

Thinking of being a chaperone for a MarineLab trip?

First, let us thank you for considering chaperoning a group to MarineLab. Without parents and teachers such as yourselves, our programs wouldn't be possible. We all want the students to have a great time here, learning while having fun and picking up some new skills along the way, and your help is invaluable in this effort.

Before and after your arrival, please feel free to communicate any problems, expectations, or observations to any of the educational staff. We, in turn, will do the same. Remember - we are here to give you and your students an enjoyable, educational, and safe exploration of the marine world around Key Largo.

Here are a few things you should know prior to your trip:

- **Chaperones participate fully in the program, from the swim test to the final field trip.**
- **Chaperones, like students, are required to wear snorkel vests while snorkeling.**
- **You must attend the coral reef ecology lecture in order to snorkel or dive the coral reef.**
- **At least one chaperone must be on each boat!**

Chaperone Responsibilities

- Help enforce discipline during discussions or labs. Know and remind students of the safety rules for boat trips - and don't forget to model them!
- "Shepherd" students from one location to another according to the posted schedule.
- During lunch break, dinner break, and overnight, we ask you to keep close tabs on your group. Know the facility rules given during the facility orientation and review the students' options with them.
- Know the students assigned to your boat group.

Other Groups

We often have more than one school attending MarineLab at the same time. At your first meal, the staff person on duty will introduce you to the chaperones from the other group. We urge you to get to know the other chaperones, follow the rules and cooperate with each other to make sure everyone has the same great MarineLab experience!

The next page has specific guidelines. Please familiarize yourself with these before arrival! We'll hand you an on-site information sheet as well.

This is preliminary information. All chaperones will receive a detailed information sheet upon arrival at MarineLab.

DORM TIME

CHAPERONES MAY BE LODGED WITH STUDENTS if group sizes or girl/boy ratios require it. Chaperones may also be housed with chaperones from another group. Please be aware of and plan for this event.

Help enforce the “no food, no drinks, no wet items in the rooms” policy. This really helps cut down on odors, insects and stains.

It is your consensus opinion as to the “lights out” bedtime hour, but we do require quiet time after 10:00 PM. It helps if you coordinate the lights out time with the chaperones from any other groups.

Do not allow reckless or irresponsible behavior in the dorm room; people get hurt and facilities damaged when children are rowdy and/or unsupervised.

If there are other groups attending MarineLab concurrently, make sure your students are aware of this. Extra attention to manners and behavior may be in order as the groups interact.

TOBACCO / ALCOHOL POLICY

Tobacco is not allowed on or near program areas such as the boats, cafeteria, volleyball court, labs or classrooms. Any chaperones that wish to smoke must leave the property to do so; however students may not be left unsupervised for any reason.

We prohibit alcohol possession or consumption on-site by chaperones of groups with underage students. This has not been an issue with most groups, but occasionally we find this to be a problem with some groups, especially those with a large number of parent-chaperones.

RECREATIONAL/FREE TIME

Students are allowed the following options for free time:

Volleyball - don't let it turn into tackle football. Chaperones will have control of the volleyballs allotted to the group.

Beach relaxation - but no climbing on the seawall, no swimming or wading; and please be aware of sunburn danger.

Ordering pizza - to be eaten after the evening activity, around 10 pm. Those who do the paying do the eating.

Relaxing under the pavilion or other areas where there is relief from the sun EXCEPT for the boat docks. Try to encourage everyone to stay out of the noonday sun during lunch break. Sunburn prevention is a constant concern.

Options not allowed:

Leaving campus, past the beach entrance, without a chaperone.

Walking the private docks.

Jumping off any dock into the water.

Snorkeling or swimming without staff supervision (they'll get a full dose of supervised snorkeling!)

Fishing

MEAL TIME

Please have at least one of the chaperones accompany the students going into and out of the cafeteria. Students may not be unsupervised at any time in the cafeteria.

Students and chaperones must wear shirts and shoes and must clear their own table; please help enforce

