

NEW CHAPERONE / VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

The new DHS State requirements recently put into place states that all parents who are volunteering in the classroom or chaperoning field trips now need to have an approved PA Child Abuse clearance and Criminal Background Check on file in a child care center's office. This is the only way for any parent to have the chance of attending a field trip or volunteering to help with fun activities in the classroom.

These clearances are free of charge to parents who are volunteering, however they do take a few days to a few weeks to receive. If you are interested in volunteering during any part of the school year, please follow the instructions below for obtaining the Child Abuse and Criminal Background Check clearances. If you have any questions or any trouble with obtaining the clearances, please feel free to stop in the office and talk to Michelle Ziegler.

PA Child Abuse Clearance

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Or if you type 'Child Abuse Clearance' into the Google browser, the first link that pops up is 'PA Child Abuse History Clearance-Compass'

You will need to click 'Create an Individual Account' and follow the online instructions. You'll then have to re-log into the page and then you'll be prompted to submit your clearance.

You'll follow the instructions on the screen and will be emailed your clearance within a few days. There is also a paper copy that you can mail, however this can take several weeks to receive back. Make sure to select 'volunteer' as this ensures that there is no charge for the clearance.

Criminal Background Check

<https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>

Or if you type 'Criminal Background Check Epatch' into the Google browser and click PA Criminal Background Check (Online)

You'll click 'new record check (Volunteers only)'. This clearance is also free for volunteers.

Please keep in mind that just because you obtain the clearances does not mean that you are guaranteed a chaperone spot. For some field trips, it is a first come first serve situation due to space limitations and/or a large amount of parents who want to volunteer.