

NPMA Chaperone Guide

Who

- Chaperones should be 18 years of age or older and out of high school. Children of chaperones who are not in the band (i.e. younger siblings of band students) may *not* ride the bus to events.
- Chaperones must have clearances submitted to the district every 5 years. For more information, please see <https://northpennmusic.com/volunteer/>

Why

- The primary function of the chaperone is to maintain the safety of the students.
- Chaperones should model the behavior they expect from students. This includes:
 - **Enthusiasm and positivity.** Cheer for students. Compliment them. Express positive feelings for staff, volunteers, and the events we attend. Avoid gossip and being critical of others, the show, and the events we attend.
 - **Flexibility and adaptability.** Events do not always go as planned. Model looking on the bright side when unexpected issues arise. Show the students how to be flexible and relaxed when adapting to new information and situations even when they are challenging.
 - **Support and willingness to help.** We can listen and validate feelings when a student has a concern even if we do not agree with them. Be available and willing when a student needs help with an instrument, their uniform, or other need. Step up if the director or crew needs additional help during an event.

When

- Chaperones are needed for all football games, both home and away, competitions, and other events as requested by the band director.
- **Chaperones are asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to student line up** so they are prepared to march into the stadium with the band at home games or check bus lists for departures.
- The band director posts an itinerary for all events in the Band app with meal times and expected student line-up and departure times.
- The head chaperone will text or email chaperones the night before events with the report time and any other announcements.

What to bring

- Please wear closed-toe shoes that are appropriate for marching. Many chaperones wear spirit-wear or blue/navy blue tops or jackets but this is optional.
- Weather varies through the season and football games that start sunny and warm often end cool once the sun goes down. **Dress in layers, consider packing a lap blanket, and watch the weather for potential rain.** Football games are not called off for most inclement weather. There are ponchos available for parents in the band closet.
- Chaperones are permitted to bring bags into the stadium since they are considered part of the band's equipment. You may bring a bag, purse, or backpack with whatever you need to be comfortable and enjoy the evening.

- Chaperones who are volunteering for multiple events often bring a stadium chair.
- Bus bags are stocked by the head chaperone and stored in the band closet. They contain the bus lists, bus number signs and supplies for addressing messes on the bus (nosebleeds, stains on uniforms, spills, vomit). These remain on the bus during events.
- The band nurse will have all necessary medical supplies so chaperones do not need to bring bandaids, ice packs or other first aid items. All medical or mental health needs should be referred to the nurse.
- Students have access to extra uniform supplies in the band closet prior to departure and student leaders have “uniform first aid” kits should a need arise during an event. Chaperones do not need to bring extra uniform pieces.

Example timeline

- 30 minutes prior to student line-up, chaperones arrive and gather for announcements, receive bus assignments and bags for away events. If wagons are needed (storing snack bags, water, or stadium coats during competitions) they are prepared.
- As students line-up for home games, chaperones line up next to students and march into the stadium beside them. Crew has roped off areas for students and staff to sit in the stands.
- As students line up for away games and events, chaperones post bus signs and work in pairs to mark student names off bus lists and check backpacks and bags. Chaperones ride the bus with students and support the bus driver in maintaining safe, respectful behavior.
- Upon arrival at away games and events, chaperones march in with the students, transport water coolers, and sit in the designated area. Chaperones should help students who need assistance transporting instruments to the field.
- The band typically performs a pregame show at home games and at half-time for away games. The band leaves the stands in the second quarter during away games to prepare for the half-time show.
- Chaperones accompany the band when they practice and perform at home and away games. Chaperones stand off to the side during practice and on the track by the stands during the performance and then return to their seats.
- Chaperones distribute water to students usually in the first quarter, following their pregame show during home games or after the national anthem during away games. At home games, coolers can be restocked at concessions if there are not enough bottles.
- Students go to concessions during the third quarter and are expected to use the buddy system and return before the 4th quarter. The director enforces this. Chaperones may go to concessions at this time as well.
- Chaperones collect trash from students following the game and leave the full trash bags by the stadium barrels. They then march out with the students.
- At away games, chaperones recheck bus lists prior to leaving. Chaperones ride the bus back with the students and support the bus driver in maintaining safe, respectful behavior.
- They provide trash bags to student leaders to collect trash from the bus when unloading. Chaperones provide assistance to students who need help transporting instruments back into the building. Chaperones remove bus signs and return bus bags to the band closet.