



Outback Field Trip Information for Adult Chaperones

Our beach trips are always a lot of fun for everyone. For the adults, however, the good times are mixed with some real work. Outback relies on the continued support of parents. Parent helpers need to come without younger siblings (unless they are enrolled in Outback). Parents may also be expected to go into the water on beach trips. The following outline will tell you what to expect and what is needed from you.

Beach Trips:

- July 15 – Singing Beach (Manchester-by-the-sea)
- July 22 – Stagefort Park (Gloucester)
- July 29 – Crane’s Beach (Ipswich)
- August 5 – Wingersheek Beach (Gloucester)
- August 12 – Cochituate State Park (Natick)
- August 19 – Spectacle Island (Boston Harbor)

Arrival and prep:

- Please arrive at Outback by 8:30am and report to the Baldwin School cafeteria (ground level). You will be assigned to a teacher and together you will oversee a group of children.
- Before boarding the buses, we will meet for announcements and attendance. When we have boarded the buses, we will again take attendance.
- Once we arrive at our destination, we will go over safety rules with the children before getting off of the bus. You and your teacher will be responsible for getting your group and all its belongings off the bus, and together we will go onto the beach.
- **Please be aware that you may not be alone with any other child than your own when on the trips. This rule is in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) regulations. Thank you in advance for your understanding.**

On The Beach:

- Orange cones and ropes will be set up to mark our position before children enter the beach area. You and the teacher will find a spot in between the cones for your group.
- We will often eat snack right away.
- The staff is assigned beach and waterfront positions.
- We will have several group check in times during the trip – upon arrival, snack time, lunch time and upon departure. We also have two trip leaders who will float and monitor the perimeter of our established area; one will observe waterfront and the other the beach.
- **The most important rule:** The trip leader will tell group leaders when the waterfront is open, which is only after both lifeguards have entered the water. This system is efficient and allows for a safe way for the kids to enjoy the beach and each other.

In The Water:

The staff is assigned waterfront responsibilities, and is in position before anyone enters the water. We also have cones set up on the sand to identify Outback’s “area”. All campers must stay within the human markers whenever they are in the water. As you know, the water can be dangerous.

Walks: Your counselor, you and your group are encouraged to go on walks down the beach. Make sure to let Alice, Emma or Jacy know before you go and check back in with them when you return.

Return Home: We ring the bell around 12:45 for round up. From 12:45 to 1:15 we will all collect belongings, garbage, and make trips to the bathrooms. We will board the buses in our groups. You and your teacher are responsible for getting your group onto the bus. Attendance will be taken before we depart.

Clothing: Bring a sweatshirt/ light jacket because even on warm days, the beach can get cold.

Cancellations: We will cancel a beach trip only in case of serious downpours or thunderstorms. Cool days with scattered rains usually will not be enough to stop us from going on our trips. We will have plan B events in case of inclement weather. Chaperones do not need to participate.

In General: The best assistance a parent helper can give is OBSERVATION. No matter what you are involved in, look around and be aware of the kids in your group. **If you can't find a child, do not waste time looking for the child. Go to the trip leader right away.**