



Program Prep Package: Big Canoe Charter

Where do we meet? Please meet us in front of the main Campground Office (just inside the yellow gate) at Cumberland Lake Park Campground, 1100 Comox Lake Road.

What time should we arrive? Please meet us at the scheduled start time. Your guides will be busy preparing the canoes prior to your visit, so please contact us if you need assistance before the scheduled start time.

When do we hand in our signed waivers? Fully completed LPS waivers for every participant, including minors, must be handed in at the start of your program. Waivers for minors require parent or guardian signatures. We recommend signing them before your visit, but will have them available to sign at the program start as well.

What should we bring? Please ensure that each participant packs all of the items included in our "What To Bring" list, which is attached in this document. Preparedness for weather and/or activities will have a big impact on our program choices - please take this seriously!

What if the weather is "bad"? Do everything possible to prepare for weather, rain or shine! Our route will be dependent on weather (especially winds). Please be prepared for our plans to adjust accordingly. LPS staff will be keeping a close eye on the forecast, and if it seems unsafe, your program will be adjusted or rescheduled. Our staff will contact you via the phone number provided if your program needs to be canceled due to weather. This may happen the evening before or morning of your program. No news is good news.

What if I have to cancel our program? Please contact us as soon as possible. If canceling with less than 3 days notice, please *also* phone our campground office at (250) 702-8833 and leave a detailed message. See our [Terms of Service](#) for more information about our cancellation policy.



How many people can we bring?

Langley (Voyageur) Canoes: These are our standard canoes unless otherwise specified.

- Single canoe: Maximum 13 people, minimum 8
- Two canoes: Maximum 26 people, minimum 15

Pacific Dancer Canoes

- Single canoe: Maximum 17 people, minimum 9
- Two canoes: Maximum 34 people, minimum 18

Are there bathrooms? There are single-stall (wheelchair-accessible and gender-inclusive) pit toilets (outhouses) at several locations in the park. There are flush toilets (both wheelchair-accessible gendered washrooms as well as a wheelchair-accessible gender-neutral single-stall “family” washroom) beside the concession, available from May 1st to September 30th.

Our schedule will include opportunities to use the bathroom. When away from the main campground area, there are no pit toilets. Participants are welcome to take a “nature pee” if needed. Staff carry a simple “nature pee” bathroom kit and can coach leave-no-trace practices to support this.

Can we go swimming? No. Our staff are not lifeguards and cannot supervise swimming during the canoe tour.

Will I get wet? On a typical canoe charter, it is unlikely you will get wet. You may be splashed accidentally by other paddlers while in the canoes, some water can accumulate on the bottom of the canoe, and your feet may get wet entering and exiting the canoes. You should be okay with anything you bring getting wet, just in case. See the “What to Bring” list attached in this document for more information.

What about safety? Safety is our top priority. Our protocols meet or exceed industry standards; instructors are first aid and Paddle Canada certified. All participants wear properly fitted PFDs, and safety instructions are provided before launching. The park maintains a Wildlife/Danger Tree program and programs only occur in suitable weather.



Planning Your Canoe Charter: Important Considerations

The **Big Canoe Charter** always includes safety gear, paddling equipment, and a brief paddling lesson. Your LPS skippers will steer the canoe and provide safety guidance throughout the tour.

Your group can choose one of the following approaches:

1) No additional content

Your LPS skippers will focus solely on steering and safety support. This option leaves ample time for your group to facilitate your own discussions, activities, or learning—either on the water or during shoreline stops. It can be a casual social outing, a structured learning session, or anything in between.

2) Guided interpretive tour

Your LPS skippers will lead a guided interpretive experience on Comox Lake, sharing stories and insights about the area's past and present.

When booking your tour, you will be able to select which approach best suits your group.

