



Chaperone Selection Guidelines

Chaperones should be teachers or other adults who are comfortable interacting with children and enforcing the policies of the school and NatureBridge staff. If parents are chosen as chaperones, it is our policy that they are not in the same learning group as their child, and we expect parent chaperones to treat all students equally. In addition, we allow no more than two chaperones per learning group. This allows our educators to keep the program focused on students and our groups to be of manageable size. At a minimum, NatureBridge requires one chaperone per learning group (up to 15 students) and two chaperones in each Cabin Loop (approximately 25 students).

What NatureBridge looks for in chaperones:

- Are they good role models for students?
- Do they have a positive attitude and model inclusive behavior?
- Are they in reasonably good physical condition (able to hike 5 miles a day on varied and sometimes steep terrain)?
- Are they comfortable being in charge of children?
- Will they help enforce NatureBridge and school policies in a positive, caring way?
- Are they prepared to be in charge of students for 24 hours a day throughout the entire program?

If they are parent chaperones:

- If the chaperone is a parent of one of the students, will they put the needs of the group above the needs of their individual child?
- Are they comfortable with hiking in a group separate from their own child?

Chaperone requirements:

- Must be 21 years of age or older.
- Must agree to all campus rules and chaperone expectations.
- One chaperone per Learning Group must be proficient in English.

Chaperone training:

- NatureBridge recommends that the school's group coordinator facilitates a required chaperone training before arriving on site.
- Training should include:
 - An outline of the role of the teachers, chaperones, and NatureBridge staff during the program.
 - The school's and NatureBridge's expectations of adults on the trip.
 - The school's academic, social, and personal goals for students.
 - Program logistics from arrival through departure.
 - Sample discipline scenarios and how to handle them.