

Camp Ocean Pines Chaperone Responsibilities

Congratulations! You have chosen to be an integral part of an exciting experience!

You have a unique opportunity to help students explore the environment, succeed in cooperative groups, become part of a cabin team and gain respect for their community and the natural world. While this isn't an easy job, it certainly can be rewarding. You are a part of our team. Our collective job is to provide a program with the students' best interests, safety and education in mind. The students will benefit from knowing what is expected of them and knowing those expectations remain consistent throughout the week.

As a chaperone at Camp Ocean Pines, you are entrusted with the responsibility of caring for and supervising up to 15 students. Student(s) should never be left unsupervised, yet it is also imperative that you avoid being alone with an individual student. If you must take a student somewhere, bring their buddy along. At all times, we ask that the safety of your group be your prime concern. Your personal behavior and appearance are a model to the students. The students in your charge are very impressionable and must not be subjected to inappropriate language, jokes or activities. We ask that during your stay here at Camp Ocean Pines you **refrain from alcohol, drugs, and tobacco**. We ask that you would not behave in any way that could endanger the welfare of the students. If any of these behaviors are observed you may be asked to leave the premises immediately. Please be sure to read the form titled, Understanding Child Abuse.

Your positive attitude will help set the tone. Strive to do your part to help make camp a wonderful experience for each and every child by encouraging them to get excited, be positive, and treat others with respect. Keep in mind that the Camp Ocean Pines staff is here to aid you in your job. If a problem arises, please immediately bring it to the attention of a naturalist, the director or another available staff member.

As a chaperone, you will be expected to:

1. **Supervise Free Time** - Any time the students are not in class with a naturalist, you are responsible for full supervision. An adult must be present at each free time area if there are students there (i.e. basketball courts, back deck, craft lodge or cabins)
2. **Support our naturalists** – Be present. We are counting on you to make sure your group arrives to meals and classes on time. During lessons, your role is to provide assistance to the naturalist by:
 - a. Focusing students on the naturalist and lesson at hand
 - b. Help us to maintain the idea that this is outdoor SCHOOL, not just a vacation
 - c. Being present and involved without taking attention away from students, activities or naturalist
 - d. Role modeling appropriate behavior
 - e. Taking care of any/all behavioral problems that may arise
 - f. Refraining from answering questions for the students!
3. **Supervise Cabins** – There may be one of you and 9 of them but you are in charge! Make sure your students are being respectful, appropriate (no rough housing, pillow fights, no pranks, no cabin raids), tidy and on time for all meals and activities. Also, help conserve water by reminding students to take short showers, only one per day, turn the water off while brushing their teeth, etc.
4. **Supervise Meals** – We ask that chaperones spread out around the dining area and eat with the students. You will be the table head. Please help us enforce table manners and keep the noise level manageable in the dining hall. Students and chaperones will be asked to help clean up after meals.

Lastly, while we need you to take these responsibilities seriously we also want your time here to be enjoyable as well. Have fun with your group, Communicate with the staff and take a break. As long as all of the students are accounted for/supervised and there are enough of you to go around, chaperones can have a little free time too. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you!

Please Sign that you have read the following form, one sheet per chaperone

Name _____ Date _____