There is flexibility in the schedule for your day. In general, we try to:

- Spend no more than an hour in the canoe at a time, to give paddlers opportunities for bathroom breaks and movement breaks.
- Spend no more than 20-30 minutes paddling continuously to allow for a rest and water break. Consider stopping for a group break on the water while listening to a story, mindfulness moment or conversation.
- Stop in a sheltered location for learning and discussion on the water if desired (weather permitting).
- Schedule time for canoe loading/unloading. It typically takes 15 minutes to load the canoes and 10 minutes to unload them.
- Break up your paddle with a mid-way beach landing. There are a few nice locations to unload the canoes about 30-45 minutes paddle from the launch site. They are remote locations with no services or road access, and landing is dependent on water levels and weather conditions. Your guides can give recommendations on the day.



General 2.5 to 3 Hour Schedule

Grey items are optional

Elapsed Time	Location	Activity	Duration	Content
0:00	Main Office	Meet LPS Guides	15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome paddlers ➤ Collect waivers/consent forms ➤ LPS welcomes and shares housekeeping ➤ Last chance for water bottle fills and bathrooms
?		Optional Intro.	?	➤ Optional introduction or welcome by group lead
0:15	Campground Beach	Load Canoes / Skipper Talk	20 min	➤ How to enter and exit the canoe, basic safety and paddling skills.
0:35	Comox Lake	Paddle	30-90 mins	➤ Destination will depend on group needs and weather conditions and can be determined at the start of the program. Typical destinations include Coal Beach, Perseverance Creek, Whyte's Bay and Devil's Ladder.
2:05	Campground Beach	Unload Canoes	15 min	➤ Unloading takes time!
2:20	Main Office	Wrap Up	10 mins	➤ Conclude program and return gear
?		Optional Conclusion	?	➤ Optional conclusion or wrap up by group lead. Coordinate with LPS guides if time is required.
2:30		End	-	➤ Conclusion of program, staff pack away gear



Hello!

We are excited for your upcoming big canoe charter with Lake Park Society. Please review the following information to prepare for your visit.

Who is Lake Park Society (LPS)? LPS is a non-profit that aims to “create wonder and connection through outdoor experiences,” offering community programs and subsidized, nature-based school programs. Your child(ren) might also enjoy our summer camps! More information is available on our website:

<https://cumberlandlakepark.ca/programs/school-programs/>.

What about Safety? Safety is our top priority. Our protocols meet or exceed industry standards; instructors are first aid and Paddle Canada certified. Canoes are typically lashed together for stability, all participants wear properly fitted PFDs, and safety instructions are provided before launching. The park maintains a Wildlife/Danger Tree program and programs only occur in suitable weather.

How can you prepare?

- 1) Ensure that you pack according to our “**What to Bring**” list, which is attached on the next page.
- 2) Please also complete the attached Lake Park Society **Release of Liability form** (adults) or **Informed Consent form (for minors)** and bring it with you; all signature lines/boxes must be signed or initialled by a parent/guardian and witnessed by another adult (child signatures are optional). We will also have paper copies available to sign when you arrive.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare for this fun day!

Sincerely,
Lake Park Society



What to Bring: Big Canoe Charter

While LPS will provide safety equipment and group gear, we rely on each participant to arrive prepared. This will help ensure that we have a fun day together! We will be spending the full day outside, rain or shine. It is often colder at Cumberland Lake Park than other parts of the Comox Valley. There are limited covered spaces, and no heated spaces. Please review the list below, and pack accordingly. We also encourage you to review this [“What to Wear for Outdoor Teaching and Learning”](#) graphic (credit: Child and Nature Alliance of Canada).

Each participant must have:

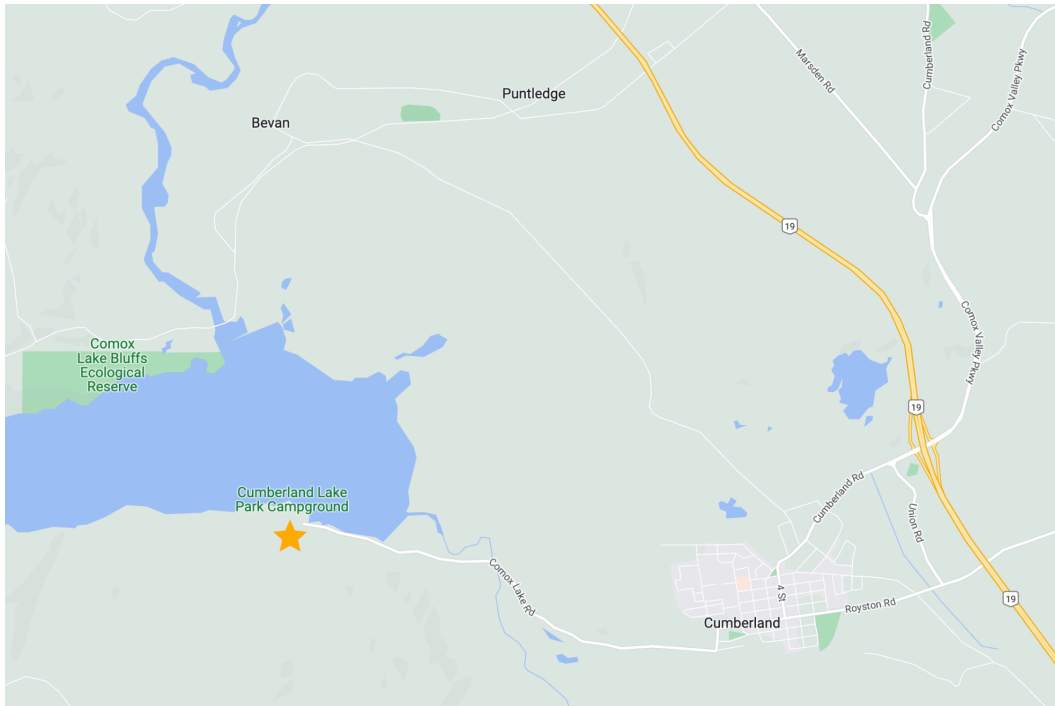
- Fully completed **consent form** (informed consent form for minors, waiver for adults)
- A comfortable and appropriately-sized **backpack**
- A **rain jacket** (*down jackets are not usually waterproof)
- Rain pants** (*these make a HUGE difference in a wet forest or canoe ride!)
- Comfortable, **closed-toe shoes** that you can hike, run, play, and get wet in.
- Clothes that can get adventurous** and come home dirty
- Warm layers** (*preferably wool or fleece - cotton gets cold when wet!)
- A full, **750+ mL water bottle**.
- A **snack**.
- A **warm hat and warm gloves** on cold days (even if it is sunny!)
- Sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat with a brim** on hot days
- Any necessary **medication(s) or other personal items**. Participants with any known anaphylactic allergy must bring an **EpiPen**, stored in a waterproof container/bag.

Please don't bring:

- Electronic devices** such as phones and cameras (unless in a waterproof case or bag)
- Lifejackets/PFDs**. Lake Park Society will provide approved PFDs/lifejackets, as well as all necessary canoe and safety equipment.

Site Maps

Find us at Cumberland Lake Park, marked by the gold star below:



Our meeting location is the main Campground Office located on the right after you drive through the first yellow gate.



LPS Waivers

A completed informed consent form (for minors) or release form (for adults) must be provided for each participant before the start of the program. Any participants who arrive without completed consent forms will not be able to take part in the program. Waivers must be witnessed to be considered complete.

