



Chaperone Guide for Discovery Hall Programs (DHP) at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL)

Please review these chaperone guidelines so that your students have a safe and educational experience.

Please share this document with all chaperones.

Student/Chaperone Ratio:

K5 - 5th grade / 5 students: 1 chaperone

6th - 8th grade / 7 students: 1 chaperone

9th - 12th grade / 10 students: 1 chaperone

The maximum number of participants (students, teachers & chaperones) per teaching group is 35. If your school/organization has over 35 total participants, they will be divided into multiple "teaching groups".

- Chaperones are assigned by your school or organization.
- A teacher or administrator from your school or organization is responsible for communicating responsibilities with chaperones regarding student safety and education while at the DISL.
- All chaperones with your school share the same rules with each teaching group.
- At least one chaperone per teaching group should be a school employee, administrator, or teacher. This will be the lead chaperone for that group.
- The lead chaperone should know the schedule, program locations, program requirements, and medical knowledge of students in their group.
- Chaperones should follow guidelines for each program and encourage participation.
- Chaperones are responsible for monitoring student behavior, preparing students for programs, maintaining a safe environment, and ensuring that students and other attendees understand and follow DISL Safety guidelines and campus rules as defined by the DHP Marine Educator and stated in this document.

Safety Tips



Crocs or flip flops are not allowed to be worn to field programs. Sneakers are always the best choice. Participants will not be allowed on the vessel without proper shoes. Please do not walk around campus without shoes. *Please see the proper shoes and attire for our field and lab programs.*

It is important to stay hydrated during programs, especially while outdoors. We recommend that students have reusable water bottles that can be filled at our water bottle filling stations across campus.



Even on cloudy days, protection from the sun is important. Please take precautions to prevent sunburn and heat stress. Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended.

Students should always be accompanied by their chaperones.

Students should not leave the dorms, classrooms, or the cafe without a chaperone.





The DISL Campus offers places for learning, lodging, and dining.
Please review the rules for each place you may be visiting on campus.

The Alabama Aquarium

- Please monitor students' behavior so all guests may have an enjoyable experience.
- Enter as a group at the assigned admission times.
- Chaperones must stay with their group during their visit.
- Food and drinks are not allowed inside the Aquarium (this includes gum and candy).
- No running, climbing, horseplay, shouting or tapping on glass.

DISL Dorms

- Dorm buildings may be shared by different visiting groups, but each group is assigned to a private floor. Please keep your group to their assigned floor if sharing a dorm.
- Downstairs groups should use the north or south side doors near the lounge for entering and exiting the dorms.
- Upstairs groups should use the doors at the east and west ends of the hallways by the stairwells to enter and exit the dorms.
- Each room has two twin beds, a dresser, table, chairs and two closets.
- There are two communal bathrooms on each floor. Each may be designated for males or females.
- Please ensure the bathrooms are kept tidy after use.
- Linens, towels & pillows are NOT provided.
- Please do not move furniture.
- No air mattresses or sleeping on floors.
- Do not prop exterior doors open. (*For safety and mosquito control*)
- Keep AC units on to reduce moisture in rooms.
- Check out is at 8:00 AM on your last day.
- The lead chaperone should collect all keys & FOBs that morning and place them in the basket by the bulletin board in the dorm hallway before check-out.
- There is a \$5.00 lost FOB fee. Please make sure all are returned.
- After check-out, Housekeeping will clean for the next group and the dorms will be off limits.
- Schools are responsible for any damages incurred during residency. Please report all damages to the Scheduling Coordinator.

May's Café

- Please monitor students' behavior so everyone has a safe and enjoyable mealtime.
- Please enter together as a group led by a chaperone.
- Each group is scheduled individual mealtimes. Please stay on schedule.
- Do not move tables or chairs.
- Enter the front door and exit the back doors to the deck.
- Do not wear bathing suits, wet or muddy clothes or shoes in the cafeteria.

Classrooms

- Chaperones should encourage participation while the DHP Marine educator leads students through lessons and activities.
- Please turn off cell phone sounds during class to minimize distractions. If you must answer your phone, please quietly leave the classroom to do so.
- If using a classroom for evening activities, please leave the classroom as it was in order to be ready for programs the next day.
- All trash must be taken to the dumpsters outside the classroom building.
- Cleaning products will be left in the classroom for sanitation after use. Please wipe down all surfaces touched (counters, tables, chairs, light switches, door handles, etc).
- If using the Computer Lab in the evening, please see the specific rules for this building and equipment that will be provided.

