

## CRITICAL ROLES FOR ADULT CHAPERONES

*Attention! All Trip Leaders: Please get this page into the hands of ALL chaperones ASAP.*

You, as a parent chaperone or adult leader bringing children to Turtle Island Preserve are expected to:

- 1.) Have clear and complete understanding of the articulate material addressed in this one page of our expectations of you - as a role model and team member during your trip to Turtle Island.
- 2.) Fulfill completely to the extreme push of your ability, a performance meeting these expectations.
- 3.) Fill out and turn in (prior to your arrival) your own personal medical and liability forms.

We are “all about” creating a safe, extraordinary experience for the children of your group. You are a critical component in this process. We depend on you heavily. We will probably ask more of you than you are used to giving on a trip like this. Please give yourself to this event with “everything you’ve got.” We need you. Not at all just your presence, but your **very active and engaging presence** as represented by the prescription that follows:

We are glad that *you* will be helping us *facilitate* a unique outdoor program. We will depend on your help as an **integral** part of our community- an “adult bridge” to your group. Please help us in any and every way that you see you can. Your attitude and role model status **greatly** affects your group. Please use positive, enthusiastic participation in all of the activities that your T.I. group leader will lead you and your campers on. It is a great asset when you can come in exhibiting a contagious love for the adventure of trying new things at Turtle Island and squelch the fears of campers unfamiliar with a “new” outdoor environment.

*“Those who have the humility of a child may find again the key to reverence for, and kinship with, all life.” - J. Allen Boone*

Stick with your group. **Ask your T.I. staff members how you can help**, be of assistance, and listen to their lead and expectations. Respectfully honor their position. *Clearly* communicate with T.I. staff to know and fulfill their expectations of you. *Clearly* communicate your expectations and boundaries to the children in your group of which you are their adult leader.

Be “on task” not “on vacation.” We hope you enjoy this event as much as the children do, but this *must not* be at the expense of you letting go of any responsibilities that go with this job. As a leader and chaperone, if anything, we ask you to apply yourself in a greater than average quality and quantity.

**DISCIPLINE** – Participants are expected to operate in a *respectable*, kind manner that promotes goodwill, harmony and supports the group as a communal team. You are responsible to control, direct and maintain these peaceful guidelines amongst your group of children. We support you in teaching these values. Engage disciplinary measures. You are responsible. Turtle Island staff is here to teach and inspire. The discipline of your children should be preempted by you. Don’t wait for Turtle Island staff to discipline your children or teach them of the impact of their unacceptable behavior on the group. You are responsible for interrupting, intervening and doing whatever you can to better the situation. This gives immediate support to the T.I. staff, allowing them to continue their job, which is not primary disciplinarian. Thank you for being responsible for this job so that as a team we can better use your group’s valuable time to focus on educational pursuits.

**MEDICINE & FIRST AID-** You are responsible for knowing each individual campers medical/health needs in your group. It is your responsibility to possess, dispense, and monitor the use of all medicine with which the students are involved. Let us know of physical needs, so that we can support you in dealing effectively with your group’s 1st aid.

**OVERNIGHT CAMPS-** Once the day is done, we see you to your camp and then turn the leadership and “overnight discipline” to you as the group chaperones. Ask and know where you can get T.I. staff help during the night if you need it. We will come back on the scene in the morning to guide you through the day. Thank you for helping us make this the best experience possible for your students.

### **Trip Coordinators and Leaders:**

- Please do not wait until just before going on the trip to hand this out and establish a vision of your staff’s role.
- Have a meeting with all your adult leaders to discuss these expectations and how they can do their best as individuals as well as a team.
- Have everyone who will be on site even for a short time, sign a collective contract page that represents their understanding & support of this prescribed enclosed vision.