

How to deal with large groups (divide into smaller groups, partners, timeframe, interdisciplinary) see tips below but also visit the VASWCD Education Cookbook <http://www.vaswcd.org/cookbook.htm>

Chaperones: You are a critical part of the learning process. You can help make a student's day fun and memorable by helping in the following ways:

- Stay with your group during the entire visit. Your job is to keep students engaged.
- Assist students with investigations and hands-on experiences.
- Challenge students with thoughtful questions that promote problem solving and creative thinking.
- Keep the learning environment positive.
- Watch for the safety of the students in your group.
- Please make sure activity items and exhibits are treated with care.

Weather

A large part of our programming takes place outdoors, rain or shine. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Some helpful hints for making your field trips more enjoyable for everyone:

Allow yourself a little extra time when making your schedule.

Plan for a snack or lunch break before your tour or activities.

Program Assignments: be sure to explain to teacher if the students need to be taught any background information prior to your field trip.

Discipline is the teachers responsibility: Educators are trained in education and interpretation, but are not disciplinarians. To insure proper behavior, you can install a rule that one adult must accompany every ten children at all times, throughout the day (school systems have their own requirements for field trips). Teachers will be held responsible for the behavior of the groups and the conduct of individuals within the group while in the park.