Links to our informed consent forms (for minors) and waivers (for adults) are included below. Please:

- Print the forms (double sided if possible),
- Bring completed forms for all participants on the morning of your program.
- We will also have forms available at the start of the program

You may download and print them by following the links below:

[Informed Consent, Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk \(For Minors\)](#)

[Release Voluntary Assumption of Risk \(For Adults\)](#)

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS – FOR ADULTS

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT (referred to as the "Release Agreement")

WARNING: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING!
**THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDES A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND WAIVER OF CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS,
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE OR CLAIM COMPENSATION**

INITIAL

This Release Agreement must be fully completed and signed before participants are allowed to enter land or premises owned or operated by Cumberland Lake Park Society

Participant Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

To: Cumberland Lake Park Society, and to its officers, directors, shareholders, employees, representatives, independent contractors, volunteers, agents, insurers, and assigns (the "Releasees")

DEFINITION: In this Release Agreement the term "Activities" includes all activities, programs, events, and services that are provided, arranged, organized, conducted, sponsored, or authorized by any of the Releasees, and includes, without limitation, any and all: use of the Cumberland Lake Park Campground located at 1100 Comox Lake Road, Cumberland BC, V0R 1S0; use of Comox Lake; backpacking; camping; hiking; running; jumping; climbing; fire building; shelter building, trail building, clearing and maintenance; swimming; kayaking; canoeing; stand up paddle boarding; orientation; instructional and skills development programs; training; transportation or travel to and from locations used for the Activities and all other such activities, programs, events, and services, that are in any way connected with or related to any of the foregoing.

1. **ASSUMPTION OF RISKS:** I acknowledge that my participation in the Activities involves certain inherent risks, dangers, and hazards, which can result in personal injury including death, property damage, and other loss. Risks, dangers, and hazards may include but are not limited to:
- a) slipping and falling;
 - b) overturning a kayak, canoe, stand up paddle board, or other water craft;
 - c) exposure to very cold water;
 - d) variation in the water conditions, surfaces and currents, including high waves, and river currents;
 - e) changing and inclement weather conditions including storms, high wind and lightning;
 - f) equipment failure, the use of inadequate or inappropriate equipment, and the use of improperly prepared or adjusted equipment;
 - g) steep slopes in their natural state that may contain obstacles and hazards, and terrain that may not have been traveled on or climbed before and is not regularly patrolled or inspected;
 - h) variation in terrain including holes, depressions, loose gravel, rocks, mud, roots, deadfall, rocks, or other natural or man-made objects on or adjacent to the trails;
 - i) exposure to fire;
 - j) encounters with wild and domestic animals;
 - k) becoming lost or separated from the Releasees or other participants;
 - l) failing to act safely, or within one's own ability, or to stay within designated areas;
 - m) failing to read and comply with signage, or with any of the Releasees' instructions;
 - n) the proximity of medical care which may or may not be readily available;
 - o) theft, vandalism, and loss of personal property;
 - p) negligence of participants, instructors, and bystanders; and
 - q) **NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES, INCLUDING FAILURE TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS OF ENGAGING IN THE ACTIVITIES.**

INITIAL I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT THE ABOVE LIST IS NOT INCLUSIVE OF ALL POSSIBLE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACTIVITIES. I HAVE INFORMED MYSELF TO MY OWN SATISFACTION OF THE NATURE OF THOSE INHERENT RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS AND I FREELY ACCEPT AND FULLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, DANGERS, AND

HAZARDS, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR OTHER LOSS RESULTING THEREFROM.

2. **WAIVER AND RELEASE:** I AGREE, TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS THAT I HAVE OR MAY IN THE FUTURE HAVE AGAINST THE RELEASEES, AND TO RELEASE THE RELEASEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, OR INJURY (INCLUDING DEATH) THAT I OR MY NEXT OF KIN MAY SUFFER AS A RESULT OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES, DUE TO ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE CLAIMS BASED ON ANY OF THE RELEASEES' ALLEGED OR ACTUAL:

- a) NEGLIGENCE, INCLUDING FAILURE ON THE PART OF ANY OF THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS OF THE ACTIVITIES;
- b) BREACH OF ANY CONTRACT OR WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED; AND/OR
- c) BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE, INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE UNDER THE BRITISH COLUMBIA OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT.

