



Welcome to NatureBridge in Yosemite!

NatureBridge has been teaching and inspiring youth since 1971. Welcome to a rewarding week with your students. Thank you for taking on the incredibly important role of being a NatureBridge chaperone. Your efforts are essential to our program's success. *Please read this over thoroughly and bring it with you on your NatureBridge trip.*

Your School Group Coordinator's Responsibilities

The Group Coordinator acts as the liaison between the Site Manager and the rest of your group. It is part of their responsibility to check in with the Site Manager at both breakfast and dinner. This is a time to express concerns, address logistics, do paperwork, exchange mail/phone messages, and facilitate a smooth-running week. It is also the Group Coordinator's responsibility to pass on all pertinent information to other chaperones and/or to the students.

Your School Group's Chaperone Responsibilities (Half Dome Village)

Chaperones are with their students almost 24 hours a day. The most successful chaperones are actively involved in their role. You can prevent, solve and address many of the issues that arise by being visible and present for your students. It is your responsibility to enforce NatureBridge policies, demonstrate a positive attitude and model inclusive behavior.

PLEASE NOTE concerning alcohol: NatureBridge prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances on campus or at any activity involving student participants.

Before Trail (Before 9:00 am)

6:00 a.m. Your students may emerge from cabins

7:00 a.m. Whisper hours end

- Breakfast: Walk with your students to breakfast, supervise them in the Dining Pavilion, ensure their tables are bussed before departing and return with them to Boystown.
- Prep for Trail: Please ensure that students are on time to morning meeting with daypacks ready to go so that they can depart after morning meeting (two full water bottles, sun protection, extra layers, rain gear, journal & pen or pencil). No cell phones, candy, extra books, iPods or extra weight.
- *Bear Box Check before trail*

8:30/9:00 a.m. Morning Meeting: location to be announced to your Group Coordinator

On Trail (~8:30-4:00 p.m.)

A chaperone's positive attitude and active participation affects the students' attitudes and willingness to take part in new challenges. Students look to all adults as role models in demonstrating compassion for all students, a respect for the natural world and enthusiasm for learning. Part of your responsibility is taking an appropriate, engaged role in field activities, group challenges and discussion during the daily hikes.

Cell Phones should only be used in the event of an emergency while on trail with a group.



Strenuous Nature: While our program focuses on field science, often strenuous hiking is required to reach our educational locales. It is imperative that chaperones are in strong enough physical condition to hike steep mountain trails at elevations above 4,000 ft. Most days groups will cover between 3-7 miles, with some longer challenge hike days. Adult chaperones are part of the group and also an important safety resource should there be an emergency, they must remain with the group.

Your Educator

- The Educator decides on the day's destination based on the teaching plan, fitness of students as a whole, weather and other objective hazards and other logistical constraints.
- Please work with your Educator to support their plan without letting your personal goals interfere with the program.
- Your Educator will discuss your role in the learning group during your first morning meeting.
- You will return to [Boystown each day between 3:30-4:30 p.m.]

After Trail, Before Evening Program (~3:30-6:30 p.m.)

After an amazing day of learning, your students will have some free time.

- Please ask students to put their day packs [in their bear boxes].
- Be visible and present in common spaces. You are responsible for your students. Check bathrooms frequently during high volume use.
- Bear Box Check before Evening Program (locked bear box, no scented items in tent, lights out, heater down & free of objects).
- Accompany students to store in Half Dome Village.
- Dinner: Walk with your students to dinner, supervise them in the Dining Pavilion- ensure their tables are bussed before departing and return with them to Boystown.
- Evening Program: Each night you will have a program. Listen for announcements and look for your schedule [on the whiteboard in the Dining Pavilion].

After Evening Program (until 10 p.m.)

Please help your students' transition for sleeping.

9:00 p.m. Whisper Hours begin.

9:30 p.m. In cabin time begins. Students are in their cabins for the night. Check Bear Boxes.

10:00 p.m. Lights out. Your students are quiet and (at least pretending to be) asleep.

