

Dear Teachers & Chaperones,

In preparation for our time together we have compiled a list of specific areas that we feel need to be clearly understood before you arrive at camp.

The main goals of the Outdoor Education ministry are:

1. To challenge students to evaluate their personal relationship with God, including how they are living out what they believe.
2. To help students grow academically through hands-on observation and experimentation in God's creation.
3. To help students develop social skills and maturity through living and working together in the Outdoor School community, away from their typical daily environment.
4. To allow students to experience the outdoors in ways that they might not otherwise have opportunity to, in our busy, complex, high-tech world.
5. To inspire students to recognize and fulfill their roles as caretakers of God's creation.

It is our job to take care of the details so that you can spend time with your students. We do place high priority on good chaperoning. To successfully achieve the goals mentioned, we need your help. The following is a breakdown of the typical outdoor school day, including our expectations of you:

8:00a.m. Breakfast: We will meet outside the Dining Hall for prayer before each meal. Meal times are good opportunities for interaction with your students. We ask that there be a counselor at each table so that 1) volume control can be localized, 2) students will have an adult example to follow, and 3) you can ensure that the food reaches everyone. The Outdoor Education staff will also try to sit with the students at least one meal a day.

Announcements are usually made during meal times and it is very important for all chaperones to be aware of them.

8:45a.m. Chaperone Meeting/Cabin Clean-up: Students are given the responsibility of taking care of their cabins. Chaperones are to clean only their own area and are to serve as encouragers to students. Hint: Assign duties before coming to breakfast. While students begin clean-up, chaperones meet with the Outdoor Education Director for prayer, sharing suggestions and/or concerns, reviewing the schedule, etc...

9:15a.m. Morning All-Camp Devotions: We will meet together as a group before we break into class groups to have a time of singing and devotions led by the Outdoor School staff. We ask that the chaperones sit among the students to help keep them focused.

10:00a.m. Morning class: During class time we expect chaperones to be role models who will be able to come alongside students and participate with them, while helping to maintain control and discipline. Your attitude is key here – if you show interest in class activities, students will be more inclined to also.

- 12:15p.m. Lunch
- 12:45p.m. Rest Time (FOB): This time right after lunch is set aside for quiet in-cabin activities. The chaperone needs to be present and in control at this time. This is an excellent opportunity for rest, reading, or journaling.
- 2:15p.m. Afternoon Class
- 4:15p.m. Free time: the Outdoor School staff relies on chaperones to be in charge at this time and to be involved with students in group games, hiking, talking or whatever recreational activities are available. This non-structured time is best for simply developing friendships with students. It is a chance to have fun with them.
- 5:00p.m. Dinner
- 6:00p.m. Evening Activities & Devotions: Whether it be an all camp game, night hike or the evening campfire, this is another situation where the chaperone's attitude and behavior is a crucial factor in the success of the events. Please participate along with the students. After devotions each chaperone will have discussion questions to take back to their cabin for facilitating a discussion and possibly a prayer time.
- 10:00p.m. Lights Out: This is one of the most challenging times of the day. Even a respected teacher will have his/her authority tested to the limit at times. Give the students fair warning that "lights out" is approaching and then be firm in enforcing the students to remain quiet so everyone is able to rest.

Your role in the cabin will have a great impact on the depth of your relationships during the day. It is important to gain control without losing respect. There is a difference between being the "nice guy" and being a friend.

*Please realize that times may change on this schedule and that each day will be a little different in its evening structure.

In closing the following is a list of a few items that would be helpful for at least one chaperone in each cabin to bring along: alarm clock, hand towel & hand soap, floor mat (for outside of the shower), extra pens or pencils, and a board/card game or two.