

## Information for Field Trip Chaperones

*Under the direction of the Preserve's trained volunteer naturalists, small groups of students investigate natural habitats, become acquainted with the creatures they discover, and come to understand the place of each in the ecosystem. We emphasize active, hands-on learning and encourage students to interact directly with their surroundings.*

Chaperones play an integral role in the success of our environmental education program. Please read the following information carefully so that you will be adequately prepared for a comfortable and successful field trip. Thank you!

### TERRAIN, CLOTHING, FOOD, & WATER

1. The Osborn is a wilderness preserve — the hiking trails are narrow, uneven, sometimes quite steep, and bordered by poison oak and stinging nettle in a few places.
2. Wear comfortable **long pants** and sturdy shoes with good tread. Short pants and/or sandals are not appropriate. Be prepared for any weather: dress in layers and bring along a rain jacket, hat, gloves, and sunscreen.
3. Bring a large bottle of water to drink.
4. There is no food available. Bring an easily transportable and nourishing lunch.

### LOGISTICS

1. You will accompany a group of approximately 6-10 students. Become familiar with the students in your group and ask the teacher to share pertinent information such as health concerns and/or behavioral issues with you in advance.
2. *If possible*, we ask that you hike in a different field group from your own child.
3. Hikes generally begin at 10 AM and end at 2 PM, unless the teacher has arranged for a shorter tour. Lunch is eaten out in the field.
4. Expect to hike between 1 and 3 miles in about four hours.
5. The only restroom facilities on the Preserve are located in the main building. When hiking, visitors are encouraged to “visit with a tree” when nature calls.
6. Expect to participate in all activities and experiences. Please allow the students themselves to ask and answer questions and make the discoveries as much as possible. Please keep adult “chitchat” to a minimum.

### YOUR ROLE

1. Upon arrival at the Preserve parking lot, help students get organized, adjust backpacks, and remain calm. Do not allow students to wander off unsupervised.
2. Take your lead from the naturalist—exploration and touching natural objects within designated boundaries may be permitted, in which case your role will be to enforce boundaries and make sure students are respecting plants and animals.
3. Take an active role from the time you leave the school grounds.
4. In the event of an especially difficult situation, please consult with the naturalist in charge.

5. Help to make every member of your group feel included and attended to.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. There is absolutely **no smoking** permitted anywhere on the Preserve including in the parking lot and all buildings.
2. Collection of any specimen or artifact, living or dead, is strictly forbidden.
3. **Please leave your cell phone turned OFF during the field trip.** It should be used for emergency calls **ONLY**.