

Group Leaders/Chaperones Guidelines and Responsibilities

PLEASE READ PRIOR TO TRAVELING!

DUTIES OF GROUP LEADERS AND CHAPERONES

- **PRIESTS/DEACONS MAY SERVE AS A GROUP LEADER BUT NOT AS A CHAPERONE.** For safety reasons, priests should serve in the capacity of chaplain for the group but not as a chaperone of minors.
- Leader/Chaperones must be VIGILANT at all TIMES and impress upon the students that they MUST ALWAYS STAY TOGETHER! No wandering off. No bathroom trips alone—EVER.
- Chaperones need to FULLY understand their role.
 - Chaperones are not on pilgrimage to simply walk alongside students but they are there to confidently and safely shepherd the students throughout the pilgrimage, address concerns immediately, consult with group leaders, etc.
 - Chaperones should be comfortable leading a small group and having and using their voice when needed.
 - Chaperones should serve as adult witnesses/disciples of Christ and be capable of acting like the adult, especially if/when students need to be corrected or guided to better behavior.
 - Chaperones should be comfortable handling minor issues/concerns and have good judgement to lead students to safety in case of emergency.
 - Chaperones/Adults NEVER enter student rooms by themselves—especially priests! Talk from the doorway and if you must enter, do so with another chaperone!
 - Chaperones must be CLEAR and FIRM with expectations and follow through!
- Be sure cell phones are charged at all times. Bring portable chargers as the grid can become overloaded which will cause batteries to drain very quickly especially on “March day.”
- All leaders and chaperones must exchange cell phone numbers of EVERYONE in their group (students & chaperones). Keep contacts in your phone and consider setting up a group chat with leaders/chaperones. *Whats App* may also work better if the grid is jammed on March Day. Test all communications prior to 1/19.
- Each Group Leader must carry both digital and hard/paper copies of ALL participant information (emergency contacts, medical info, etc).
- Group Leader should print/distribute prayer sheets at appropriate times.

- Group Leader must assign each chaperone to be responsible for a small group of students and it is the chaperones responsibility to stay with them at ALL times. Group leaders please remind them that the ADULT is in charge and if students are not complying it needs to be addressed IMMEDIATELY. (Remind them of the Code of Conduct and that violators will be sent home!)
- **BE ON TIME, EVERY TIME!** WE CANNOT WAIT IF ADULTS OR STUDENTS ARE LATE! ALL LATECOMERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION.
- Remind ALL parties that this a pilgrimage, NOT a vacation and we never complain about ANYTHING on a pilgrimage!
- Please no signs, unless they are school banners that can fit safely under the bus or in their seat and can easily be carried on the day of the March. All signs should be charitable without provocative and/or Un-Christian slogans.
- If you/students encounter opposition, do NOT engage-PRAY and WALK AWAY!
- Talk to kids about how others' pro-life opinions may vary and that's okay but we respond with charity because we follow the Gospel of Life as taught by Jesus Christ and our Catholic faith!

WHAT TO BRING

- **PACK LIGHT!** Each participant is allowed one small suitcase/bag and one carry on (ie: small backpack).
 - On "March Day" (Friday) it is highly recommended that students put small, necessary items in their pockets to avoid having to carry a bag all day.
 - Leaders/chaperone should carry one small bag/backpack with necessary items (medications, hard copy of participant forms, water, etc.)
- **Comfortable, warm** clothes and walking shoes/sneakers.
- March for Life sweatshirt for Friday (and other days, if preferred). Try to use as your outside layer so it's visible in a crowd!
- Trial Size Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, feminine hygiene products, etc)
- Any medication that is taken daily.
- A refillable water bottle
- Personal snacks (ie: granola/protein bars, hard candy)
- Cell Phone & Charger -headphones, cable and plug (for shared bus outlets).
- **SMALL** electronic devices/tablets, only if necessary! Consider fasting from electronics while on pilgrimage as an offering for an end to abortion.
- Money for food/drink purchases at rest stops—at least 2 lunches & 1 dinner and/or snacks on travel days.)
 - 5 meals are provided (Thurs. dinner, Friday=B/L/D and Sat. breakfast)
- Pocket Rosary Beads.

What NOT to Bring

- Pillows, blankets
- Laptops/Large electronic devices
- Large suitcases/heavy items
- Expensive jewelry, electronics or clothing which may be lost.
- A lot of cash/credit cards.

ILLNESS

- If a pilgrim feels ill...
 - Address it immediately by separating the student/yourself from the group as best as possible depending on our location at the time symptoms appear.
 - Conduct a daily “symptom check” with each of your students. Do not leave the hotel if someone is symptomatic.
 - Consult with CSO leaders to determine next steps.
 - CSO Leaders will work in conjunction with the group leader and the parent(s) of the student to determine if it’s best they stay or go home.
 - The parent(s) bears the financial and practical responsibility of the care and transport of their child if it is deemed that the child needs to return home for any reason. (ie: illness, violation of the code of conduct.)
- Each school leader (or designated chaperone) must bring a First Aid “kit” or bag for their group with the following:
 - Aspirin, Advil, Tylenol, Benadryl, Dramamine, Tums, Pepto Bismol, Lifesavers/cough drops, Feminine Hygiene Products, Band-Aids, etc.
- DO NOT bring students who show ANY symptoms of illness prior to the trip.
- TAKE VITAMINS as preventative, get enough rest, do you best to remain healthy.
- DO NOT bring immune-compromised students or those who don’t travel well, especially in crowds or on buses. The pilgrimage can be grueling for some and the common good of all is of primary concern when traveling. If a pilgrim will cause undue hardship or delay for the entire group, please reconsider their participation. There are other ways, outside of the pilgrimage, for a student (or chaperone) to participate in upholding the dignity of the human person, through prayer and local witness in your school.

HOTEL DETAILS AND BUS PICK UP LOCATIONS COMING SOON!