

Hello,

We are reaching out to reshare our chaperone policy and to clarify definitions regarding adults joining field trips on the mountain. To ensure a safe and successful learning experience for all students, Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation requires a **1 adult to 8 students** ratio for all educational programming **with a Park Educator** and while using **Shuttles**. Adults within this ratio receive free admission to the park. Below is an overview of how adults joining on field trips are categorized:

In-Class Chaperones (Adults within the 1:8 ratio)

These are the adults designated by the teacher to supervise students during educational programming and while riding on the shuttles.

- To determine the number of allowed **In-class Chaperones**, divide the total number of students by 8 and round any fraction up to the next whole number. Please assure that you will have that number of In-Class Chaperones.
- **These adults include teachers and parents.** Paraprofessionals joining to provide 1-on-1 support with a student are allowed to join in class beyond the 1:8 ratio. Please notify staff upon arrival if you have a paraprofessional joining.
- Upon arrival **In-Class Chaperone** will receive a **lanyard (Chaperone Badge)** to help Park Educators and shuttle drivers easily identify them.

Additional Adults (Adults exceeding the 1:8 ratio)

Adults beyond the required ratio are welcome to enjoy the mountain and accompany the group throughout the day. However, there are some limitations during educational programming:

- Additional adults are expected to help with additional supervision during self-guided sections on the mountain. There will be a short information session about roles for Additional Adults with one of our Park Educators upon arrival.
- During itinerary sections listed as “**with a Park Educator**,” Additional Adults will not be allowed in the education area as space is limited in both indoor and outdoor teaching spaces. This is a great time to explore the Conservation Campus or grab something from Mildred’s Grill!
- Additional Adults may join the **Swinging Bridge Exploration** but must **drive themselves**. If they arrived on the bus, we will get them on the shuttles after students, teachers, and in-class chaperones. This may require running two rounds of shuttling.

Before the programming on the mountain begins, all In-Class Chaperones and Additional Adults will attend a short information session upon arrival.

Special Circumstances: We understand that some students require additional support. We *will accommodate* adults who must be with a student one-on-one due to specific student needs. Please inform us of these situations at the time of booking so we can plan accordingly.

If you have any questions about this policy, we are more than happy to assist.

Thank you for choosing to visit and learn with us at the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation!