



## Tracy Aviary Field Trip Adult Supervision Guide

### *Why am I being asked to participate?*

Past experience has repeatedly shown that the more teachers and adults participate in field trip activities—modeling interest, enthusiasm and listening skills—the more attentive students remain and the more successful our efforts are likely to be. To ensure that our students receive a safe, positive and meaningful experience from the upcoming field trip, you are being asked to serve three important roles: 1) Participant, 2) Supervisor and 3) Co-facilitator.

### *What am I expected to do?*

1. **BE A THOUGHTFUL PARTICIPANT.** We think that you, too, will find our activities stimulating and informative. As an adult participant, we ask that you become personally involved in all field trip activities, both for your own enjoyment as well as to help retain student interest and motivation. You need to be cautious, however, not to reveal answers or take over tasks intended for the young people. Our activities have been designed for student discovery to do much of the teaching. The best contribution you can make here is curiosity and appreciation, *not* teaching.
2. **BE AN ATTENTIVE SUPERVISOR.** It is the duty of the school to provide primary leadership and teaching during the field trip. However, the unfamiliar outdoor setting, with its wide open space and all its distractions, creates a greater challenge to student focus and concentration. This is where you come in. We ask that you assist in *full-group gatherings* by placing yourself among the students, remaining fully attentive to the discussion or activity taking place and monitoring the behavior of students near you. An effective yet silent technique for “reeling in” temporarily distracted students is to simply step behind them for a moment, place your hand on a shoulder and point to the proper focus of attention.

For *small-group activities*, you may be assigned to a student group. Be sure that the group has the materials they need and understands their task. Remind them that all members of the team are to take part and share in the investigation. Field trip activities such as these require the development and use of cooperative skills, sometimes more than in the classroom. Students unable to remain on-task should be reported to their classroom teacher for possible discipline or reassignment.

3. **BE A CO-FACILITATOR.** With large field trip groups, it becomes challenging for students to receive the attention they need and deserve without your thoughtful assistance. During each tour stop, keep an eye out for students who might benefit from your guidance. Help students remain focused on the task at hand, and guide them in participation without actually taking over the process or revealing answers that they are meant to discover on their own.

### *How do I prepare for this?*

You should dress so that you may be able to join the students in all of their activities. This will likely include being in the sun and shade. Bring a lunch, a liquid refreshment (water is best in the heat), protection from the sun, and a healthy enthusiasm... and you're ready!



## Tracy Aviary Field Trip Request for Adult Chaperones

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This season our class will have the opportunity to visit the Tracy Aviary bird sanctuary. It will be fun, exciting and very educational. We are looking for two parents to accompany our class. If you are available we would appreciate it if you would join us.

Our class will be visiting the Tracy Aviary on the following day: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am willing to be considered as one of two adults to accompany my child's class on the field trip.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

Students participating in the Tracy Aviary AVES Project are eligible to receive **Free Admission** during the coming year for two adults and three children, including themselves.

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### Tracy Aviary Family Guest Pass

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

AVES Students: Now that you are expert ornithologists, use your knowledge to lead your family on a tour of the Tracy Aviary. We hope to see you soon.

This pass allows up to two adults and three children **free admission** to Tracy Aviary.  
Expires Dec. 31, 2010. Not valid for Special Events.