Adult Chaperone Job Description for Blandy Field Investigations

We’re excited to have you visit Blandy, and hope you enjoy the opportunity to learn on this unique scientific adventure with your child and his/her classmates. In a time when schools and other organizations are trying to provide high quality educational experiences on tight budgets, volunteers become even more vital. We hope you’ll do your part to make this exploration worthwhile by modeling and encouraging Great Field Investigation Etiquette!

Primary Responsibilities

• Give your assigned group of students your undivided attention.
• Make sure your group of students is safe, learning, and having fun.
• Manage your students so the people, buildings, and natural resources at Blandy aren’t disturbed.
• Support the instructional staff to make a great learning environment.
• Model and promote enthusiasm and a positive attitude.
• Have fun!

Specific Duties

• IN ADVANCE
  o Be comfortable with the schedule and location of the learning stations.
  o Know your school’s first aid, emergency plans and any other risk management policies.
  o Make a plan for bathroom breaks and behavior management.
  o Be organized; complete phone calls and other personal business before leaving the bus.

• DAY OF VISIT
  o Help your group of students stay on schedule.
  o Be prepared to walk with your students, potentially on uneven ground, grassy, or wet areas (about a half mile).
  o Encourage your assigned students to listen during instructions and be on task with activities.
  o Make certain that all equipment is used and put away properly.
  o Don’t let annoyances (rain, cold, heat, etc.) become obstacles, the kids will follow your lead!
  o Make sure you interact equally with all of the students assigned to you.
  o Immediately stop and correct any dangerous, reckless or destructive behavior.
  o Encourage students to be good stewards by picking up litter and using trash cans.
  o Remind students to protect our resources by handling plants gently and placing feet carefully.
  o Have students wash hands before eating a snack or lunch.

Finally, we ask that during instruction and activities you avoid having personal conversations, don’t use cell phones and other electronic devices, and when assisting students be sure to let them do the work. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us or ask before instruction begins!

Additional requests for activity-specific help may be given at each station. Be ready to help kids learn!

Adapted from Virginia Naturally guidelines
Information on our programs and the grounds can be found at blandy.virginia.edu