



Residential Setting – Roles & Responsibilities

Chaperone Orientation:

It can be greatly beneficial to gather visiting chaperones immediately after the whole group orientation to discuss their roles and responsibilities in supporting students during their stay. This meeting is of great importance as chaperones are essential partners in supporting the social and emotional needs of their students during their time on campus. Site managers are typically available to deal with facilities and physical needs of students (e.g. injuries, illness, gear needs) and are largely uninvolved in supervision, dorm life, and discipline. There is often unstructured time before the field day, as well as several hours of unstructured time after field programming and before bed that chaperones oversee. For additional support in preparing chaperones, [see this resource from the BEETLES Project](#).

Student Roles

There are many ways in which students can contribute to the caretaking of the site. While many of these tasks are typically supported by custodial and facility staff, involving students in stewarding shared living spaces can help foster leadership, independence, agency, teamwork, and responsible decision-making, all of which contribute to social and emotional development.

Meal Set-Up

Consider asking a subset of students to arrive for meals approximately 15-20 minutes before serving time to set up the dining hall. Set up procedure includes:

- Setting up the appropriate number of chairs
- Setting tables with cups, plates, and silverware
- Filling water pitchers

Table Helpers

At meals, one student per table can be selected as the table helper. This role can be adapted depending on whether your site serves meals family- or buffet-style. This student's responsibilities include:

- Refilling the water pitcher at the table if it is empty
- Addressing any missing table settings
- Retrieving serving trays from the kitchen and going to the kitchen for seconds
- Leading table clean up by bringing all dishes and table items back to the kitchen at the end of the meal, and wiping down tables with a sponge or paper towels

Campus Care

At the start of every field day, students may spend 10-20 minutes doing light cleanup of shared spaces, including the dining hall, bathhouse, and dorms. Instructors use task lists to assign roles to students in their duty area.