Outdoor areas on campus; Parking lots, green spaces, beach access

- Shoes should be worn outdoors. Beware of sand-spurs and fire ants in grassy areas.
- Please discourage students from gathering in roads, driveways, or parking areas.
- No ball sports near parked vehicles.
- Please do not climb rock jetties along the beach (sharp and slippery).
- Please stay on trails to the beach and do not walk in the dune plant restoration areas or areas protected for nesting shorebirds.
- During sea turtle nesting time (May-October), please do not leave holes in the sand and use only red, long wavelength flashlights on the beach at night.
- Do not feed, touch, or in any way disturb sea turtles.
- Call 1-866-732-8878 (SEA-TURTLE) with any sightings.

Other things to know & important numbers:

- Emergency services are available on the island. However, the nearest hospital and medical clinics are 40 miles away. For emergencies, please call the following numbers.
 - Police & Medical: (251) 861-5523 (faster than 911)
 - Fire & Rescue: (251) 861-3422
- Call the scheduler in the Administration building with questions or issues during business hours at (251) 861-2141 x7511.
- After hour non-emergency staff (the Greeters) are available when the front office is closed.
- Call them at (251) 861-1210 or (251) 554-0636.
- The Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the Alabama Aquarium Campus is an alcohol and tobacco-free campus. This includes all forms of tobacco, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and electronic cigarettes.

Preparing for DHP Programs

The DISL offers a variety of field and lab DHP programs, each with specific safety guidelines and preparations associated with the activities of each program. Please review the safety protocols for the programs in which your students will be participating.

Please refer to the itinerary and the DISL campus map to get your students to class on time. Please meet for programs under the Horizon Hall building on the south side of campus. A DHP Marine Educator will meet your group there and take you to the classrooms to begin your program. Please meet at the DISL Dock for vessel trips. The Marine Educator will meet you at the dock. Do not board the vessel without your educator.

Marine Animal Touch Lab & One Fish, Two Fish

- These programs incorporate the use of biofacts and preserved specimens for hands-on discovery of marine animals.
- Please monitor students handling of materials for their safety and proper handling.
- Some objects may be sharp, rough, heavy and/or delicate.

Coastal Habitats Field Class

- Participants should wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.
- No crocs or flip-flops.
- Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended.
- Please keep the group together along the beach walk and through the maritime forest.

History of Dauphin Island

- Please monitor student behavior while traveling on the DISL bus.
- Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.
- Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended.
- Please keep the group together while following the DHP educator through the Shell Mound Park and during the guided tour with the Ranger at Ft. Gaines.

Marine Debris - It's What's in the Water

- Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.
- Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended.
- Please watch for the possibility of unsafe objects that students may try to pick up.
- Please keep the group together during the collection walk along the beach.

Ocean Currents and Drifters

- Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended while outside during this program.
- Please keep the group together while deploying the drifter on the beach.

Oceanography of Waves

- Students will get wet and should dress appropriate for being in the water.
- Students must wear clothes that can get wet and shoes that protect their feet.
- No Crocs or flip flops. Shoes are required at all times.
- Sunscreen, hat, water bottle, a towel and change of clothes are recommended.
- Chaperones should assist students in the water and know if students are unable to swim. Please share this information with the DHP Marine Educator.

Designing Plankton

- Chaperones should monitor students and enforce safety rules while collecting plankton on the pier.

ROVing the Gulf

- Chaperones should monitor students while flying ROVs.
- Students will work as a group to design their ROVs (without chaperone assistance).
- Students do not get into the water
- Water, sunscreen, hats, and glasses recommended.

Sea Level Rise and Climate Change

- Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.
- Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended.
- Please keep the group together while walking the beach to track shorelines.

Squid Dissection & Specimen Lab

- Please monitor students handling of specimens, biofacts and dissection tools (scissors and probes).
- Some objects may be sharp, rough, heavy and/or delicate.

Watersheds to Water Quality Lab

- Participants should wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.
- No Crocs, flip flops or rain boots.
- Sunscreen, hats, and water bottles are recommended.
- Please keep the group together while walking to the pond.
- Monitor students while conducting water quality tests.

Wetland Ecology Field Class

- Students and chaperones must wear closed toed shoes that securely tie onto feet (sneakers) and wear the appropriate attire for getting wet and muddy.
- Chaperones should assist students in the tidal creeks and while pulling seine nets.
- Chaperones should know if students are unable to swim and share this information with your DISL educator.

Research Vessel Experience

- Students and chaperones must wear closed-toe shoes that completely cover their feet.
- The DHP Marine Educator will have a safety talk with the group before boarding the vessel.
- Chaperones should supervise students and encourage safe boat behavior.

Kayaking Though Coastal Habitats

- Students and chaperones will participate in a safety training before getting in kayaks.
- Chaperones should supervise students and know if any participants are not able to swim.
- Please share this information with the DHP Marine Educator.
- Students and chaperones must wear closed toed/covered heel shoes and wear the appropriate attire for getting wet.
- No Crocs or flip flops.
- PFDs/lifejackets will be provided and must be worn at all times.
- A chaperone with official school authority is required to participate in this program.
- 24 maximum participants (students + teachers/chaperones)