Ideas for Being a Great Chaperone

Chaperones are an important part in making a trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium an educational success. Your role will help students discover the wonder that is all around them. A few of the responsibilities of a chaperone include:

Knowing

As you lead your group through the Zoo, know which students are in your group and keep them together the entire day. Be sure you know when and where to meet for any scheduled programs, lunch, and your departure. Also be aware of important locations such as restrooms, picnic areas, exhibit buildings, and the Education Complex or Aquarium classroom (applicable when doing a class program).

Teaching

Learn about the education goals of the trip and ask the teacher how you can help meet these goals. Encourage students to listen, ask questions, and observe. Try to involve everyone. You can access educational resources on our website at www.pittsburghzoo.org, under Education, Schools & Teachers, Teacher Opportunities & Resources.

Being A Leader

Students will reflect your attitude and behavior. By respecting the Zoo, its animals, grounds, and visitors, the students will exhibit the same attitude. Encourage students to have fun and learn at the same time.

Maintaining Order

Remind your group of the following guidelines before starting the expedition:

- □ Do not feed the animals, or throw anything into their exhibits.
- □ Stay on the path; plants are living things, too. Do not climb on rocks, fences, or exhibits.
- □ On the escalator, be sure shoelaces are tied, you are facing forward, and standing in the center of the step while holding the handrail.
- □ If you are ever lost, please find a Zoo staff member for help. Show students the Zoo logo at the start of your trip; this logo will be on Zoo uniforms and nametags.
- □ During programs and tours, the instructor is counting on the chaperones to encourage proper behavior of their students by not talking with other adult chaperones and remain seated.
- □ The Zoo Instructor reserves the right to limit animal interaction time if students or chaperones do not follow directions.

TEACHER NOTES TO CHAPERONES (class times, class locations, lunch plans, meeting place, departure time, emergency cell number, students in their group, etc.):

REMEMBER: Unchaperoned or Unruly Groups May be Asked to Leave the Zoo