

Parent Volunteer Policy for Outdoor Trips

To ensure the highest level of safety, consistency, and camper experience, we do not allow parent volunteers on our outdoor adventure trips. Our decision is based on the following key factors:

1. **Camper Independence & Experience** – Our trips are designed to foster independence, teamwork, and confidence in outdoor environments. The presence of parents can unintentionally limit a camper's willingness to engage fully, take initiative, and bond with their peers.
2. **Safety & Staff Training** – All trip leaders and guides undergo rigorous training and certification to prepare for the unique challenges of outdoor environments, including:
 - Professional **Guide Training**
 - **Wilderness First Aid (WFA)** Certification
 - **CPR & Emergency Response Training**
 - **Leave No Trace (LNT) Ethics & Outdoor Safety Protocols**
3. Parents, while well-intentioned, do not typically hold these certifications, making it essential that only trained staff manage trip safety and logistics.
4. **Risk Management & Liability** – Our outdoor programs follow strict risk management policies, including staff background checks, safety protocols, and emergency response plans. Allowing parent volunteers introduces additional variables that could impact our ability to maintain a controlled and predictable environment.
5. **Group Cohesion & Equity** – We strive to create an inclusive and equitable experience for all campers. The presence of parents can sometimes create unintentional favoritism or make other campers feel uncomfortable. A staff-led environment ensures that all participants are treated equally and have the same opportunities for personal growth.
6. **Behavior & Group Dynamics** – Campers often behave differently around their parents, which can affect group dynamics, discipline, and engagement. Our goal is to maintain a structured, immersive outdoor experience where all campers are accountable to the same expectations.

For these reasons, all outdoor trips are led exclusively by our trained and certified staff. We appreciate parents' understanding and support in helping us provide the safest and most enriching adventure experiences possible.