

Chaperone Guidelines



Success of the service visit is very much dependent upon the chaperones. We are looking for chaperones that reflect Chinmaya Mission values and are prepared to guide children in this great opportunity for inner growth.

- Chaperone's responsibility starts from muster point (group gathering point) in India and ends at the same point. However, chaperones usually help the students and coordinate travel with them to the extent possible. Students and their parents are responsible for making their own travel arrangements up to the muster point. However, many students coordinate travel with a chaperone up to the muster point and from muster point back to US. This is optional, but recommended and highly appreciated if possible. Please contact the students assigned to you, enquire about their travel plans and help them to the extent possible before finalizing your plans.
- Chaperones are expected to accompany all students of his/her group at all times after assuming the responsibility of the children.
- Chaperones need to have the temperament to guide and handle teenage children, and be able to help them work in villages under austere conditions. **Chaperones need to ensure that students adhere to the behavioral guidelines of the centers and CORD USA.**
- Chaperones are expected to keep the safety of students as a priority at all times. Chaperones are expected to reflect the attitude of service in their behavior and help the children stay focused on the *seva bhava*, simplicity and an unassuming attitude.
- Even though physical labor activities need not be performed by the chaperones, walking and hiking are at times necessary to reach the locations and chaperones need to be in good physical health and fitness in order to perform the activities. Knowing the local language and helping translate will be much appreciated and useful.
- Chaperones and their teams are expected to follow the pre-scheduled Field visits and programs as arranged by the centers. If for some reason, the scheduled activity or program gets cancelled or cannot happen, CORD center and CORD workers will usually arrange for an alternate activity. Chaperones are expected to attend the online meetings regularly in the few months prior to the visit.
- Chaperones take the responsibility of making travel arrangements from the muster points, forming a temporary communication group, blogging, & coordinating activities. Chaperones are also expected to help their group of students with preparation for activities and presentation ahead of the trip.
- Chaperones are also required to carry incidental expense money of all students for the duration of the trip, log the group expenses and disburse the remaining funds to students at the end of the trip.
- Going to the visit will not automatically qualify the students for the hours, their conduct and service will be considered for eligibility of service hours. Chaperones are expected to evaluate performance of all students during the entire trip and report to CORDUSA coordinators. The CORDUSA will prepare Certificates for the students with volunteer hours based on chaperone evaluations.