

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
DEPARTMENT OF CAMPUS RECREATION
CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

PRINT NAME _____

TRIP: _____ TRIP DATES _____

In consideration of the services of The University of North Carolina At Chapel Hill Outdoor Education program, The North Carolina Board of Regents, their officers, agents, employees and all other persons or entities associated with it (collectively referred to as CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION), I agree as follows:

Although CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION has taken reasonable steps to provide me with appropriate equipment and skilled staff so I can enjoy this activity for which I may not be skilled, I acknowledge that this activity is not without risk. Certain risks cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of this activity. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of this activity can be causes of loss or damage to my equipment, accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION does not want to frighten me or reduce my enthusiasm for this activity, but thinks it is important for me to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the inherent risks. The following describes some, but not all, of those risks.

CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION activity trips live, camp, and travel out of doors, where participants are subject to numerous risks, environmental and otherwise. Activities vary from trip to trip, and include hiking and backpacking, climbing and descending rock cliffs and sea kayaking.

CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION activity trips occur in remote places, many days from medical facilities. Communication and transportation are difficult and sometimes evacuations and medical care may be significantly delayed.

Meals are prepared over alcohol stoves and open fires. Water often requires disinfection before use. Camping hazards may include burns, cuts, diarrhea and flu-like illness, and falling timber.

Travel is by motor vehicle, sea kayak, foot and by other means. Participants will travel over rugged unpredictable off-trail terrain, including boulder fields, downed timber, rivers, rapids, river crossings, steep slopes, slippery rocks, ocean tides and currents, waves and reefs. Attendant risks include collision, falling, capsizing, drowning, and others usually associated with such travel, as well as environmental risks.

Environmental risks include rapidly moving, deep, cold water; insects, snakes, and predators, including large animals; falling and rolling rock; lightning, flash floods, and unpredictable forces of nature, including weather which may change to extreme conditions without notice. Possible injuries and illnesses include hypothermia, frostbite, sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration, and other mild or serious conditions.

Decisions are made by the trip staff and participants in a wilderness setting, on the basis of a variety of perceptions and evaluations which by their nature are imprecise and subject to errors in judgment. Throughout the trip, participants are responsible for their own safety and for the safety of other members of the group.

I am aware that CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION trips include risks of injury or death to myself. I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that other unknown or unanticipated risks may result in property loss, injury or death. I agree to assume responsibility for the inherent risks identified herein and those inherent risks not specifically identified. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary, no one is forcing me to participate, and I elect to participate in spite of and with full knowledge of the inherent risks.

I acknowledge that engaging in this activity may require a degree of skill and knowledge different from other activities and that I have responsibilities as a participant. I acknowledge that the staff of CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION has been available to more fully explain to me the nature and physical demands of this activity and the inherent risks, hazards and dangers associated with this activity.

I have read and understand the information provided by CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION. I understand and acknowledge that this activity involves vigorous exercise, which is in itself a potentially hazardous activity involving a risk of injury and even death. I further understand and acknowledge that it has been recommended that I have a physical examination and that I consult with my physician about physical activity and exercise before participating in this wilderness adventure program, especially if I have any physical conditions that may be harmfully affected by vigorous exercise including, but not limited to, heart, circulatory, respiratory or musculoskeletal conditions. I acknowledge that I have either had a physical examination and been given my physician's permission to participate or that I have decided that I will participate in this activity without the approval of my physician. I authorize CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION to obtain or provide emergency hospitalization, surgical, or other medical care for me.

I understand that this Acknowledgment of Risks and Personal Responsibility is governed by the laws of the State of North Carolina.

I certify that I am fully capable of participating in this activity, without causing harm to myself or others. Therefore, I, and my parent(s) or guardian if I am a minor, assume full responsibility for me and for bodily injury, death and loss of personal property and expenses suffered by me and them as a result of those inherent risks and dangers identified herein and those risks and dangers not specifically identified, and as a result of my negligence in participating in this activity.

I, and my parent(s) or guardian if I am a minor, have read, understood and accepted the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representative and estate and all members of my family.

Signature of Participant

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

If the participant is under 18, I am signing as a parent or guardian and agree to indemnify (that is, protect by payment or reimbursement) CAROLINA OUTDOOR EDUCATION from any claim that may be brought by or on behalf of the participant, or any member of the participant's family, for injury or loss resulting from those inherent risks of the activity, described and not described above, and from the negligence of the participant.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Signature of Witness

Date

Media Release

I hereby grant permission to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ("University") to photograph, film, or make an audio recording of my participation in Expeditions events. I grant the University an irrevocable license to reproduce, copy, display, perform, or otherwise use these materials in publications, exhibits, on the internet or on television and to identify me in such materials. I also waive the right to approve the final product.

Signature of Participant: _____

Date: _____