

5th Grade Ocean Adventure 2013

VOLUNTEERING to CHAPERONE

Serving as a chaperone is a rewarding way to participate in your child's outdoor education experience. Chaperones get to trudge through the wilderness, sleep on a gym floor, make breakfast and lunch for 75 ravenous kids, and climb over rocks to get to tidepools where spiny urchins await the slightest misstep, all while serving as safety monitors, mentors, and teaching assistants. Like their kids, parents will also remember this trip for years to come...especially when that back ache flares up! Seriously, though, chaperoning this trip will be incredibly rewarding. If you'd like to volunteer, here are the details:

Chaperones will lead an interpretive center lesson at the South Slough, help prepare breakfast at Cape Arago, and/or make sack lunches at Sunset Bay. Those asked to lead the South Slough lessons will be asked to preview a DVD explaining the activities. The activities are fun and simple. You need not have "teaching experience" to lead them.

We'll be sleeping on the gym floor at North Bend High School. Chaperones will want to bring air mattresses and sleeping bags. There are no showers, so we're "roughing it" around bathroom sinks in the morning. Chaperones will be getting up by 6 a.m. in order to head to Cape Arago to prepare breakfast.

Chaperones must be prepared to hike. The stunning hike through the South Slough is 3 miles long (round trip) and somewhat steep. The hike to the Cape Arago tide pools is shorter, but also quite steep. We'll be hiking out on the rocks, so sturdy shoes and stable feet are a must.

We need some chaperones to ride the buses in order to help students maintain positive behavior. Chaperones must be willing to insist on good behavior from students, both on the bus and during the activities, though we'll provide tips on how to do so in a positive way.

We also need some chaperones willing to drive their own vehicles. We'll need private vehicles to carry all the food, student overnight bags, the barbeque(s), firewood, and more. It would also be helpful to have a small RV tagging along.

Chaperones are also expected to maintain the same behavioral standards as the students, which means no smoking, swearing, leaving the group, or anything else you wouldn't want your own kid doing in public. Finally, volunteers must be approved by the school administration. They will be required to complete a District 6 Volunteer Application, including a basic criminal background check.

It sounds like a lot, but I'm confident you'll enjoy every minute of the trip. Still excited about joining us? Let us know by completing and returning the following form. We'll get you a volunteer application if we don't already have one on file for you. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Lewis at mack.lewis@district6.org. **Thanks!**

Name: _____ Student: _____

Phone #: _____ e-mail: _____

Teacher: _____ notes: _____