



Chaperone Description and Fieldwork Norms

Fieldwork is different from traditional *field trips*. During fieldwork, we bring the classroom with us and continue learning in real-world settings. These experiences are designed to be educational, hands-on, and engaging.

Thank you for volunteering to help with fieldwork! As you know, these opportunities to experience life in person are essential when building meaning and purposeful learning. We value your time, interest, and willingness to drive and help show children that you support them and this type of learning.

At Promontory, you are such an integral part of the success of fieldwork. We are so grateful for your support, and we look forward to working with you! To help ensure a smooth and safe fieldwork experience for all, we have outlined some essential expectations (which we call "norms" at Promontory) for you.

BEFORE Fieldwork

- ☐ If you haven't already, please see the front office for a background check. Please do this as soon as possible and don't wait until the last minute.
- ☐ Please limit the "I will drive only my child" mindset. In addition to making it more challenging to gather drivers, driving other children is an excellent opportunity to get to know your child's crewmates!
- ☐ Seventh- and eighth-graders can ride in the front seat **ONLY** if their parent is the driver. **ALL** younger grade students need to be in the back seat, and if required, in an appropriate booster seat.
- ☐ Please reach out to the teacher if you would like to bring younger siblings. For most fieldwork experiences, we ask that younger siblings do **NOT** accompany you, as this would make it very difficult for you to be fully present with your group. In other situations, it may work out.

Day of Fieldwork

- ☐ On the day of the fieldwork, arrive early enough to get your driver's license and proof of insurance to the office staff.
- ☐ Introduce yourself to your passengers.
- ☐ Explain the norms for your car and your time together. Children will be exuberant and joyful as they head out to field work. It's wonderful to share that enthusiasm with our young learners, but they, too, need to meet expectations!
- ☐ Everyone in the car must wear seatbelts.
- ☐ Please limit cell phone usage. In the car **AND** in the fieldwork setting, we encourage you to be fully present with your group.
- ☐ Limit stops when kids are in your cars.
 - Fill fuel tanks before getting to school
 - Don't stop and buy treats
 - Notify both the teacher and the school if your arrival will be delayed
- ☐ Please be aware of the plans. The teachers work diligently to provide written maps, online maps, and schedules. Please use these tools.
- ☐ Please don't provide any snacks. There may be students in your car with allergies, and we want to keep everyone safe.
- ☐ Appropriate audiobooks or G-rated movies can help entertain children on longer drives. Please check with the teacher. They may have books or movies that they would like you to use to connect with the current expedition.

Group Management

- ☐ Serve as a good example by respecting the rules, the environment, and the individuals around you.
- ☐ Avoid situations that put you one-on-one with a student who is not your own child.
- ☐ Stay with your group, and make sure your group stays with you.
 - Do not let the members of your group switch to another group. Switching makes it hard for the teacher to keep track of everyone.

- If you have a student who keeps straggling, going ahead, or trying to leave your group, notify the teacher.
- If you have a student in your group who is disrespectful in any way and will not correct their behavior with your help, please let the teacher know.
- ☐ If you notice a child not in your group who is not meeting Promontory fieldwork expectations, please correct them gently and let that child's group chaperone know about the interaction.
- ☐ Jump in and enjoy the activities!
 - Model listening well, staying on task, and asking good questions.
 - It is powerful for the kids to see you eager to learn.
 - **BUT ...** be careful not to take over the situation from the students.
- ☐ Encourage all students to use their fieldwork guides, packets, or journals. Regardless of what they are called, they are valuable tools that help them investigate, observe, and reflect on what they are learning.
- ☐ Carry extra pencils! The kids WILL lose their pencils!

Coming "home!"

- ☐ When you get back to the school, please go in with your group.
 - If the teacher has not yet returned, please wait WITH the students in the classroom.
 - Return the driver's sheet to the front office or the teacher.
 - Please allow your child to stay until the end of the day. That is a time during which many teachers debrief, which is a crucial part of any fieldwork experience.
- ☐ Give yourself a HUGE pat on the back for helping us out—we can't do it without you!

This list looks long and intimidating. It IS long, but please don't **let** it intimidate you! Fieldwork is a joy and a part of school that many students will remember for years to come. Not only will your help impact YOUR child, but it will also impact many others. We appreciate you **more than you will ever know!**