

Nationals Chaperone Rules

Thank you for your interest in serving as a chaperone for the EVHS comp cheer nationals trip, understand it is a tough job. As an adult your role is to help get the kids safely and happily through the rigors of their action-packed itineraries. The coaches will have high expectations of you, and your number one reason for being on a trip is to support the coaches and cheerleaders.

An essential trait for anyone wishing to be a chaperone is a genuine comfort with and desire to be around high school students. Chaperone responsibilities are substantial. It will be a rapid, non-stop series of constant duties, day and night, throughout the trip. Although we are always striving to make trips safe, enjoyable, educational and memorable events for our students, no chaperone should view a nationals trip as a vacation.

The four most important things to remember about being a good chaperone are: energy, a positive mental attitude, flexibility, and good leadership.

Energy – You will be up before the students and will go to bed after everyone else. You will be present for every part of the trip. It's up to you to make sure that your students show up for breakfast, get on the bus, and to ensure they are ready for the next activity. You are 'mom or dad' away from home. You need to be able to keep up with it all with a smile on your face.

Positive Mental Attitude – The mood of the group will be influenced by your attitude. If you're in a great mood, they will feed off your energy. If you're tired or frustrated, the kids will feel that and it will influence how they perceive their trip.

Flexibility – It is so important be able to calmly handle the changes that WILL come up on a trip, and to be mindful of expectations. Coaches will do everything in their power to make things run smoothly, but changes will happen and every chaperone needs to be able to roll with it.

Good Leadership – Even though today's kids are so independent, they still look to adults on the trip for guidance, especially when they are out of their comfort zones. There are times when they get excited or upset, and having a calm, mature voice of reason is crucial. The coaches rely on the chaperones to respect and support the decisions that have been made, and the itineraries that have developed.

Chaperoning can be abundantly rewarding. If you are a good chaperone, you will form lifelong bonds with the students and the other adults you travel with. You might not have much downtime, but you will help to shape the lives of so many teenagers, to be there and share in some of their once in a lifetime experiences. Rewards like that don't get much better!

The coaches will select chaperones based on their past trip experience and/or their leadership in cheer functions. Often there are more applicants than open positions for the nationals trip, most likely not everyone applying will be chosen to chaperone. Selected chaperones will need to complete a background screening which is kept on file by the school district.

CHAPERONE DUTIES AND RULES WILL INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- 1. Responsible for cheerleaders throughout planning and execution of trip.*
- 2. Attendance at any pre-trip chaperone meetings and meetings during the trip will be mandatory.*
- 3. Assist coaches with pre-trip details as needed.*
- 4. Responsible for getting cheerleaders awake and ready on time.*
- 5. Responsible for assuring students have all required items needed for the day's events.*
- 6. Assist with bus loading and attendance.*
- 7. Assist with equipment loading, unloading, and handling as needed.*
- 8. Assist with snack and meal shopping, preparations, serving and clean-up.*
- 9. Chaperones will always be available to provide TLC when needed!*
- 10. NO CHAPERONE WILL ISSUE DISCIPLINE TO A STUDENT.*
- 11. Report all problems to the coaches.*
- 12. Non-cheer siblings of cheerleaders cannot be part of the nationals chaperone trip.*
- 13. Submit information for official background screening.*
- 14. All policies and procedures of School District 196 will be applicable on all overnight trips: CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL OR USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY ANY CHAPERONE.*

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
Educating our students to reach their full potential

Series Number 806.5P Adopted June 2011 Revised August 2014

Title Guidelines for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering in District 196! Your commitment and assistance are sincerely appreciated. Before you begin volunteering, the school district needs you to review the following information in order to keep students and volunteers safe and to make your volunteer experience as positive as possible. Please review the information below and don't hesitate to ask questions about anything that you aren't sure of after you finish reading.

Volunteer Information Form

Before beginning to volunteer you must complete the volunteer information form on page 3. The form asks for basic information about you such as contact information, availability and areas of interest. The form will be used by school administration and staff for purposes of administering volunteer placements. Completion of the form is a prerequisite of volunteering. In some cases, a criminal background check will also be required before you start. You will be informed if a criminal background check is necessary.

