

# Guidelines For All Chaperones

We appreciate your commitment and we want this Pathfinder event to be the best possible for all involved. Remember that Pathfinder's facilitators are always available.

During Pathfinder programming, we ask that you step back and watch the dynamics of the group, allowing the participants to struggle and make decisions together. In order for participants to fully own their experience we also recommend that chaperones do not suggest solutions during these activities.

The Site Director will gather all chaperones for a brief Chaperone Meeting at the beginning of program. S/he will go over the schedule and your role, review any changes or weather contingencies, and answer your questions. You'll receive a Chaperone Guide with a map of the campus and important phone numbers. From there, the Site Director is your resource throughout your trip if you have any questions or special needs.

## Supervision

- ◆ Chaperones work in tandem with Pathfinder facilitators to ensure that all attendees adhere to the Pathfinder policies, the specific policies of the site and regular school rules.
- ◆ At least one of your chaperones must accompany each traveling group.
- ◆ Chaperones are entirely responsible for supervision of participants at the following times:
  - during Free Time (about 4:30 - 6:00)
  - after evening program (about 9:30) and through the night until breakfast
  - at all times when participants are in their rooms
  - during meal times
- ◆ Lifeguards for swimming are provided at Cedarkirk and Montgomery.
- ◆ Participants are responsible for leaving the site in the condition in which they found it.
- ◆ Chaperones are encouraged to enforce lights out and quiet times at night.
- ◆ Participant discipline is a responsibility shared by chaperones and the Pathfinder facilitators.

## Medical

- ◆ Pathfinder's *Liability Waiver and Medical Information Forms* contain private medical information and will be in the Site Director box and accessible in case of emergency.
- ◆ All participant medications should be in the care of chaperones. Prescriptions should be in original containers with instructions included.

## Food and Drink

- ◆ Meal times are on your schedule. Ensure participants get enough rest, water and food.
- ◆ Use or possession of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Smoking is permitted in designated areas only.

## Communication

- ◆ Communication is the key to a successful experience. Please don't delay letting us know about any concerns you may have. We will gladly address the issue or solve the problem.
- ◆ Exchange cell phone numbers with other chaperones and the Site Director, or bring walkie-talkies for easy communication across the site.
- ◆ Cell phone coverage is available at our sites. Wi-Fi is also available.

# Guidelines For All Chaperones

## How can the chaperones help participants get the most out of the trip?

- ◆ We recommend that adults do not talk among themselves during activities as it is easy for youth to be distracted.
- ◆ Engage participants in conversation about the trip - what are they getting out of it? What have they learned that they can apply to their ongoing lives?
- ◆ Refrain from offering solutions during activities.
- ◆ Allow participants to struggle and make decisions together.
- ◆ Allow them to make safe mistakes as they learn the consequences of various choices.
- ◆ Observe and take mental notes on these topics for discussion in the months following the trip.
- ◆ Plan opportunities for participants to connect their Pathfinder experiences to their daily lives and apply what they learn on the trip.
- ◆ Make space for participants to work problems out for themselves and hold themselves accountable for each other's behavior. Allow them to make mistakes as they learn the consequences of various choices.
- ◆ Show your confidence that every person can make a positive contribution to the group.

## Experiential Education

### Why Do We Do It

Pathfinder's mission is to deliver fun, challenging adventures that help people learn about themselves, others and the environment. We believe that consciously teaching character and community building is a vital part of the lifelong learning process.

### How We Do It

The Association for Experiential Education regards experiential education as "a philosophy that informs many methodologies in which educators purposefully engage with learners in direct experience and focused reflection in order to increase knowledge, develop skills, clarify values, and develop people's capacity to contribute to their communities."

Pathfinder uses this philosophy in all of its programs, harnessing the power of experience to create lasting results.

