

Seven Tips for Challenge Discovery Chaperones

Does your group include adult chaperones who aren't participating in the program? These people have a unique opportunity to support their team's growth and observe group dynamics. Chaperones can make the day go more smoothly by doing these seven things:

1. **Don't stand on the sidelines.** Walk around and listen to what the team members are saying, so you can discuss these moments later and continue the team-building process.
2. **Keep your language positive.** Instead of chiming in with, "That won't work," ask your group, "What might happen if we try that?" We want the participants to discover how to solve challenges on their own.
3. **Don't encourage competition between teams.** Sometimes a comment that's intended to be motivational ("The other group did it!") prevents a team from setting their own goals and taking ownership of their results.
4. **Keep facilitators in the loop.** If a facilitator would benefit from knowing about a specific participant's needs or challenges, feel free to share that information.
5. **Help us deal with behavior challenges.** If a participant is creating a negative or unsafe experience for others, our facilitators may ask you to take that individual aside to talk to him/her. Please keep the discussion positive: Ask the individual what he/she might do to be a more effective member of the team. Generate a conversation, rather than telling the participant what to do. If you are uncomfortable doing this, please have the individual stand beside you until the facilitator can talk to him/her.
6. **Please respect the experience and role of the facilitator.** Challenge Discovery facilitators have extensive training in experiential learning and risk management. Our staff will assume responsibility for all participants during the program.
7. **Remember that this day is for the students, not the chaperones.** Let them guide their own experience and discover their own solutions. You'll be amazed by what your group can accomplish!