

# 5th Grade Ocean Adventure

## 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 100 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 materials 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 Middle 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.

Some chaperones will be driving their own vehicles. We may need some of these vehicles to help carry food, student overnight bags, the barbeque(s), firewood, and more. We encourage chaperones to car pool wherever possible, and those driving their own vehicles are responsible for their own parking fees at Shore Acres (\$5).

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 are required to have a District 6 Volunteer Application, including a basic criminal background check, on file with the office.

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 or emailing us. 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. Hadley at [charles.hadley@district6.org](mailto:charles.hadley@district6.org), Mr. Lewis at [mack.lewis@district6.org](mailto:mack.lewis@district6.org), or Mrs. Torrey at [mylea.torrey@district6.org](mailto:mylea.torrey@district6.org). **Thanks!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ notes: \_\_\_\_\_