to get the group quiet, help them out by reminding your table to follow suit.
4. One person is up from the table at a time. Exceptions can be made, use your best judgment to help the student decide to let others get up, for example to use the restroom.
5. You are welcome to drink tea and coffee during meals but please refrain eating or drinking other items not available to students.
6. Please keep off your phone during the meals unless there is an emergency. We ask that you engage with the students at your table and help as needed
7. Please respect the NCI instructors and the goals of our organization by encouraging thoughtful conversation during meal discussions.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above expectations and guidelines, feel free to ask a director for any clarifications!