

# Chaperone Letter

Greetings Chaperone,

Thank you for your commitment to accompany students throughout an exciting experience at Cedar Crest! Your engagement informs students' experiences and will create a fun and safe learning environment.

The best way you can support students is through genuine curiosity, engagement, and enthusiasm. We're trying to build a learning community within the group, and you're an important part of it! We're also trying to help students become engaged and curious about nature, science, their own ideas, and ideas of others. You are role models, and students will notice what you do. If you are engaged with what we're doing, following instructions, and being enthusiastic, it helps the students see it as a worthwhile thing to do. Whether adventures outside are commonplace for you or if this is your first experience of this kind, we celebrate your participation because your energy and involvement motivates student learning.


Focus on things you don't know, and try to figure them out *with* students. Listen to their questions, or ask them questions. Over time, try to get little moments of connection with everyone. The more connections you make, the more you'll really care about the students, and the more effective you'll be in supporting their learning experiences. We encourage you to learn more about your students (interests, passions, etc.) because your investment helps to make this experience special. We'll also participate in a lot of discussion in our learning experiences - in pairs/small groups and with the whole group. In these discussions, please partner/group with students and participate fully, but give students lots of time to share their ideas. Our goal is to help empower students to share their ideas and think together, so it's important to listen more than speak!

Meal times are shared family-style and are learning opportunities just like any other at Cedar Crest. We ask chaperones to enjoy their time with the students at their tables. Encourage great conversation, healthy habits, and good listening during announcements. If you have dietary needs, please reach out to us at least three weeks prior to your experience so that we can best support you during your time here.

Safety is foundational to any EE experience. We have Wilderness First Responders on staff and all other staff members are well trained in class facilitation & CPR/AED & First Aid. If an emergency occurs, immediately notify your school's emergency care personnel and Cedar Crest staff members.

If you would like to learn more about our program or would like to access forms and materials pertaining to your visit, please visit our website at [www.cedarcrestee.org](http://www.cedarcrestee.org). If you have any questions, please call our office at (931) 670-3025 or email our director at [philip.salter@twkumc.org](mailto:philip.salter@twkumc.org).

Sincerely,



Phil Salter  
Environmental Education Director