

Handout – “Rules” for Being a Chaperone

1. Be respectful

Be respectful of the young people, the other adults, the rules of the facility, and the rules of the program that you are involved in. You can also expect the young people to show you respect.

2. Relate to all youth

Try to learn names. Listen to young people. It is okay to pay special attention to young people who need it, but don't have “favorites.” Be careful about how you interact with your own son or daughter. Remember: you are a chaperone for the whole group.

3. Be careful of how you interact with youth

Don't use put-downs, poke fun at people, play practical jokes, and be careful about the use of sarcasm.

4. Model good behaviors

Don't drinking alcohol, smoke cigarettes, use profanity, or drive erratically. Young people will look to your habits for information about being an adult.

5. Watch young people's actions

Pay attention to what young people are doing. Don't let them use profanity, make fun of others, or engage in horseplay that could cause bodily harm to themselves, someone else, or hurt property. Also be attentive to the interactions between the boys and girls.

6. Maintain order and respect the rules

The rules should apply to everyone equally. It is your responsibility to help maintain order, ensure that rules are followed, and that everyone is safe within the activity.

7. Be present to the young people first

Don't create a clique of adults during youth ministry activities. Your first responsibility should always be to your role as chaperone, but you can enjoy the other adults along the way.

8. Share appropriately

Be open to sharing your faith, your opinions, your ideas, and your life-stories with young people, but be sure that you don't impose yourself on the young people or tell stories that are not appropriate for the setting.

9. Engage in activities

Be a part of the activity, program, game, or event. Don't pull yourself out of the community.

10. Look out for problems, struggles, and inappropriate interactions

Make sure that you are really paying attention to the young people. If you see behaviors that seem inappropriate or “cries for help” from a young person, address the situation either personally or by alerting another adult leader.