



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Pre- Trip:

- You must be willing and able to participate fully in **all of the preparatory and follow-up sessions:**
- These include, but are not limited to: a weekend retreat for chaperones (hosted by the National MOL Office); weekend retreat(s) for students, several monthly evening or Sunday meetings with the students, as well as evening meetings for training chaperones.
- You will be responsible for contacting students assigned to your group before and after the trip.
- You will be responsible for ensuring that students assigned to your group participate in all projects, educational sessions and a community service activity coordinated by you.

Itinerary:

- The program starts immediately upon arrival to the various destinations, **with no rest after travelling.** The programming runs from early morning to late at night with **very little down time and little sleep** (approx. 5-6 hours per night consistently). You will be expected to participate in all activities, which will include long bus rides, walking long distances and other strenuous activities (ex. hiking). You will be living, eating and sleeping in a communal environment. The hotel accommodations vary widely with respect to comfort, types of beds, and availability of elevators. Choices in food are limited with the menu typically being the same every day.
- In considering your participation, please give special attention to any cardio/respiratory or orthopaedic problems which might limit your endurance and mobility.
You will be required to submit a medical form completed by your physician before a final decision is rendered on your candidacy. Please bear in mind that the medical facilities available will cover only acute illnesses and accidents. There are no facilities available within the framework of the March for the treatment of chronic disturbances.

Payments:

Chaperones are responsible for paying their own way for the March of the Living program. The fee for the trip for each Montreal chaperone is \$6,200 (a full tax receipt will be issued). This price includes: economy air fare, land costs in Poland and Israel.

Responsibilities:

- To lead the group with a sense of open-mindedness;
- To be willing to learn and be trained for your role;
- To meet and uphold standards and policies set by the BIEC, CIE, March of the Living Canada, and March of the Living International;
- To be accountable to those who direct the March of the Living in your community;
- To work as members of a cohesive team;
- Be responsible for students' overall safety and well-being at all times throughout the program;
- Act as a role model to students;
- To remain with the group 24 hours a day and provide the best possible supervision;
- Report problems, including code of conduct violations, to chair people or staff;
- Be prepared to miss activities to supervise a student who is ill, etc.;
- To attend all programs/events/trips, etc. with the participants;
- Participate actively in all aspects of the program;
- To be prepared to lead group discussions/activities to maintain group *ruach* (spirit);
- To provide emotional support and comfort to students during the trip;
- Facilitate students' successful participation in all components of the program;
- Put MOL agenda ahead of any personal agenda items;
- To ensure that participants move from program to program on schedule;
- To be familiar with the itinerary/sights so that you can teach and engage the participants in conversation, acquired through attending mandatory chaperone preparatory sessions and doing additional reading;

Roles:

Specific Roles:

You will play many roles on this trip, Group leader, role model, parent, friend, administrator, and informal educator.

Group Leader/Role Model:

- You are needed to set limits, take initiative and reassure the group that they are in good hands;
- During the initial stages of the program the participants may be anxious about their upcoming experience; e.g. meeting a new group of people, learning about emotionally charged subjects, traveling to a foreign Eastern European country for the first time. Participants will look to you for reassurance that among all of this anxiety and newness, there is security under your leadership;
- You will have many opportunities to interact directly with a small group of students. Be sure not to be overpowering or overbearing;
- You are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the program (preparatory sessions, events, seminars, tours, activities, meals, meetings);
- You are always 'on duty' and serve as a role model for the students; you follow all of the rules and policies put forth by the program and ensure that the students do as well
- You set the tone for the group; the participants take many of their cues, attitudes, and values from you.

Parent:

- While students may need you to play the role of a sympathetic and encouraging parent, you will need to set limits for the group and be responsible for their discipline on a daily basis;
- Participants occasionally need to be dealt with critically. If they are not functioning up to your expectations or the expectations of the group, you are responsible for working out this problem. Other situations which commonly require your intervention as a critical parent include apathy, adjustment hassles, attitude and acceptance of your authority and/or of the policies or procedures of the program;
- Should you find yourself in a situation that you cannot handle alone, the March of the Living staff and lay leaders are there to help;

Friend:

- Participants want to see you as their friend. This is quite natural and helpful in establishing a rapport with them. You will naturally be drawn to some participants more than others;
- It is important to remain approachable and available to all group members and not to establish your own clique in the group;
- You represent the person who establishes and enforces rules and you embody the values set by the group; what you might do as a friend is not always what you should do as a chaperone. Therefore, you should maintain some distance even from those you are exceptionally friendly with;
- You should not compromise your role as a Chaperone for the sake of these friendly relationships;
- Avoid making promises or assumptions to the students without clarification in advance;

Administrator:

- At all times throughout the program, you are responsible for the health and safety of each participant;
- In your group and on your bus, you will be responsible for attendance, punctuality, participation, passports, luggage, hotel check-in, wake-up duty and bed check;
- At any time, the March of the Living staff may approach you to assist with additional tasks;

Informal Educator:

- A large component of the March of the Living experience is the education that takes place preparing students for to the two week program;
- Throughout the preparations for the program, you will be responsible for facilitating lessons prepared by the Canadian March of the Living;
- You will receive all of the required materials for this role in advance of each lesson. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with this material prior to the session however, we strongly suggest that you begin your own learning process as soon as possible;
- While on the program itself, your role as an informal educator will include one-on-one conversations with the students, facilitating 'processing sessions,' group discussions, and possibly, a role in Shabbat programming. As in the preparatory sessions, you will usually receive all required resources to facilitate programming.