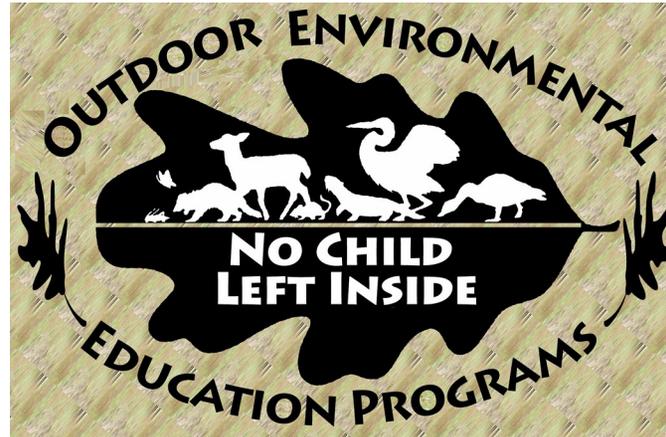


## Safety and Security

In order to ensure the safety and security of our students, all chaperones are required to complete the appropriate OEEP Chaperone Disclosure Form, in addition to the online training for all volunteers located on the MCPS website on recognizing, reporting and preventing child abuse and neglect . All overnight volunteers must also complete a mandatory criminal background check.



*I hear and I forget,*

*I see and I remember,*

*I do and I understand.*



*Outdoor Environmental Education Programs*

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Education Programs*

## *Guide to Chaperoning in the Overnight Outdoor Environmental Education Program*



## *Chaperoning at Outdoor Environmental Education Programs*



Chaperones are an integral part of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Grade 6

Overnight Outdoor Environmental Education Program. Chaperones support the educational experience and strengthen the link between the school and the community. They provide many benefits for the program, and bring a wealth of experience and valuable background knowledge that increase student learning.

Chaperones assist in the instructional component of the program and help supervise the nonacademic activities, including table setting and food serving by the “kitchen patrol” students, evening events, and dorm life.

MCPS staff and students are very appreciative of the role our chaperones play at “Outdoor Ed.”

### **General Expectations**

The outdoor environmental education experience is an extension of the school’s instructional program. It is often one of the most memorable experiences in a student’s educational career. As such, the first priority of the program is to ensure all students experience a safe, challenging, high quality educational experience. Chaperones, working with school and outdoor environmental education staff, help to create that environment.

### **Role of Chaperones**

Chaperones are role models and should conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate for a school setting.



Characteristics of good chaperones include the following:

- Display respect for all children and adults
- Address behavior issues in a positive manner and share any concerns with MCPS staff immediately
- Ensure a safe environment for students at all times.

Children look for clear directions and adult guidance. They respond to consistent and positive interactions with their teachers and their chaperones.

As with all MCPS facilities, alcohol, smoking, and illegal items or substances are not permitted.

Individual schools have the option of choosing chaperones or student assistants to help with the overnight outdoor environmental education program. Their decision is made based on a combination of factors, including program needs, number of chaperones needed, and availability of adults to stay overnight. If an adult is interested in chaperoning, a contact should be made with the teacher in charge at the participating school.



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<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/>