



## USA LUGE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the USLA, in the Spirit of the Olympic Movement, is to provide for the Achievement of Athletic Excellence in the Sport of Luge, with the Highest Degrees of Sportsmanship, Honor, Dedication and Victory as the Standard.



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## UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION

## A Parent's Guide to Being a CHAPERONE



Member, United States Olympic Committee



U.S. Representative, Fédération Internationale de Luge de Course





## A Parent's Guide to Being a Chaperone

**Q: What are parent chaperones?**

A: Parent chaperones are parents of team athletes who act as coach's assistants, dorm supervisors, and drivers, amongst other things, and general help during scheduled team camps or trips.

**Q: When are parent chaperones required?**

A: Chaperones are usually needed during winter and summer training camps for the Junior Development & Candidate Teams and during winter screening camps.

**Q: What are the duties of a parent chaperone?**

A: Chaperones are in place to help coaches concentrate on what they do best...coach the athletes. The coach in charge of the program will coordinate and supervise all aspects of training during the camp including sliding, start practice, sled maintenance, physical training, etc. The chaperone will assist the coach with the following duties:

- Arrive in the morning of the first day of the camp to meet with the coach, USA Luge staff and Olympic Training Center (OTC) staff to review policies and duties.
- Greet other athletes and their parents upon their arrival at the OTC to brief them on schedules, activities, rules etc.
- Guide athletes through OTC check-in process.
- Provide general supervision during all activities and especially during "off" hours (evenings etc.) when there are no scheduled activities.
- Supervise activities at which a coach is not necessary or available to attend (for example movie night, trip into town, beach trip, etc.).
- Oversee cafeteria conduct of athletes during meal hours.
- Enforce quiet hours and curfew policy.
- Enforce all OTC policies.

- Transport athletes as required using OTC or USA Luge vehicles.
- Drive, announce, carry sleds, "start" athletes or otherwise assist in training sessions at the track.

**Q: What is required to be a parent chaperone?**

A: It is preferable that chaperones have past experience working with youth groups or kids, specifically in a sports environment. Chaperones act in a supervisory role so good leadership, communication and organizational skills are a must. Since chaperones will be living with the athletes in a "dorm style" or hotel setting, they must be flexible and able to adjust to new living environments, changing schedules and conditions that may be different from what they are used to at home.

Chaperones must also be physically able to meet the demands of spending long hours in extreme temperature and weather conditions and be strong enough to lift 50 lb. luge sleds and other equipment on a daily basis.

***Chaperones must also possess a clean driving record and will be required to sign participation waivers and will be subject to a background check (criminal or otherwise).***

**Q: How are parent chaperones selected?**

A: Prior to the camp/trip where a parent chaperone is needed, parents will be contacted regarding their interest in being a chaperone. This will include a questionnaire requesting personal background information which must be returned to USA Luge by a specified deadline. Once all questionnaires are received, they are reviewed by staff and coaches and the parents who are determined to be the most qualified will be notified. Those not selected will also be notified.

**Q: Where do chaperones stay and are they paid?**

A: For training programs that take place at the OTC, chaperones will stay in the OTC provided housing, with the athletes, free of charge. The housing is dormitory style with separate rooms served by a common hallway. Usually there are 3-4 athletes per room and each room has its own full bath. Chaperones will stay in rooms in the same general area as the athletes participating in the camp but not in the same room. They may be roomed with another coach from luge, or possibly from another sport, and always of the same sex. The cafeteria is located within the OTC complex not far from the residential area as are many of the facilities to be used during the camp (gymnasium, weight room etc.). The address and phone information for the Olympic Training Center is as follows:

US Olympic Training Center – Lake Placid  
 196 Old Military Road  
 Lake Placid NY 12946  
 Phone: 518-523-2600  
 Fax: 518-523-4790

Direct Room Dial: 518-523-8448 +3 +Rm #

In the event that the training camp is to another location and the team must stay at a hotel, chaperones may be required to cover their own expenses. USA Luge will make every effort to defray any costs for volunteers.

While chaperones do not receive any payment, their presence is essential to the success of some of the USA Luge programs. We encourage each parent of a young athlete to chaperone at least one camp while their child is enrolled in a USA Luge program. This gives the parent/chaperone a better understanding of what the athletes actually do while training on a day-to-day basis.