

Camp Gray Chaperone Expectation Guide

1. Upon arrival, a member of the program staff will meet with all the chaperones to go over the retreat schedule and address any concerns. Group waiver forms may also be turned in at this time.
2. Because the Camp Gray staff are often busy during meals preparing for upcoming activities or helping in the kitchen, we rely on chaperones to eat with the youth at every meal. We suggest breaking up amongst the youth to help maintain a level of order and ensure there is no bullying, etc. Chaperones can also make sure each student helps to clean up after the meal.
3. Chaperones provide primary supervision of the students during their retreat. Camp Gray is an accredited camp through the American Camp Association which means we must maintain a 1 adult to 8 student ratio at all times. It is especially important at free times that adult chaperones are divided amongst the areas where the youth are playing. This is true of every area on camp. When Camp Gray staff are leading activities, an adult from the group must go with them for the entire activity to provide primary supervision. This is to maintain safety and give youth the best possible experience. All chaperones are invited to fully participate in games and activities with the youth as you desire.
4. If your group of students is participating in our low adventure course, we ask that as a chaperone you maintain a respectful etiquette. The Camp Gray staff members facilitating the ropes course have specific training and experience leading youth through these types of activities. The goal of all low ropes adventure courses is to help students learn the importance of communication, discover something about themselves as an individual, and to learn more about teamwork. The staff will make these activities challenging for the youth on purpose and offer little help or advice. Students are challenged to come up with their own solutions and work with their fellow classmates to solve the problem, even through frustration. This is where the most meaningful learning takes place! **We ask that all chaperones do not participate in the adventure course activities, unless invited to by the Camp Gray Staff. This includes giving the students hints and helping them solve the problem.** If you have a concern about the process or a particular student, please address the concern with the staff member leading the activity before taking any action.
5. Chaperones are responsible for discipline of the youth in order to hold the students to the same level of discipline required of them at school or at the parish. We ask that while Camp Gray staff members are leading activities, the chaperones handle problems when they arise. This will allow Camp Gray staff to focus on facilitating activities. The five main rules that the Retreat Team will expect all participants to follow are respect, relationship-building, challenge by choice, having fun, and safety. These rules will be explained to the students in detail within their first hour here.
6. Chaperones are asked to help facilitate the youth in cleaning their sleeping areas before their departure. This helps students to take responsibility for their physical space. The best way to help clean is by picking up all trash in and around the cabin and sweeping/vacuuming the floors. Thanks!
7. Smoking is permitted in designated areas only (these will be noted at your orientation at the chaperones' request).