



TUALATIN Riverkeepers

Nature Awareness and Service Education

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for assisting with the Tualatin Riverkeepers' education program! The goal of the Tualatin Riverkeepers' Nature Awareness and Service Education Program is to increase awareness and appreciation for local wildlife and their habitat needs. In order to achieve this goal, we provide programs that stimulate genuine curiosity through field-based, hands-on activities led by volunteer naturalists. Our naturalists are educators trained to lead small groups on safe and engaging investigations into the 'secret' lives of wildlife.

The most important things students can learn on their trip are:

- Respect for the natural world.
- Awareness of their impact on the natural area.

The students will learn the above by copying your behavior. Modeling appropriate behavior and attitude is the most powerful type of teaching.

As a chaperone, your responsibilities include the following:

1. Emphasize quiet and awareness as you walk. We have fun, but we conduct field-trips quietly.
The natural area you will be visiting is a naturally quiet place, and many of the animals that live there are accustomed to quiet. Your group will be visitors in the homes of owls, eagle, deer, otter, beaver and other animals. These animals are very well camouflaged. Moving quietly and being observant will increase your chances of seeing wildlife.
2. Demonstrate appropriate behavior. Stay on task with the naturalist, move quietly and be respectful of the natural world around you.
3. Keep the group together. One chaperone in each group should make sure that the entire group is together and able to see and hear the naturalist's presentation.
4. Keep students focused. Make sure that students are participating in activities, and help them if they have trouble.

Thank you again for helping. We are happy to have you with us and hope you and the students will enjoy visiting this beautiful, natural area.

Sincerely,

Your Tualatin Riverkeepers.