

Marello Youth Retreat Center

Guidelines for Chaperones



Thank you for volunteering your time as a chaperone for the retreat at Marello Youth Retreat Center.

Chaperones are the primary contacts and mentors for youth attending retreats at Marello Youth Retreat Center at Mt. St. Joseph in Loomis, California. Chaperones are the first line in promoting and protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the youth that participate. It is every chaperone's duty to be a reliable, positive role model. Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age or at least 3 years older than the youth they are chaperoning, whichever is greater. It is the responsibility of all retreating organizations to conduct background checks on the chaperones attending with youth per the guidelines and policies set forth by the Diocese of Sacramento in accordance the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Chaperone function:

- To support the teachers, and core leaders, by providing adult supervision and guidance to the students/retreatants throughout the retreat;
- To promote a positive atmosphere of fun and camaraderie among the students;
- To ensure the students' safety by enforcing rules and policies set forth by Marello Youth Retreat Center in its General Policies document found on its website at: www.marelloyrc.org/retreats/retreat-forms
- To ensure the students have basic necessities like water and restroom breaks;
- To ensure that your group leaves the facility and premises as clean as it was upon arrival;
- To help the students work through any problems that arise and to facilitate solutions.

Further, please remember, all chaperones are responsible for assisting any and all students in a group.

- Chaperones are responsible for youth whereabouts at all times, and supervision of youth is required throughout the *entire* retreat whether structured sessions, or "free time" activities;
- Youth and chaperones attending the retreat are expected to adhere to a zero tolerance policy for tobacco, alcohol, illegal drug use/possession, violence, and inappropriate display of affection and/or physical contact;
- Marello Youth Retreat Center is a "no smoking" facility. No bonfires or campfires are permitted due to extreme fire danger.
- The Retreat Center curfew for youth is 11:00 p.m., no exceptions. Out of courtesy and respect to our rural neighbors, Marello Youth Retreat Center asks that chaperones actively enforce this requirement;
- Groups should monitor noise levels at all times and especially from 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. The retreat environment, even for youth and young people, should be conveyed as an environment that achieves a balance of both peace and joy, reflection and spirit. Screaming, yelling and other loud sounds and noises are contrary to the setting and must not occur;
- Chaperones need to know your organization's plan to respond in the event of a youth emergency. Contact numbers and medical needs for retreatants should be carried and maintained for the duration of the retreat. Further, groups may want to carry their own first aid kit. A basic first aid kit is maintained on the premises at Marello Youth Retreat Center.

Violations of any of the guidelines may result in a group or individual being sent home at his/her own expense.

Marello Youth Retreat Center has set the above expectations to provide a framework of appropriate behavior for all attendees. Your group may choose to have *additional* guidelines and expectations.

**Thank you for your time and efforts in supporting the youth!
We hope you enjoy Marello Youth Retreat Center!**