

How to be a Great Chaperone

You don't need a special knowledge to be a chaperone—just common sense and a willingness to jump in and get involved. Here are a few tips to help make your trip a good one: *What will I be doing as a chaperone?*

- ✓ You will supervise a small group of students during the visit, helping them learn, assisting the ranger when called upon, and making sure they behave appropriately.

What will my role be during the program?

- ✓ Throughout the day, your job will be to monitor the behavior of the students, provide for their safety, and facilitate the learning process while insuring a fun visit for the students.
- ✓ You may be asked to work with specific students and help guide them through program activities. You may want to ask the teacher for information about the program, including background information and vocabulary words, to familiarize yourself with the topic. The more you are able to interact with the students, the better their experience will be.

What do I need to tell the students about touching in the tidepools?

- ✓ Encourage students to touch, but gently. When touching tidepool animals, wet your hands in seawater first. Most tidepool animals have a coating of slime to protect them. Touching them with a dry hand can damage their slime layer and harm their delicate surfaces.
- ✓ Do not pick up or remove the animals.
- ✓ Follow the guidance of the park education staff.

How can I help students get the most out of their visit?

- ✓ Be sure you understand the plan for the day, as instructed by the student's teacher.
- ✓ Ask the group's teacher for any material that will help you lead the students.
- ✓ Ask the teacher whether the students have specific projects to work on, and how you can help with them during the visit.
- ✓ Interact and have fun with the students.
- ✓ Be sure to ask questions of each student in your group. There will always be a few who have all the answers.
- ✓ Encourage the shy or quiet students to share ideas, too.

What else do I need to know?

- ✓ Please leave additional small children at home if possible. They distract you from your duties as a chaperone.
- ✓ Avoid visiting with other adults at the expense of your chaperone duties. Remember that your primary job is to chaperone the students, not to visit with other parents.
- ✓ Students must stay with you, their chaperone at all times. Their behavior is your responsibility.
- ✓ Be sure you know when and where to meet the rest of your group during and at the end of the visit.