



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you for volunteering to chaperone your child's upcoming field trip to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge! We realize that as a parent you have a very hectic schedule. We greatly appreciate you making time to help.

As a chaperone, here are a few things to expect.

- **Come Dressed to Explore Outside.** Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is your child's outdoor classroom. Most of their field trip time will involve hiking through woodlands, prairie or wetlands. Sneakers or boots are the best on our trails. Don't forget a jacket. Only severe weather or bitterly cold temperatures will keep us inside.
- **Expect to Help.** With your help in the classroom, refuge staff can focus on clarifying instructions and drawing conclusions. With your help outside, students can be divided into small groups for outside exploration, investigation, and data collection. This means reminding students to pay attention, to participate in the activity, and to stay together. You might be asked to lead a small group. You might also be asked to monitor student behavior outside the restroom or help clean up the classroom after lunch. In the winter, students often need help bundling up in winter gear or putting on snowshoes.
- **Unplug.** We are glad you're here! Your child and your child's teacher are too. Please turn off your cell phones during the field trip so you can focus your time and attention on the refuge experience.
- **Plan to Come Again.** Other opportunities to connect to your child's Refuge experience are available through free family special events, interpretive programs, and summer clubs and camps. Be sure to grab a refuge brochure and calendar of events at our Information Desk before you head back to school.

If you have questions that your child's classroom teacher cannot answer, please feel free to call a Visitor Services Specialist at 952-854-5900 (Bloomington field trips) or 952-361-4500 (Rapids Lake field trips).

Sincerely,

Visitor Services Staff
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge