Crew Trip Chaperone Selection Process

The RMSEL staff cannot make crew trips and fieldwork successful without the support of volunteers! We need chaperones and drivers for both fieldwork/day trips and overnight trips. The first step to participating in any RMSEL trip includes completing the background check and fingerprinting process. Please review the information below if you are interested in volunteering for RMSEL trips.

Role of the Parent Chaperone

Prior to the trip:

- Complete bus driving test and training (contact the Adventure Coordinator or sign up for Adventure Ground School in August)
- Complete background check and fingerprinting process (contact Leslie Legleiter for details)
- Meet with crew leader and adventure staff for a pre-trip meeting
- Take responsibility for providing your own gear (or borrow RMSEL gear as needed)

On the trip:

- Ensure the safety of students as a first priority
- Share driving responsibilities
- Demonstrate flexibility and defer to the decisions of the crew leader/adventure coordinator
- Self-start; jump in to assist students and staff when needed
- Redirect and manage student behaviors
- Support students in self-care (eating, hydration, sun protection, gear management, being prepared for conditions)
- Participate in all activities. These activities may include hiking, climbing, biking, or camping in a variety of weather conditions. You need to be able to participate fully and help students engage in these activities!
- Help document the experience through capturing candid photographs!

If you hope to be a chaperone, please provide your crew leader with a letter (via email) stating your interest. Our team will use the information in these letters to determine who will attend trips – so if you are interested, please be specific. Be sure to specifically state which trip you are willing to help with.

Primarily, we work to select parents who meet the needs of the group as a whole. While we know some children want their own parents to attend trips, we must focus on what is best for the entire crew. We take this selection very seriously and consider many factors when making our decision. It is essential for the success of trips that we have a balance of gender, abilities, and personalities.

In your letter, please specifically address your ability to meet the following criteria:

- Medical expertise
- Relationships with students in the crew as a whole
- Group facilitation skills or past experience as a chaperone
- Content/background knowledge (geology, ecology, etc.)
- Physical ability to participate in all activities
- Ability to be fully present for the duration without outside work / home obligations