



Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering your time as a Mountain School chaperone! Your participation in this program serves a vital role in making this experience a very special learning opportunity for your child and their class. In order for Mountain School to be successful, it is important that all chaperones know how the program works and what is expected of them.

Upon arrival at Mountain School, an adult orientation will reiterate chaperone responsibilities and expectations, as well as define Mountain School program goals, Learning Center boundaries, and safety rules. Chaperones are expected to supervise students throughout the duration of the program, including overnight. Chaperones will be assigned to one trail group for the duration of the program to help facilitate the group learning process during the day and assigned to one lodge to ensure adequate overnight supervision.

The most important chaperone engagement duties are to:

- Actively participate in all lessons/activities with the learning groups (***Chaperones should be able to hike up to 5 miles each day and should be comfortable spending all day in the elements***)
- Encourage student participation and cooperation in all activities
- Assist instructors in enforcing behavioral expectations
- Supervise student recreation and free time
- Make sure students are in their rooms at bedtime
- Enforce "lights out"
- Be a positive and supportive role model!

Chaperones (and teachers) will also be responsible for attending to student needs at night. For risk management purposes, we require that students sleep 3-4 per room and that they only enter rooms they are assigned to.

It is very helpful to the program if you attend a chaperone meeting with your child's teacher. This will help you become oriented with the schedule and your responsibilities. While on trail, we expect chaperones to take an active role in supporting North Cascades Institute instructors during trail activities, games, discussions, and exploratory hikes. The way you fulfill your role will strongly affect the experience of the students. Although safety is primarily the responsibility of the NCI instructor, you may be called upon for support.

At least one chaperone must have their personal vehicle at the Learning Center in the event that a student needs to go home before the completion of the program. In addition to the items listed on the Mountain School Packing List sent home with your student, we recommend that each chaperone bring an alarm clock, a watch, and a flashlight (if it is getting dark early during the dates you attend Mountain School). You may also wish to bring a travel mug for hot drinks while on the trail. If you anticipate needing to make a phone call while here, please be aware that there is no cell reception on campus. We do have Wi-Fi for adult use, but we request that you use it with discretion or after hours, as this is an electronic-free campus for students.

Please contact your child's teacher regarding any responsibility you may have to cover tuition fees. These fees may or may not be covered by the school district.

We look forward to sharing this special experience with you!

Sincerely,

Mountain School Staff