Sign In

Volunteers are asked to sign in each time they work at a school. This is required of all visitors to schools, including volunteers. For security reasons, and in case of an emergency, it is important for the principal or building supervisor to know who is in the school.

Dependability

Please come when promised and on time. Students, staff and other volunteers count on you. If you are unable to keep a commitment, call and leave a message for the appropriate teacher, principal or building supervisor as far in advance as possible.

Data Privacy

Volunteers must respect the privacy of students and their families by not talking about a specific student's academic progress, behavior or a school-related incident. Most information about students is classified as private information under the law and there are strict limitations on how it can be shared. Any discussion of a student by a volunteer is restricted to the student's teacher or as otherwise permitted by law.

Discipline

Volunteers are not to discipline students. It is all right to redirect a student's attention or to ask them not to use inappropriate or disrespectful language in your presence, but all disciplinary concerns should be directed to the appropriate school employee. The professional staff of the school is responsible for discipline. If you have disciplinary concerns about a student you are working with, please let the student's teacher know.

Abuse and Neglect

As you build trust with the students you work with, you may become aware of abuse or neglect in their lives. By law, school staff members are required to report any suspected abuse or neglect. You can report any such suspicions you have to the teacher, principal, or school social worker.

Bullying Behavior

Students have the right to be safe and free from threatening situations on school property, at school activities and in district vehicles. Bullying interferes with students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to educate students in a safe environment. To the extent bullying affects the educational environment of the schools, it is the school district's intent to prevent bullying from occurring, and to investigate and respond to bullying that has not been prevented. You are expected to report to the principal or coordinator any instances of bullying behavior observed while serving in your volunteer capacity.

Non-Discrimination

District 196 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability or age in its programs and activities. Volunteers are expected to adhere to all nondiscrimination requirements as well. Please remember that our community is diverse. It is important that we work with one another positively and consider cultural, physical and value differences.

Appropriate Boundaries and Touch

Do not ask students for personal information (e.g., phone number, address or email address) and do not give them yours. Do not include them in any of your online social networks. Keep your relationships with the students professional and not personal.

In addition, when working with students, whether individually or in small groups, try to work in a highly visible area. This is not only for the protection of students, but volunteers as well.

Avoid initiating unnecessary physical contact with students. Physical touch can be easily misunderstood and you may be working with young people who may not be aware of appropriate boundaries. Keep in mind that students may also see your physical contact as a sign of preferential treatment.

Communications

Keep in good communication with staff, students and other volunteers. Any question is a good question, be sure to ask! Make every effort to arrange a time to talk with the teacher or other appropriate staff member when there are problems or questions.

Tobacco, Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons

The use of tobacco products, drugs and alcohol is prohibited on school district property, as is the possession of weapons. School district property includes, but is not limited to: buildings, grounds, and vehicles owned, leased or contracted by the school district and school-sponsored functions.

Technology

Use discretion when utilizing technology with a student. Many websites are not appropriate for students, and volunteers must take care not to expose students to such sites.

Thank you for your commitment to District 196!

Nationals Trip Chaperone Application

I, _____ submit my name to be a candidate for a chaperone for the Eastview Competition Cheer Nationals trip to Florida.

Date: _____

I understand that I am responsible for all fees involved in my travel. I understand and agree to a background check.

I understand I will need to travel with the team and remain with the team throughout the entire trip.

I understand I will not be on vacation. I will be chaperoning cheerleaders, preparing meals, cleaning up and taking care of whatever needs to be done during the week. There will be early mornings and late nights throughout the trip.

I understand this is a lot of work and responsibility and promise to adhere to all the rules and expectations as described by District 196, Eastview High School and the Cheer Program. I acknowledge that I have received and agree to follow the Chaperone Rules and Procedure 806.5P, Guidelines for Volunteers.

I understand I must be in good financial standing with the school and booster to be considered.

I understand even if not chosen as a chaperone I will have many opportunities to aid in the planning and preparation for the trip. Also, if not chosen, that does not mean I cannot travel with the group and make my own arrangements to be a spectator at the event.

I understand my application will not be considered if returned to the coaches after the due date.

Name: _____

Cheerleader's Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

What I can offer and why I am a good candidate for chaperone: