

Responsible Together: Wilderness Adventures In COVID 19 – Our Disclosure and Parent & Participant Commitment

In choosing to attend, or send your child to Wilderness Adventures in 2021, participant (whether minor or adult; “minor” is someone under 18 yrs. of age) and parent or legal guardian (hereafter collectively “parent”) **must acknowledge and agree to do so under the following conditions:**

Because of the unforeseen and unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic, resulting medical, legal and economic conditions and associated international and U.S. federal, state and county restrictions, Wilderness Ventures, LLC, dba Wilderness Adventures (“Wilderness Adventures” or “WA”) was forced to create new and altered programming for 2020/21 and alter its registration, risk management and emergency response policies.

Before attending yourself, or, sending your child to a Wilderness Adventures program during the COVID-19 Pandemic, we want you to clearly understand the changes in our program and policies and importantly, parent’s/participant’s responsibilities. (Participant and parent are sometimes referred to individually or collectively as “you”, “your” or “I”).

Wilderness Adventures Program Reality

1. Wilderness Adventures cannot guaranty safety or a COVID-19 free program environment. The risk of a participant (or anyone else) contracting COVID-19 or any other communicable or contagious disease is an inherent risk of the program environment. Our effort is to manage the risks, including the risks associated with COVID-19, and the parent and participant are critical partners in our effort to manage these risks. Ultimately, we cannot promise or guarantee that the virus that causes COVID-19 or any other pathogen will not enter our program. By the very nature of the personal interaction that takes place in the program environment, there is always a risk of participant (or others) becoming ill with this or any other illness or disease. We want you to be fully aware of this and related risks in making the decision to attend (or allow your child to attend) a WA program. Parent and participant must be willing to accept and assume these and other risks as outlined in the Wilderness Adventures: Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risks & Release and Indemnity Agreement.

2. In light of the uncertain nature of COVID-19, the nature of, start date and continuation of WA programs are subject to abrupt change at any time, including during participant’s program (e.g. altered conditions of participation, participant separation, or program termination). This is a reality with all our programs, but emphasized here, specific to the unique nature of COVID-19.

Risk Management Protocols and Policies – Changes and Consent

Our risk management and emergency response protocols include heightened policies in many facets of the program experience. Some of these policies we will plan and prepare for (see examples below). In other cases, we will remain vigilant about the information we receive and may amend our protocols and policies in real time as the situation dictates. We believe in our ability to operate in a manner that aligns with applicable international, U.S. (CDC) or state and local guidelines or recommendations and our own policies, as we engage in our endeavor to identify and manage COVID-19, and hopefully prevent its presence in our program environment.

Examples of Changes to Our Policies and Your Consent:

1. **All Participants:** Before or upon arrival to a program, participant may be subject to testing and/or other health screening. If the participant does not pass the health screening, WA representatives will be in touch with the family to discuss next steps. See other examples in our ‘What You Can Expect’ section, below.

2. **Higher Risk Participants:** If participant presents as higher risk for complications related to COVID-19, we encourage and support you taking additional precautionary measures including consultation with participant’s healthcare provider to discuss if the WA program is appropriate for participant right now. As always, we will be reaching out to any family to discuss the health concerns of any participant.

3. Participant and Parent Consent: Participant, and parent (for myself, and if my child is a minor, for and on behalf of my child) agree and consent to all screening, monitoring/testing, quarantining, contact tracing or other procedures, requested or required before, during and/or after the program, whether by government authorities or by WA, its contractors, or other businesses participant comes in contact with.

Parent and Participant – WA COVID-19 Commitment

As identified here, our programming has changed to address COVID-19 challenges, but we are determined to provide a fulfilling and fun experience for participants, with your cooperation. When participants arrive at their WA program, we will orient them around COVID-19 precautions and other policies, so they are clear on their role as team players in the risk management equation regarding COVID-19 and other aspects of the program – and, **reinforce the WA COVID-19 Commitment!**

Key to our success will be our partnership with parent and participant. You must understand that the risks of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 transmission to anyone, including parent or participant, can occur both in the WA program community and in your home community as participants arrive to WA programs and return home – with parent's or participant's actions potentially impacting BOTH communities. As a result, participant and parent share in the responsibility for their own and others' well-being – including those in the WA program and your home community. In that regard, we ask that parent and participant **make the WA COVID-19 Commitment** to commit to and honor the COVID-19 precautions not only when participant is on a WA program, but, appropriately, before participant arrives and after participant departs. Participant and parent are then partnering as active risk managers in an effort to assist both communities!

Adult participant/parent: Your partnering includes taking action if you/your child might be ill before program start. If participant is exhibiting symptoms such as a fever, shortness of breath, or any symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases before arrival on program, we ask that they stay home and that you inform us immediately. If participant exhibits these symptoms during the program, we will remove them from their group and we will work with you to make immediate arrangements to get them home. Importantly, if before arriving at WA, participant has been in contact with anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of or who has COVID-19, you must contact us immediately so that we may decide on an appropriate protocol. We may ask that participant be tested with negative COVID-19 results before attending a WA program.

See CDC resource: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

What We Expect and What You Can Expect

Prior to your Spring Gap Program:

- 1. Social distancing:** Immediately preceding the start of your program, we request that all participants follow strict social distancing with anyone outside of their household for 14 days.
- 2. Testing:** We request that all students take a COVID-19 test within 72 hours before departing for your adventure. We kindly ask that you share those results with us. Should a student have tested positive at any time for COVID-19, we ask that you share that information with us.

Upon arrival:

- 3. Health Screening & Testing.** Upon arrival to a program, participant may be subject to a health screening and a COVID-19 test. If the participant does not pass the health screening, WA representatives will be in touch with the family to discuss next steps. We expect our COVID-19 tests results to take a few days, and if a positive test occurs, we will contact the family to discuss next steps.

4. **Enhanced Cleaning Protocols.** Our staff will have increased responsibilities for cleaning and disinfecting all program spaces and program equipment. Examples of this include van cleaning and equipment cleaning.
5. **Increased Safety Measures - Staff and Participants.** Our staff will be taking increased measures to be sensitive to their own - and participants - health and safety. This may include the wearing of personal protective equipment, like masks, temperature checks and also new procedures for how we social distance on programs.
6. **Engaging Programming in Time of COVID-19.** Not all of our programming will be the same as in previous years as we amend activities to meet social distancing standards and other guidance. Additionally, we will break into smaller groups for certain activities during the program. These smaller groups will be key to our successful management of the program offerings. Importantly, we will also be amending our programming so that we have less contact with individuals outside of our programs.
7. **Increased Communication with Families - Updates and Alerts.** In any year, we pride ourselves on communication. Never has this been more important. We will work to maintain open lines of communication with our participants, their families and our staff. We will be in touch with families closer to program start with updates to our COVID-19 policies and other pertinent program information. **In the meantime, please review our COVID-19 resources at <https://www.wildernessadventures.com/covid-19-resources/>.** We will update this link from time to time, as we determine appropriate.

Parent and participant: I acknowledge and agree to the above, and parent and participant agree to discuss this information before the WA program start.

I understand my signature is valid and legally binding whether I choose to electronically sign, or manually sign a printable version of this document.

Participant Signature /Date /Print name here /birthdate

Parent/Guardian Signature /Date /Print name here