



Thank you for being a Chaperone at the UVM ARC

Chaperones play an important role in our day at the UVM Adventure Ropes Course. While each 12 participants will have one facilitator working with the group, we require our clients to send one chaperone for each 12 participants as well. Chaperones should be prepared, just as we have asked the youth to come prepared. Please review the “what to expect” document and make sure to have your medical/liability form ready as well. It’s helpful that as a chaperone, you understand the goals of your program.

Whether you are a teacher, camp counselor, troop leader, coach or parent, we invite you to consider how you will engage in the day with the UVM ARC.

Full Participant: You are invited to fully participate in all activities, or in the activities that you choose. It’s helpful to let your students/campers/group know that you will be engaging alongside of them for the day as a fellow learner/adventurer. If they look to you for answers consistently, you can remind them that you’d like to learn how they would solve the problem or complete the activity and that you are happy to take directions from them for the day. It is key to not over step here and dominate in the group. At the same time, being a full participant can be a great opportunity to open up doors to more depth of relationship with your group, especially as they see you being vulnerable and trying new activities/taking risks alongside them. You can also take a critical role in the debriefing and post activity processing as you know the participants way better than the facilitators do! Help the participants to make connections from their experiences on the course to their daily life experiences.

Or

Active Observer: If you’d prefer to stand on the sidelines and observe the group, we ask that you do that in an active manner. We prefer that you stay with one small group for the day as opposed to bouncing around from group to group, so you can really get a feel of the progression for the day and how the group is functioning. Often our facilitators may need to duck away for a bit during lunch or snack to set something up. You are expected to be in charge of your group during this time.

Participant Discipline: Whether you are a full participant in your group or an active observer, you may have to play a role in participant discipline. Depending on the nature of the situation, facilitators may try to deal with the issue by relating it to how the group is affected by the behavior. If a negative, challenging or unsafe behavior continues, we may ask that you temporarily remove the participant from the group. Facilitators do reserve the right to gauge participant readiness for certain elements and may chose not to do certain elements, including high elements for the safety of the group.

In all of these situations, it’s helpful to have a quick conversation with your facilitator before the activities start so you can both be clear on what our expectations are for the day.

We look forward to seeing you at your program!