



Welcome To NatureBridge in Yosemite!

NatureBridge has been teaching and inspiring youth since 1971. Welcome to a rewarding week with your students. Thank you for taking on the incredibly important role of being a NatureBridge chaperone. Your efforts are essential to our program's success. *Please read this over thoroughly and bring it with you on your NatureBridge trip.*

Please also be sure to visit our website to gain an understanding of what to expect. There you can find such things as a sample day, information on lodging, information on food, etc. (www.naturebridge.org/yosemite)

We are here to support you...

GROUP COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Before the Program: This is the person who has taken responsibility for organizing all of the program logistics for your school or group's program with NatureBridge. He or she is responsible for a wide range of tasks before the program begins, including:

1. Sending a packet home with the students and chaperones including a clothing and equipment list, registration forms, and volunteer service agreement forms.
2. Holding pre-trip meetings with both the students and chaperones in order to go over such things as program goals, behavioral expectations, logistics of the program, and a plan and strategy for free time.
3. Submitting paperwork essential to our planning for your program including a Pre-Trip Questionnaire, Trail Group Lists and Rooming Lists.

During the Program: The Group Coordinator acts as the liaison between the Site Manager and the rest of your group. It is part of his/her responsibility to check in with the Site Manager at both breakfast and dinner. This is a time to express concerns, address logistics, do paperwork, exchange mail/phone messages, and facilitate a smooth-running week. It is also the Group Coordinator's responsibility to pass on all pertinent information to other chaperones and/or to the students.

SITE MANAGER

The primary role of the NatureBridge Site Manager is to act as a liaison between your school, NatureBridge and our park partners and coordinates the logistics on campus. Please feel free to approach the Site Manager for any reason.

In Curry Village, the easiest way to reach the Site Manager is at meals or by calling 209.742.3161. The Site Manager sits near the entrance of the Dining Pavilion and is available to assist you in any way possible. Leave a message if you get the voicemail as messages are checked regularly. *At Crane Flat*, the site manager can usually be found in the office trailer or in the Dining Hall. The site manager will provide further details during an orientation shortly after your arrival on site.

FIELD SAFETY OFFICER—(Boystown)

The Field Safety Officer will rove through the cabin areas at night from 7-11 pm and is on-call from 11pm-7am. His or her responsibility is to keep an eye out for suspicious activity, proper food storage, and to provide you with the support you need to manage your students in Boystown. Please display your NatureBridge cabin placards so that our Safety Officer can identify where your students are staying and give special attention to patrolling those areas. NatureBridge is invested in the safety of participants and takes measures to insure every participant's well being. The safety officer will work with the National Park Service Law Enforcement when needed, please feel free to report concerns to the Fields Safety Officer. Chaperones, however, are the first line of prevention. Please keep an active eye on your students; unforeseen hazards do exist. Keep students in sight and supervised at all times.



Curry Village Chaperone Responsibilities

Chaperones are with their students almost 24 hours a day. The most successful chaperones are actively involved in their role. You can prevent, solve and address many of the issues that arise by being visible and present for your students. It is your responsibility to enforce NatureBridge policies.

Before Trail (before 9:00 am)

6:00 am—Your students may emerge from cabins.

7:00 am—Whisper Hours end

- *Breakfast*—Walk with your students to breakfast, supervise them in the Dining Pavilion, ensure their tables are bussed before departing and return with them to Boystown.
- *Prep for Trail*—Please ensure that students are on time to morning meeting with day packs ready to go so that they can depart after morning meeting (two full water bottles, sun protection, extra layers, rain gear, and journal & pen or pencil).
 - **No cell phones, candy, extra books, iPods, or extra weight.**
- *Bear Box Check before trail* (locked bear box, no scented items inside tent, lights out, heater down & free of objects.)

8:30/9:00 am—*Morning Meeting*. Location to be announced to your Group Coordinator

On Trail (~8:30-4:00 pm)

Positive Attitude—A chaperone's positive attitude and active participation affects the students' attitudes and willingness to take part in new challenges. Students look to all adults as role models in demonstrating compassion for all students, a respect for the natural world, and enthusiasm for the learning. Part of your responsibility is taking an appropriate, engaged role in field activities, group challenges, and discussions during the daily hikes.

Cell phones should be off and only used in the event of an emergency while on trail with a group.

Strenuous Nature—While our program focuses on field science, often strenuous hiking is often required to reach our educational locales. It is imperative that chaperones are in strong enough physical condition to hike steep mountain trails at elevations above 4000 ft. Most days groups will cover between 3-7 miles, with some longer challenge hike days. Adult

chaperones are part of the group and also an important safety resource should there be an emergency, they must remain with the group.

