



Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering your time as an **Alaska Outdoor School (AOS)** chaperone! Your participation is vital to the success of AOS. How you participate will shape this unique learning opportunity for your child and their class. AOS reaches peak potential when chaperones know the program and what is expected of them.

Upon arrival at Alaska Outdoor School, an adult orientation will reiterate chaperone responsibilities and expectations, as well as define AOS program goals, Visitor 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 field study group for the duration of the program to help facilitate the group learning process during the day and assigned to one den group to ensure adequate overnight supervision.

The most important chaperone engagement duties are to:

- Be curious, engaged, and enthusiastic during lessons and activities (Chaperones should be able to hike up to 3 miles each day and should be comfortable spending all day outside)
- Interact and connect with students
- Assist instructors in supporting and refocusing students
- Supervise student den time, meals, and transitions
- Make sure students are settled down at bedtime and 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 in their designated den groups and only use the bathroom 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. During field studies we expect chaperones to take an active role in supporting field instructors during activities, games, discussion, and explorations. Although safety is primarily the responsibility of the field instructor, you may be called upon for support.

In addition to the items listed on the AOS packing list sent home with your student, we recommend that each chaperone bring an alarm clock, a watch, and a flashlight/headlamp. You may also wish to bring a travel mug for hot drinks. Coffee and tea will be available during breakfast. If you anticipate needing to make a phone call while here, please be aware that there is **no cell reception in Portage Valley**. We do have wi-fi for adult use, but we ask that you use it with discretion or after hours, as this is an electronics-free campus for students.

Thank you again for participating in Alaska Outdoor School and we look forward to sharing this special experience with you!

Sincerely,

Alaska Outdoor School Team