

Chaperone Guidelines



OVERVIEW

Thank you for volunteering your time as a chaperone. Chaperones are the primary contacts and mentors for youth attending GEAR UP sponsored events and are our first line in promoting and protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the youth that join us. It is the duty of every chaperone to be a reliable, positive role model whom youth can turn to. We appreciate your support.

GUIDELINES

1. Chaperones must be approved volunteers through their districts, and all school/district rules apply on GEAR UP sponsored field trips. Chaperones are expected to comply with school policies, work cooperatively with other volunteers and staff members, and model appropriate behaviors for students. Be sure to familiarize yourself with all school/district chaperone policies.
2. Students must be supervised at all times. Account for all participants regularly and before changing activities. Chaperones must be readily available, be mindful of safety concerns, and respond to students' needs.
3. Student behavior is the chaperone's responsibility. School rules related to student behavior apply. Go over rules and standards of behavior, safety rules, and any site-specific rules with students.
4. For the protection of both the student and the chaperone, chaperones should not place themselves in situations in which they are alone with a student. Instead, chaperones should use two-deep leadership, working in pairs to ensure that no adult is alone with a single, unrelated minor.
5. Interactions with students must occur in open, well-lit, and observable areas.
6. Treat all youth fairly and equally.
7. Report accidents or problems immediately.
8. Chaperones may not:
 - Use or possess alcohol or other illicit drugs
 - Use any tobacco products in the presence of, or within the sight of, students
 - Use inappropriate or offensive language
 - Use physical contact for discipline