Your Field Educator

- The Field Educator decides on the day's destination based on the teaching plan, fitness of students as a whole, weather and other objective hazards and other logistical constraints.
- Please work with your Field Educator to support his or her plan without letting your personal goals interfere with the program.
- Your Field Educator will discuss your role in the hiking group during your first morning meeting.
- *You will return to Boystown each day between 3:30-4:30 pm.*

After Trail, Before Evening Program (~3:30-6:30 pm)

After an amazing day on trail, your students will have some free time.

- Please ask students to put their day packs in their bear boxes.
- Be visible and present in common spaces. You are responsible for your student. Check bathrooms frequently during high volume use.
- *Bear Box Check before Evening Program* (locked bear box, no scented items inside tent, lights out, heater down & free of objects.)
- Visit the Student Store in Boystown with your students.
- *Dinner*—Walk with your students to dinner, supervise them in the *Dining Pavilion*—ensure their tables are bussed before departing and return with them to Boystown.
- *Evening Program*—Each night you will have a program. Listen for announcements and look for your schedule on the white board in the Dining Pavilion.

After Evening Program (until 10 pm)

Please help your students' transition for sleeping.

9:00 pm—Whisper Hours begin.

9:30 pm—In-cabin time begins. Students are in their cabins for the night.

- *Bear Box Check* (locked bear box, no scented items inside tent, lights out, heater down & free of objects.)

10:00 pm—Lights out. Your students are quiet and (at least pretending to be) asleep.



Crane Flat Chaperone Responsibilities

Chaperones are with their students almost 24 hours a day. The most successful chaperones are actively involved in their role. You can prevent, solve and address many of the issues that arise by being visible and present for your students. It is your responsibility to enforce NatureBridge policies.

Before Trail (Before 9:30 am)

6-7 am—Only chaperones are allowed in the Bathhouse. This is student-free time, enjoy it!

7:00 am—Your students may emerge from cabins and can shower/prepare for the day.

7:45 am—Bell is rung for breakfast. Help student be on time.

9:00-9:30 am—Bell is rung to start the trail day. Students meet Educators ready for trail (appropriately dressed with backpacks) and Campus Care.

Assist Educators as they lead students in campus cleanup.

On Trail (9:30 am-4:30 pm)

Positive Attitude—A chaperone's positive attitude and active participation affects the students' attitudes and willingness to take part in new challenges. Students look to all adults as role models in demonstrating compassion for all students, a respect for the natural world, and enthusiasm for the learning. Part of your responsibility is taking an appropriate, engaged role in field activities, group challenges, and discussions during the daily hikes.

Cell phones should be off and only used in the event of an emergency while on trail with a group.

After Trail (4:30-10 pm)

4:30-5:30 pm—Free time for students. Please supervise students.

5:30 pm—Bell is rung for dinner. Help students be on time.

7 PM—Evening Program. Make sure students are prepared and on time for the evening program

8-9:30 pm—Evening free time. Make sure students are getting ready for bed and starting to settle down.

10 pm—Lights out in cabins. Make sure students are ready for bed.

Safety

Group safety is the primary responsibility of Field Educators on trail. *You are a crucial source of support should an accident or emergency occur.* The Educators hold a Wilderness First Responder Certifications (an 80-hour course in backcountry first aid) at minimum. He or she also carries a first aid kit and radio, from which he or she can contact our Valley base of operations as well as the National Park emergency response personnel.

Medical Facilities—Limited daytime medical facilities are available in Yosemite Valley. The Yosemite Medical Clinic is a 5 minute drive from Boystown and a 30 min. drive from Crane Flat. More serious emergencies must be transported to medical facilities located over 100 miles away. As always, the best treatment for most injuries is prevention.

We ask that chaperones do as much as possible to instill a sense of safety and personal responsibility in the students. Students taken ill or injured are under the care and supervision of the group's leader and adult chaperones, who will call to confer with the parent/guardian. In Yosemite Valley, a chaperone can transport an injured student by shuttle bus. We ask that all school groups bring one personal vehicle to act as transport for students or chaperones in need of medical care.

Student Medications—*Chaperones are responsible for managing student medications.* It is each school's responsibility to work with parents to ensure that student medications are properly administered while in Yosemite. MOST medications should not remain in the student's possession during the program. NatureBridge staff can administer over the counter medications from their first aid kit to participants within the limitations of their training.

Students Who Can't Go Out in the Field—Occasionally students do not go out on hikes due to illness or disciplinary action. When this happens, an adult chaperone must stay back in Boystown. Please be sure to notify the Site Manager when this occurs. It is necessary that each group brings an adequate number of chaperones for this purpose. Students who stay back from trail must stay on campus. *Students can only leave campus for their day programs with NatureBridge staff and to attend evening programs.*