



# Nature By Design

Outdoor Education Adventures and Expeditionary Learning Programs

209.607.8455 • Fax: 209.369.7227

djwyrick@naturebydesignlearning.com • <http://www.naturebydesignlearning.com>

## CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Thank you for choosing to spend this time with your child's group. Your role as a chaperone is essential to creating a positive experience for all. We are glad you are on our team and know you are going to be a super chaperone. Please let your group leader or Nature By Design staff member know how we may help you. And thanks for making your student's experience a special one. Enjoy!

### Your Responsibilities:

You are responsible for the behavior of the students you are chaperoning. Unchaperoned or unruly groups will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to participate in the future. Please explain to your students that they need to show respect to the many areas visited, the various resource people who will lead out in tours and interpretive presentations, and other visitors who might be present. Please take time to read "The Bottom Line" and the four items listed below to the students and remind them of their pledge to cooperate. Refer students to this information as necessary.

- Respect your chaperone. Stay with your chaperone at all times and listen to what he or she says.
- Respect the environment. Watch to see how the organisms live, but do not disturb them.
- Respect the areas we visit. If you have written work to complete, please use your clipboard or notebook to write on. If in a building, do not write against walls, windows, or signs. Do not eat or drink during presentations or guided tours. Be sure all trash is disposed of in the proper receptacle.
- Respect other visitors and those in your group. **ALWAYS WALK**. Do not push ahead of others. Exercise courtesy at all times and use quiet voices when talking. Raise your hand when asking a question of a tour guide or interpreter.

### MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT TO EACH SITE

Encourage students to look closely at exhibits and interpretive information. To help them do this, ask questions like these that help them make observations.

- What do you see? Describe plants, animals, fossils, rocks, habitats, etc.
- Compare and contrast: How are the plants similar? Different? In what type of material are the fossils found? What similarities and differences are there between plants of one community and another? Why are there these differences?
- Help students look for answers, but **DO NOT PROVIDE ANSWERS FOR THEM**. Direct them to all sources of information (syllabus, printed sheets, signs and displays).
- Encourage students to talk with tour guides and interpreters. They can help answer student questions.
- **ABOVE ALL, REMEMBER THAT GOOD SCIENCE EDUCATION STRESSES PROCESS, NOT PRODUCT.**

### LOGISTICS

Know which students are in your group. Keep your group together and call each student by name. Know the schedule. When groups are working independently, know where and when to meet. Report any lack of student cooperation to the group leader or Nature By Design staff.

**I have read the information above and understand my responsibility as a chaperone.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_