

Garden of the Gods Field Trip Program

Chaperone Policy and Expectations

1. Overview of the Program

Our field trip program consists of guided outdoor hikes led by Park Staff. Students will explore natural areas, learn about local ecology, geology or history, and engage in hands-on exploration of the Garden of the Gods. Chaperones play a critical role in maintaining safety, supporting student learning, and helping the day run smoothly.

2. Chaperone-to-Student Ratio

To ensure safety and supervision, **schools are required to bring at least one chaperone per student group**. The number of groups will be communicated to the teachers prior to your arrival at the Park.

- Schools may bring additional chaperones as needed to support student needs or meet school district requirements, but **we recommend bringing no more than 10 chaperones total**.
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3. Responsibilities of All Chaperones

Chaperones are essential partners in providing a safe and positive educational environment. Chaperones should:

Provide Supervision and Assist with Safety

- Maintain visual supervision of students in their group at all times.
- Ensure students stay with the group and follow all park rules and directions from park staff.
- Immediately communicate any safety or behavioral concerns to park or school staff.

Engagement

- Chaperones should not provide students with answers to the docent's questions. The goal of this program is for students to have the opportunity to learn through their own curiosity, questions, and exploration.
 - Please minimize side conversations among chaperones or distractions that may disrupt the learning experience.
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4. Appreciation

We greatly value the time and dedication of our chaperones. Your partnership helps create meaningful outdoor experiences for our local students, and we appreciate your commitment to their safety and learning.

