

Chaperone Guidelines



The success of the service visit greatly depends on the chaperones. We seek chaperones who embody Chinmaya Mission values and are prepared to guide children through this transformative opportunity for inner growth.

- **Chaperone Responsibilities:**

- Chaperone responsibilities begin at the muster point (group gathering point) in India and conclude at the same location. While students and their parents are responsible for their travel arrangements to and from the muster point, many students coordinate their travel with a chaperone. Though optional, this support is highly appreciated. Chaperones should contact the students assigned to them, inquire about their travel plans, and assist where possible before finalizing their own travel arrangements.

- **Accompanying Students:**

- Chaperones are expected to accompany all students in their group at all times once they have assumed responsibility for them.

- **Guidance and Supervision:**

- Chaperones should have the temperament to guide and manage teenage children, ensuring they adhere to the behavioral guidelines of the centers and CORD USA.
- They must help students adapt to working in villages under austere conditions and encourage a focus on seva bhava, simplicity, and humility.

- **Safety and Well-being:**

- The safety of students is the chaperone's top priority at all times.
- Chaperones should model an attitude of service and ensure students remain engaged in the purpose of the visit.

- **Physical Requirements:**

- While chaperones are not required to perform physical labor, walking and hiking may be necessary to reach certain locations. Therefore, chaperones should be in good physical health.
- Knowledge of the local language and translation assistance is highly valued and beneficial.

- **Program Participation:**

- Chaperones and their teams must follow the pre-scheduled field visits and programs arranged by the centers.
- In case of cancellations, CORD centers will typically arrange alternative activities.



- Chaperones are expected to attend online meetings regularly in the months leading up to the visit.
- **Administrative and Logistical Duties:**
 - Chaperones are responsible for organizing travel from the muster point, forming a temporary communication group, blogging, and coordinating activities.
 - They should assist their group in preparing for activities and presentations before the trip.
 - Chaperones must carry incidental expense money for all students, track group expenses, and, upon return to the U.S., disburse remaining funds to parents via Zelle.
- **Selection Process:**
 - Chaperone selection does not automatically guarantee their teenager's selection. Each teenager must apply separately and undergo the selection process.
 - Applicants should thoroughly review the FAQ document before applying.
- **Service Hour Eligibility:**
 - Participation in the visit does not automatically qualify students for volunteer hours. Their conduct and service performance will be evaluated for eligibility.
 - Chaperones are responsible for assessing student performance throughout the trip and reporting their evaluations to CORDUSA coordinators.
 - Based on these evaluations, CORDUSA will issue certificates with verified volunteer hours.

We appreciate the commitment and dedication of our chaperones in making this service visit a meaningful and enriching experience for the students.