

Rainbow Valley Resource Network



Chaperone Handbook

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We find that the qualities described in these selected verses from Romans 12 provide fresh inspiration and guidance in our work as chaperones:

Romans 12:

Place Your Life Before God

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering.

Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as everyone of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone.

~The Message

Welcome and Introduction

Thank you so much for serving as a Rainbow Valley Resource Network (RVRN) Chaperone. We recognize and are deeply grateful for the love and selflessness that you offer our constituents.

Rainbow Valley Resource Network (RVRN) originated in 1984, as a residential facility called Rainbow Valley Ranch in Hadley, NY. Operating as a working farm, the three founders, Doug and June Dickinson and their close friend and colleague, Joy Parker, dedicated their lives to providing a healing atmosphere for Christian Scientists labeled in society as "developmentally disabled."

The ranch sold in 2004, and the organization has evolved into a nationwide support community of volunteers, caregivers and ambassadors dedicated to delivering spiritually enriching activities and financial support to Christian Science families and their loved ones with special needs.

Mission

The purpose of Rainbow Valley Resource Network is to advocate for and support the spiritual growth and enrichment of individuals who are working through the labels of developmental disabilities and who have chosen Christian Science as their way of life.

How We Serve

We bring assurance, encouragement, and healing to Christian Science families supporting loved ones with special needs.

RVRN provides:

- Financial assistance
- Information resources, and
- Experiential enrichment activities that foster spiritual growth for individuals with developmental/special needs and their families.

Chaperone Role Description and Expectations

Description

Romans 12:9 “Love from the center of who you are,” *The Message*

Effective chaperones see their role as an opportunity to witness God in every aspect of the activities. They provide assurance, encouragement, and support for those they are serving.

Expectations

As a chaperone you are expected to be attentive to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the person you are supporting at all times. *One of the most important responsibilities is being aware of the physical location of your constituent at all times. If someone else has taken charge of your constituent, have a clear plan to have your constituent rejoin you.*

- Be fully attentive to the spiritual and emotional needs of the person you are supporting.
 - Ensure that they are actively socializing with others.
 - Help them enjoy opportunities to experience spiritual growth and understanding in inspiring activities such as lesson reading, hymn sings, gratitude sharing.
 - Pay attention to their emotional state and overall well-being and provide loving support.
 - Alert RVRN or program staff of any health concerns.
- Be fully attentive to the physical needs of the person you are supporting.
 - Help them choose activities appropriate for their level of functionality.
 - Assist in making adaptations so your constituent has access to the activity.
 - Assist in preparing appropriate materials and gear for specific activities.
 - Be alert to their daily living and personal care skills to determine what level of assistance they need.
 - Be alert to any dietary issues and assist in making food selections consistent with their needs.
 - Help them manage their personal belongings.
 - Be aware of individual medication needs and plans, as well as the nurse’s schedule, if applicable.
 - For the original ranchers (those who fly in from Albany, NY) follow the AIMS chain of command of communication if there are any concerns with/questions about medications.
 - The AIM chain of command is to contact the supervisor, Bonnie Duval (518-390-1343); next, the on-call nurse pager number (518-969-0574); and the supervisor or on-call caretaker will get in touch with the parents if needed. The house number is 518-761-6720 if needed.
 - Alert RVRN or program staff of any health concerns.

- Be alert to the program schedule...

Chaperones are also expected to participate in briefings/conference calls. A minimum of two chaperone briefings are conducted prior to each event at which chaperones serve. The purpose of the briefings is to share inspiration and scenarios, review event details and logistics, and answer any questions. Attendance is mandatory to ensure everyone is setup for success.

Requirements

- Practice or be open to the teachings of Christian Science and their practical application to daily life.
- Complete the application process.
- Be at least 18 years of age.

Application Process

Individuals interested in serving as a chaperone are required to follow the steps below:

- Complete the online application [here](#).
- A staff member will be in touch with you within a week of completing the application to follow-up and potentially schedule a phone interview, which is the next step in the process.
- Potential candidates will be asked to submit a short resume.