

Carlsbad Caverns

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
New Mexico
www.nps.gov/cave



Chaperone Responsibilities

Please have all chaperones read their responsibilities before attending the trip.

Your role as chaperone is one of the most important jobs you can take on when agreeing to accompany students on a fieldtrip. This letter is to outline your role and responsibilities when visiting Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The overall outcome of your group's visit hinges on you. It is a big task; one that we hope you fully understand and fully act upon.

As a chaperone, you are expected to:

- Not bring other children with you. We want to limit the distractions to the educational component of your group's visit.
- Stay with your group at all times. Remember that students should be in groups of ten or less, with each group having one adult chaperone. While in the cave, groups should spread out so that there are not large clusters of students all together.
- Chaperones should walk with the group to better maintain order.
- Make sure all students follow the rules of the cave.
 - Keep all voice/noise levels to a minimum. We want to preserve the cave's natural state of silence, as well as respect other visitors.
 - Remain on the paved trail at all times. This is for everyone's safety.
 - Do not touch any of the cave formations. Oils and dirt from your hands will permanently damage and stain the cave.
 - Ensure that nothing is thrown into cave pools. We do not want to introduce new bacteria into the water.
 - Smoking or other tobacco use is not permitted anywhere in the cave.
 - Gum, candy, or any food items are not permitted in the cave. The odor from food items can attract animals normally not found in the cave. The only beverage allowed in the cave is water.
 - Do not collect anything natural to the park (e.g., rocks, flowers, etc.).
- The behavior of your group rests on you. It is ***your responsibility*** to maintain control at all times. Be aware that a non-compliant group will be asked to leave the cave, and fees may be invoked dependent upon specific behaviors.