

Notice to group leaders, parents, teachers and supporters of field trips to Gilbertson Nature Center and the Maize Maze

Fayette county conservation owns the ground the Nature Center and Maze project is on. The Maze project is supported by Country Heritage Community which represents the 4 counties in NE Iowa, Fayette, Clayton, Allamakee, and Winneshiek counties. That means to maze project is public property and operates under county laws and insurance. The maze project is managed by Laverne Swenson, a semi retired farmer under the wings of both Fayette county conservation and the non-profit CHC. CHC depends on grants, donations and the dollars collected from visitors coming to the maze. Laverne is the only person under a contract with CHC and is hired for 6 months of operation. His wife, Grace also helps and is totally a volunteer. All help at the maze is from volunteers. So when we have many visitors at one time, or large school groups, we depend largely on parents, or who ever bring groups, to supervise their children and friends. Since the maze is 4 acres and some 2 miles of path that is impossible to be with them at all times. On the grounds is a tent, mini mazes, popcorn and Indian corn projects where we allow visitors to take part in solving and picking the corn. Again, for Grace and I to do all the supervising is impossible.

What we are asking is that you as adults, teachers, parents and support staff help us by supervising your families, school kids, etc while on the Maze grounds and the Nature Center area and respect the public property and staff. It is all public property. When kids go into the Maze we would like their adults and support staff to know the rules and help supervise.

Thank you for helping us at Gilbertson Center to preserve and tell the story of our agricultural past, to show and tell about N. E. Iowa nature and it's wildlife, and a place for visitors and kids to get out and have fun and learn.

The staff at the Gilbertson Center and Fayette County Conservation