

# Rock climbing and caving information

Part of the responsibility of conscientious leaders is to inform participants of risks involved with an activity. We also want you to understand that we would not undertake these activities unless we were satisfied with our level of leadership and with the standards established by leaders in the field of experiential education. It is not our intent to frighten any participants. It is our intent to make certain that all participants in our adventure programs understand fully the risks inherent to these activities.

## **We follow established and published safety standards.**

The *Association for Experiential Education* and *American Camping Association* have established safety standards for camps and outdoor centers running adventure programs. Camp Phillip follows or exceeds the required safety standards for all areas of our adventure programs.

## **Our instructors are experienced and well-trained in safety, first aid, risk management and emergency procedures.**

The staff working with our adventure programs are experienced members of our full-time and summer staff. They have exhibited exemplary leadership in identifying potential safety hazards and minimizing them. All staff assisting with adventure programs have documented experience in outdoor pursuits. Some have attended week-long rock climbing classes; others are Ropes Course Instructors for Camp Phillip. All have received training in first aid and/or CPR.

Other adventure program staff may have additional training in Lifeguarding, Water Safety Instruction, Community First Aid or as First Responders. Our summer paid staff participate in a week-long training program at the beginning of the summer. Staff are prepared for emergencies and participate in simulated emergencies throughout the summer. ***Under the supervision of our trained staff, no camper has been injured on our ropes course or on our caving and rock climbing trips who has required hospitalization of any kind.***

However, please do not enroll in this course if you believe it to be PERFECTLY safe.

IT IS NOT. Nothing is. While your leaders are skilled and experienced, they are unable to guarantee total protection from all risks. You must pay close attention to and follow safety rules, take responsibility for avoiding or minimizing risks and develop a questioning attitude.

**Participation in the rock climbing and caving part of the adventure program is not possible without the “Camp Phillip rock climbing and caving liability release” signed and sent back to Camp Phillip PRIOR to coming to camp.**

# Camp Phillip rock climbing and caving liability release

Camp Phillip W9944 Buttercup Ave Wautoma, WI 54982-7032 Phone 920-787-3202 Fax 920-787-0032

Session                      Dates                      Camper name/s

For each statement, put your initials next to it if you completely understand and accept it. Mail this to camp prior to your arrival. **If a minor is attending a course, both the child and parent need to initial next to each line.**

I have read the *Rock climbing and caving information*.

I understand that for this program the campers will leave Camp Phillip property and travel in a vehicle driven by a Camp Phillip staff member to our rock climbing and caving sites. I give permission for this to occur.

I understand that rock climbing and caving, like any outdoor sport, have inherent risks. Rock climbing involves walking over steep terrain, physical stamina and exposure to physical and mental exertion. It involves climbing vertical rock faces using ropes and other protective devices for safety. Even experienced rock climbers have sustained falls which have caused serious injury, paralyzation and death. Caving involves climbing on rocks and boulders and in narrow passages. Often, rocks are sharp, wet, slippery or muddy and the possibility of slipping and injury exists. If an injury occurs in a cave, evacuation is often lengthy and difficult. Personal safety cannot be guaranteed.

Both rock climbing and caving require vast amounts of energy and physical mobility. Sore knees, scrapes, bumps and bruises are common. Other more serious injuries may occur.

I understand that the trip leaders are experienced in the activities, will take adequate precautions and follow recognized safety standards (such as scouting the caves and climbs; requiring participants to wear helmets; briefing the participants on safety precautions; carrying emergency phone numbers, evacuation plans and first aid supplies; and using only approved and inspected equipment). However, they cannot guarantee the safety of the participants.

I understand that the activities will be taking place in wooded or wilderness-type areas where access to EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and advanced medical care is not immediately available. I release from any liability the sponsoring agency, Camp Phillip and its employees and volunteers, in the event of any accident, damages, injuries or losses en route, during or returning from this event.

I understand and agree to abide by the following policies which apply to all adventure programs:

- 1) Staff and participants must not possess or consume illegal drugs or alcohol during any portion of an adventure experience.
- 2) Under no circumstances will staff members be forced to accept participants who are considered potential dangers to themselves, the group or the staff.
- 3) Because of the potential danger to themselves or other people, those individuals with a history of heart disease or severe emotional disorders are not allowed to participate in adventure programs. Expectant mothers may not participate in high ropes course, caving or rock climbing activities. They may participate in selected low ropes course activities or initiatives.
- 4) If an activity is deemed unsafe because of weather conditions, participant incompetence or other dangers, staff have the authority to alter or stop the activity. Leaders will strive to provide alternative activities (such as indoor rock climbing or working on the low ropes course). We cannot refund money because of switched or canceled activities due to any of the reasons mentioned above.
- 5) All activities are at the discretion of the staff and with the informed consent and free choice of the individuals participating.

My signature indicates an understanding and agreement with this information.

Camper's signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's signature

Date