Your School Group's Chaperone Responsibilities (Crane Flat)

Chaperones are with their students almost 24 hours a day. The most successful chaperones are actively involved in their role. You can prevent, solve and address many of the issues that arise by being visible and present for your students. It is your responsibility to enforce NatureBridge policies.

PLEASE NOTE concerning alcohol: NatureBridge prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances on campus or at any activity involving student participants.

Before Trail (Before 9:30 a.m.)- [Specific Schedule Information below]

6-7 a.m. Only chaperones are allowed in the Bathhouse. This is student free time, enjoy it!



7:00 a.m. Your students may emerge from cabins and can shower/prepare for the day.

7:45 a.m. Bell is rung for breakfast. Help students be on time.

9:00-9:30 a.m. Bell is rung to start the trail day. Students meet Educators ready for trail (appropriately dressed with backpacks) and Campus Care. Assist Educators as the lead students in campus cleanup.

On Trail (~9:30-4:30 p.m.)

A chaperone's positive attitude and active participation affects the students' attitudes and willingness to take part in new challenges. Students look to all adults as role models in demonstrating compassion for all students, a respect for the natural world, and enthusiasm for learning. Part of your responsibility is taking an appropriate, engaged role in field activities, group challenges, and discussion during the daily hikes.

Cell Phones should only be used in the event of an emergency while on trail with a group.

After Trail, (~4:30-10:00 p.m.)

4:30-5:30 p.m. Free time for students. Please supervise students.

5:30 p.m. Bell is rung for dinner. Help students be on time.

7:00 p.m. Evening Program. Make sure students are prepared and on time for the evening program.

8-9:30 p.m. Evening free time. Make sure students are getting ready for bed.

10:00 p.m. Lights out in cabins. Make sure students are ready for bed.

NatureBridge Support Staff:

Half Dome Village and Crane Flat Site Managers

The primary role of the NatureBridge Site Manager is to act as a liaison between your school, NatureBridge and our park partners and coordinates the logistics on campus. Please feel free to approach the Site Manager for any reason.

In Half Dome Village, the dining area is the easiest way to reach the site manager is at meals or by calling 209-600-1509.

At Crane Flat, you can typically find the Site Manager at their cabin or in the Dining Hall. You can also call their cell at 209-347-7520.

The Site Manager will provide further details during an orientation following your arrival on site.

NatureBridge Support Staff: Half Dome Village Field Safety Officer

The Field Safety Officer works between 3PM-11PM, and is on call until 7AM. They can be reached at 209-600-1892.

Safety while on Program

Group safety is the primary responsibility of the Educators on trail. *You are a crucial source of support should an accident or emergency occur.* The educators hold a Wilderness First Responder Certification. They carry a first aid kit and radio, from which they can contact our Valley base of operations as well as the National Park Service emergency response personnel.



Medical Facilities

Yosemite Medical Clinic is located in Yosemite Valley: 9000 Ahwahnee Drive, Yosemite Valley, 95389. Students taken ill or injured are under the care and supervision of the group's leader and adult chaperones, who will call to confer with the parent/guardian. In Yosemite Valley, a chaperone can transport an injured student by shuttle bus. We ask that all school groups bring one personal vehicle to act as a transport for students or chaperones in need of medical care.

Student Medications

Chaperones are responsible for managing student medications. It is each school's responsibility to work with parents to ensure that student medications are properly administered while in Yosemite. MOST medications should NOT remain in the student's possession during the program. NatureBridge staff can administer over the counter medications from their first aid kit to participants within the limitations of their training.

Students Who Can't Participate in the Field

Occasionally students do not go out on hikes due to illness or disciplinary action. When this happens, an adult chaperone must stay back. Please be sure to notify the NatureBridge Site Manager when this occurs. It is necessary that each group brings an adequate number of chaperones for this purpose. Students who stay back from trail must stay on campus. Students can only leave campus for their day program with NatureBridge staff and to attend evening programs.