

## *Effective Chaperones*

Students sometimes get “picnic-itis” when they go on a field trip. “Picnic-itis” has several readily identifiable symptoms:

1<sup>st</sup> – Students want to run with no purpose

2<sup>nd</sup> – Students develop severe hunger. They are not interested in the field trip’s activities, but only in wanting to know when they are going to eat

3<sup>rd</sup> – It affects the vocal chords of the students; they giggle constantly or act too boisterous.

“Picnic-itis” is an insidious disease. It will quickly kill any field trip. Fortunately we have a “miracle cure.” This miracle cure is careful planning and effective chaperones.

The Beaver Creek Reserve naturalists and teachers work hard at planning the program and preparing the students. You, the chaperone, enable that planning to go smoothly.

The students are divided into groups that rotate between different teaching stations. Your role is to help the educator at each station by distributing equipment, organizing the students to participate in activities and handling discipline problems that arise. We hope you’ll have fun while you enable our teaching to go more smoothly.

A chaperone:

- actively participates in the supervision of all students by helping to encourage involvement and conduct that is appropriate in an educational setting
- helps discourage inappropriate behavior
- enjoys the program’s activities and reinforces the students’ enthusiasm
- refrains from responding to questions that are addressed to the students
- resists the temptation to socialize with the other chaperones during the program
- does not bring younger siblings along – the program has been planned for appropriate age group and younger children often require attention that keeps the chaperone from their duties to the students
- makes sure that all children are following the rules throughout the day
- may have one student who needs your close supervision

The following diagrams are guides to help you to situate yourself among the students:

