

## Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Guidelines for Chaperones

If you are accompanying a group of young people visiting Point Lobos, you have the opportunity to have a great time yourself while also helping to treat “nature deficit disorder” in yourself as well as the youngsters. Here are some guidelines to help you understand what is expected of you in your role as a chaperone. These expectations are designed to help you keep the children safe, preserve the beauty and natural setting of Point Lobos for the enjoyment of others, to give all the children the opportunity to enjoy nature at its best.

1. Read the [Visitor Expectations](#) for all visitors and follow them explicitly to set a good example for the young people. In particular, do not smoke, and **do** follow the 15 MPH speed limit.
2. Go over the simplified expectations for the children listed in our guideline on [Youth Field Trips](#), emphasizing them at the beginning of the visit and reminding those who are not following them. In particular, keep the kids on the trail and don't let them take anything (except any litter they find.)
3. Make sure you can recognize poison oak and the kids can also. (“Leaves of three, let it be.”)
4. Keep track of who is in your group, and keep them together to share the experiences. Stay engaged with them at all times – this is not a time for you to be socializing with the other adults nor for using your mobile devices for anything but photographs.
5. Be respectful of the animals and plants of Point Lobos, and teach the children to be respectful as well.
6. Remind the kids that they are more likely to see animals if they are reasonably quiet.
7. If you are with a docent, let the docent be the leader, and show the kids that you are engaged with what he or she is saying or showing to the kids. But when the docent asks questions please let the kids answer.
8. Intervene with any kids who are acting out in a way that detracts from the experience of the other children.