

Blessed Sacrament School Chaperone Guidelines

By attending a Blessed Sacrament field trip as a chaperone, you agree to adhere to the chaperone guidelines detailed in this document. Please do not agree to attend if you disagree with any portion of this document.

When you volunteer to serve as a chaperone, you will be helping to extend the regular curriculum beyond the classroom and the school. Your role as a chaperone is an important one and, while enjoyable, requires that you accept certain responsibilities. A chaperone represents Blessed Sacrament School and our values.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide you with an overview of a chaperone's responsibilities and to make recommendations for appropriate responses to various situations that may arise during the course of a field trip. Should you require any additional information or have any other questions or concerns, you are invited to meet with your child's teacher or the administration to discuss the matter.

General Guidelines

- Only the number of chaperones required by the venue shall accompany the class
- A chaperone must be a parent/guardian (or have written parental consent and approval of the school) in the class taking the field trip
- A chaperone must be willing and physically able to participate in all activities
- A chaperone must be VIRTUS trained and compliant

Chaperones Must:

- Arrive on time and bring a watch
 - It is important that chaperones be on time since trips are planned to depart and return to school at specified times. Performances, tours, or activities during the trip are scheduled, and delays may disrupt the field trip for everyone.
- Dress appropriately
 - Casual, comfortable dress is recommended. Listen to the weather report and anticipate weather changes. When in doubt, bring rain gear or dress in layers.
- Know the children in their group
 - Introduce yourself and be sure that you know the names of the children in your group. Nametags or a list of student names will be supplied by the teacher. If a child refuses to follow your instructions, inform a teacher as soon as possible.
- Talk to the teacher
 - Don't hesitate to ask questions if you have doubts as to what should be done in a given situation. The teacher is in charge, and her/his directions must be followed at all times. Please speak to the teacher privately if you have any concerns.

- Watch carefully
 - Always think of the children's safety first. Be alert to potential dangers (strangers, other groups, traffic, animals, etc.). Do not take chances. If necessary, move children to a safe place and inform the teacher.
- Follow all safety rules

Remember:

- Be courteous to other patrons of the venue not associated with our school. The actions of you and the students represent BSS
- Do not smoke or drink alcoholic beverages during the field trip
- Do not bring siblings or other children
 - Your responsibility is to the children in your group. Insurance regulations do not permit parent chaperones to bring other family members on school field trips.
- Do not leave children alone or unescorted
- It is your responsibility to keep the group together and, when necessary, escort children to the restroom
- Unless a child poses an imminent threat to the safety of him/herself or others, chaperones should never physically handle a youngster. Should a child refuse to follow your directions, inform the teacher immediately
- Do not release students to anyone other than the teacher
- Parents/guardians who want to take children home during/after a field trip must secure permission from the teacher
- Do not administer any medications to a student
- All medical situations must be referred to the classroom teacher

In The Event of an Emergency:

- The supervising teacher will be responsible for the first aid kit
- Report all illnesses and injuries to the teacher