

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve Guidelines for Chaperones Groups with Docent-led Walks

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 following expectations for students and all visitors, and follow them yourself to set a good example for the young people. Rules for you are: do not smoke, and **do** follow the 15 MPH speed limit if you are driving.
2. Go over the simplified expectations for the children listed below, emphasizing them at the beginning of the visit and reminding those who are not following them. In particular:
 - a. Stay on the trails
 - b. Don't take anything: shells, rocks, stick, or any other item
 - c. Place all trash and container in the proper bin
 - d. Do not disturb wildlife or throw rocks or other objects.
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.
5. Be respectful of the natural residents of Point Lobos, and intervene with kids who are acting in a way that could be harmful to animals and plants.
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 or other visitors.