



Chaperone Responsibilities, Expectations & Schedule

Greetings and welcome to NatureBridge! Thank you for taking on the incredibly important role of being a NatureBridge Chaperone. You will help to support student learning and safety during all aspects of the program.

General Responsibilities

- The primary responsibility of chaperones is to supervise students: Chaperones are expected to actively monitor and supervise students during free time, meals, and overnight, as well as enforce expectations and support learning during the program day.
- Chaperones may be asked to stay back from the trail day to care for a sick or injured student.
- Chaperones are responsible for distributing prescription or over-the-counter medication as needed and ensuring that all students have necessary medication with them for the trail day (inhalers, epi-pens, etc.).
- Chaperones will communicate with one another to ensure that students are supervised at all times (this includes planning breaks, etc.).
- Chaperones will make sure that students are on time and prepared for all meals, evening programs and for the trail day (with backpacks, rain gear, etc.).
- In the event of an emergency, chaperones will call 911 (if applicable) and alert NatureBridge staff as soon as possible.
- Chaperones must share any pertinent information regarding students, such as injuries or inappropriate behaviors, with their NatureBridge educator or the Site Manager.
- Chaperones must review the [Student Contract and be familiar with all student expectations](#) laid out by the school and NatureBridge.

Expectations

Chaperones will:

- Support student learning by demonstrating a positive attitude and modeling inclusive behavior both on the trail and during free time where they may be interacting with participants from other schools or groups.
- Respect all NatureBridge & national park facilities, follow all trail rules and support students in doing the same.
- Respect NatureBridge staff members and their personal boundaries. Cultivate a culture of consent by asking permission before entering the personal space of a NatureBridge Educator.
- Do not bring or use alcohol, recreational drugs, and/or weapons at NatureBridge.
- Communicate with their group's NatureBridge educator about each day's plan.
- **We require a minimum of one chaperone per learning group plus one additional chaperone** for risk management purposes. We allow a **maximum of two chaperones per learning group** as this allows educators to keep the program focused on students and our groups to be of manageable size.
- Parent/guardian chaperones agree to be assigned to a **different learning group than their child** unless an exception is granted by a NatureBridge staff member for extenuating circumstances prior to the beginning of the program.
- Limit or eliminate the use of electronic devices on the trail.
- Support students in staying on task and address discipline concerns, while allowing students to be engaged and answer questions on their own.



Daily Schedule

Before Trail

- Help students wake up on time and respect morning quiet hours
- Breakfast: Ensure your students are on time for breakfast, supervise them in the Dining Pavilion/Hall, tables are bused before departing.
- Prep for Trail: Please ensure that students are on time to the morning meeting with daypacks ready to go so that they can depart after morning meeting (two full water bottles, sun protection, extra layers, rain gear, journal & pen or pencil). No cell phones, candy, extra books, iPods or extra weight.

Morning Meeting with your NatureBridge educator

On Trail

A chaperone's positive attitude and active participation affect the students' attitudes and willingness to take part in new challenges. Students look to all adults as role models in demonstrating compassion for all students, respect for the natural world, and enthusiasm for learning. Part of your responsibility is taking an appropriate, engaged role in field activities, group challenges, and discussion during the daily hikes.

Cell Phones should only be used in the event of an emergency while on trail with a group. Please talk with your educator if you need to make an important call.

Strenuous Nature:

While our program focuses on field science, often strenuous hiking is required to reach our educational locales. **Chaperones must be in good enough physical condition and be able to hike for a sustained period of time, often with elevation gain.** Adult chaperones are part of the group and also an important safety resource should there be an emergency, they must remain with the group.

Your Educator

- The Educator decides on the day's destination based on the teaching plan, fitness of students as a whole, weather and other objective hazards and other logistical constraints.
- Please work with your Educator to support their plan without letting your personal goals interfere with the program.
- Your Educator will discuss your role in the learning group during your first meeting.

After Trail, Before Evening Program

After an amazing day of learning, your students will have some free time.

- Please ask students to put their day packs in a secure location
- Be visible and present in common spaces. You are responsible for your students. Monitor bathrooms during showertime to ensure students are safe and following directions.
- Dinner: Supervise your students at dinner, and ensure their tables are bused before departing and return with them to the cabin area.

Evening Program:

Each night you will have a program. Listen for announcements and look for your schedule [on the whiteboard in the Dining Pavilion].



After Evening Program

Please help your students transition to sleeping. Remind students to use facilities and return to cabins on time and help to enforce quiet hours.

Safety while on Program

Group safety is the primary responsibility of the Educators on trail, however, *Chaperones are a crucial source of support should an accident or emergency occur.* NatureBridge educators hold a Wilderness First Responder Certification. They carry a first aid kit and a radio.

Student Medications

Chaperones are responsible for managing student medications. It is each school's responsibility to work with parents to ensure that student medications are properly administered while on programs. MOST medications should NOT remain in the student's possession during the program. NatureBridge staff can administer over the counter medications from their first aid kit to participants within the limitations of their training.

Students Who Can't Participate in the Field

Occasionally, students do not go out on hikes due to illness or disciplinary action. When this happens, an adult chaperone must stay back. Please be sure to notify the NatureBridge Site Manager when this occurs. It is necessary that each group brings an adequate number of chaperones for this purpose. Students who stay back from trail must stay on campus. Students can only leave campus for their day program with NatureBridge staff and to attend evening programs.