

# Field Trip Chaperone Guide

## (For a Non-overnight trip)

Thank you! Without your help, this program and this experience would not have been possible. Thank you in advance for being part of the positive memories that students will take away from this time out in nature.

What kind of memories that a student will take away varies greatly. For some this experience may excite a student to be invested in science. For others it could be the hands-on, outdoor learning environment or the special observation skills that are generally different from how students learn day to day in a classroom. Finally for others, their strongest memories may be the time to bond with the other students in their class, and cabin group.

The main positive memory that a student might take back with them is the home away from home that you helped create. Possibly the first time away from home in a group setting that teaches a student that they can travel away from home, find independence and learn how to work in a cabin “team” like group.

Lake Francis Outdoor Education “casts a wide net” in the goals that we want students to take back with them.

Things to expect:

- 1) On trail adult chaperones will help redirect student who fall off topic. They will engage in the activities and help other students connect with nature.
- 2) We like sing educational songs and if the students see you sing, then they will be more comfortable to sing too.

- 3) We are here for you! Everyone will run into some kind of issue at some point, a strong chaperone will ask for help. This is why we will have a short chat when you arrive to go over the schedule and what is happening next.
- 4) **Refrain from alcohol, and drugs, leave pocket knives and bear spray at home.** Tobacco use- There are designated use areas to be used away from the school group.
- 5) **Never be alone with a student (unless that student is your own child).** This is how we can protect youth and chaperones. If a student needs to go somewhere bring a buddy, a group of three is the way to travel.
- 6) **Students should not be left alone, stay in a group of three.**

8) **Words are Powerful!**- The the trip is for the students so keep conversations child- appropriate, and focused on them not you.

Please help students redirect the conversation back to the lesson or if in a down time to a student's favorite hobby, sports, or what they saw on trail.

Or You can always say that is not what we talk about at camp and change the topic.

9) We use positive discipline techniques here at camp and the teacher or our staff are here to help with any situation that may arise.

### **Trail groups:**

During class time the student will be in their classroom groups and you will be assigned to help with a class. This can mean

supporting the Naturalist, leading the activity, with redirecting students, and participating in explorations.

#### 8) Electronics:

Depending on your carrier, cell phone coverage at camp is good. Wi-Fi is available, please refrain from using phones when helping out on trail. If you need to step away from the group we understand just let us know.

**Never** let a student use your phone to call home. Communications from a student to home must go through the teacher.

#### **Missing Home:**

Even for a day field trip everyone misses home from time to time.

In your role you will usually be the first to notice a student missing home. So your compassionate response can be the thing that helps them acknowledge their feelings and choose to make a positive choice to feeling better.

#### **Tips to help:**

1) Connect with the student by explaining that everyone misses home at some point and having that feeling is OK.

> Talk about what has been fun so far.

> Then show them, on a schedule of talking through what fun the rest of the day will be.

2) Get our help, the student's teacher may know them best and what approach will work well. Also our staff have experience dealing with students missing home.

# **“Understanding and Preventing Child Abuse**

It is important to Lake Francis Outdoor Education staff, school staff, and most importantly, the parents of our students that each child feels safe and secure at camp. For this reason, we ask all of our chaperones to read through the following behaviors that might be considered abuse.

Intentional or unintentional “meanness” toward students such as critical, sarcastic or cutting remarks. Comebacks or put-downs are all signs and examples of verbal and emotional or psychological abuse.

Any act, intentional or unintentional, that could cause a student to feel embarrassed, fearful or insecure.

Any excessive or physical form of punishment such as push-ups, running laps, hitting, pushing, shoving, pinching, grabbing, squeezing, pulling or any other use of the hands, feet or objects that could cause bodily harm.

Allowing behavior that could result in bodily harm.

Any display, physical or verbal, that is sexual in nature.

Offering, allowing or encouraging in any way the use of inappropriate pictures, magazines, books or paraphernalia.

Participating in, encouraging or allowing inappropriate discussions, particularly of a sexual or sexist nature.

In addition to refraining from these actions yourself, look out for any abusive situations that may be occurring around you. If you suspect that a child is being abused, either at camp or at home, please bring your concerns to the camp staff and/or the student’s teacher. If any staff member is made aware of a potentially abusive situation, we will take steps to ensure the safety of the child. Thank you for your help in preventing and dealing with this sensitive issue.

## **Schedule**

### **Day program**

#### **Arrival:**

Check in with the teacher in charge of the trip to confirm arrival time:

**Generally: 8:45am**

Students will have a little run around time while trail naturalist check in with teachers.

>Gather the students into the amphitheater

> Put lunches in our lunch tubs.

**9:15 am Welcome Program**

**9:30 am Start Class out on trail**

**Noon Lunch**

**12:30pm One last short hike**

**1:15pm Farewell program**

**1:30 pm Depart**

Directions:

Our address

13919 Lake Frances Road  
Dobbins, Ca. 95935

To get precise directions please visit Lake Francis resort webpage where you can put in your starting location.

<https://lakefrancisrv.com/location>