

Point Lobos Guidelines for Chaperones

If you are accompanying a group of young people visiting Point Lobos, you have the opportunity to have a great time yourself while also helping to treat “nature deficit disorder” in yourself as well as the youngsters. Here are some guidelines to help you understand what is expected of you in your role as a chaperone. These expectations are designed to help you keep the children safe, preserve the beauty and natural setting of Point Lobos for the enjoyment of others, to give all the children the opportunity to enjoy nature at its best.

1. Read the following expectations for students and all visitors and follow them yourself to set a good example for the young people. Rules for you are: do not smoke, and **do** follow the 15 MPH speed limit if you are driving.
2. Go over the expectations for the students listed below, emphasizing them at the beginning of the visit and reminding those who are not following them. In particular:
 - Stay on the trails
 - Don't take anything: shells, rocks or any other item
 - Place all trash in the proper bins
 - Do not disturb wildlife or throw rocks or other objects
3. Make sure you can recognize poison oak and the students can also. (“Leaves of three let it be.”)
4. Keep track of who is in your group, and keep them together to share the experiences. Stay engaged with them at all times – this is not a time for you to be socializing with the other adults or for using your mobile devices for anything but photographs.
5. Be respectful of the animals and plants and teach the students to be respectful as well.
6. Remind the students that they are more likely to see animals if they are reasonably quiet.
7. If you are with a docent, let the docent be the leader, and show the students that you are engaged with what he or she is saying or showing to the group. But when the docent asks questions please let the students answer.
8. Intervene with any student who is acting out in a way that detracts from the experience of the other children.
9. No children (siblings) other than students are permitted on the fieldtrip.