INITIAL

3. **INDEMNITY:** I AGREE TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES FOR ALL LIABILITY AND CLAIMS, INCLUDING ALL JUDGMENTS, DEMANDS, SETTLEMENTS, COSTS, AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING LAWYERS' FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS), WHETHER ARISING IN WHOLE OR IN PART FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES, OR FROM ANY MISREPRESENTATION OR FRAUDULENT EXECUTION OF THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT ON MY PART.

INITIAL

- 4. **MY REPRESENTATIONS:** I represent that I have the experience required to participate safely in the Activities and that I have no known physical or mental condition which would impair my capability for full participation in the Activities.
- 5. **PROMISE TO OBEY RULES:** I confirm that I will obey any and all guidelines, rules, and regulations which govern my participation in the Activities, as established by the Releasees from time to time.
- 6. **MEDIA RELEASE:** I give/I do not give (*circle one*) the Releasees permission to use and/or reproduce all digital media taken of, or including me, and/or information gathered about or including me, including any agency, clients, publication or other organization or institution, in all forms of media, for distribution to the general public for the purposes of publicity and promotion.
- 7. **NO ALCOHOL, CANNABIS, OR OTHER DRUGS:** I acknowledge that alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs, both prescribed and non-prescribed, have the capacity to impair judgment and reduce my ability to effectively manage risks. Consuming alcohol, cannabis, or other drugs prior to or while participating in the Activities is strictly prohibited.
- 8. **AMENDMENTS:** I agree that this Release Agreement may only be amended by a duly executed written agreement between myself and the Releasees, and this Release Agreement shall not be affected or altered by any prior or subsequent oral or written representation made by the Releasees or anyone acting on their behalf, and that in giving this Release Agreement I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statement made by anyone, including the Releasees or anyone acting on their behalf.

I CONFIRM THAT I AM AT LEAST THE FULL AGE OF 19 YEARS. I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS RELEASE AGREEMENT AND I AM AWARE THAT BY SIGNING IT I AM WAIVING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS WHICH I OR MY HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, ASSIGNS, AND REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE AGAINST THE RELEASEES.

Participant Signature

WITNESS SIGNATURE AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Declared before me at _____, BC this _____ day _____ of 20__	Witness Name: _____
Witness Signature _____	Witness Address: _____
	Witness Phone: _____

OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS – FOR MINORS

For participants under the age of 19 - To be completed by parent/legal guardian and participant

	INFORMED CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM (referred to as the "Consent and Acknowledgement Form")
PARTICIPANT INITIALS	
	WARNING: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING!
PARENT/ GUARDIAN INITIALS	

The choice to participate in any program or activity offered by Cumberland Lake Park Society is made freely and with understanding of the associated benefits, risks, and responsibilities.

This Consent and Acknowledgement Form must be fully completed and signed before participants are allowed to enter land or premises owned or operated by Cumberland Lake Park Society

Participant Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Date of Birth: _____

To: Cumberland Lake Park Society, and to its officers, directors, shareholders, employees, representatives, independent contractors, volunteers, agents, insurers, and assigns (the "Releasees")

DEFINITION: In this Consent and Acknowledgement Form the term "Activities" includes all activities, programs, events, and services that are provided, arranged, organized, conducted, sponsored, or authorized by any of the Releasees, and includes, without limitation, any and all: use of the Cumberland Lake Park Campground located at 1100 Comox Lake Road, Cumberland BC, V0R 1S0; use of Comox Lake; backpacking; camping; hiking; running; jumping; climbing; fire building; shelter building, trail building, clearing and maintenance; swimming; kayaking; canoeing; stand up paddle boarding; orientation; instructional and skills development programs; training; transportation or travel to and from locations used for the Activities and all other such activities, programs, events, and services, that are in any way connected with or related to any of the foregoing.

	1. <u>DISCLAIMER:</u> THE RELEASEES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, OR INJURY SUFFERED BY A PARTICIPANT DURING OR AS A RESULT OF THE ACTIVITIES, DUE TO ANY CAUSE WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE CLAIMS BASED ON ANY OF THE RELEASEES' ALLEGED OR ACTUAL:
	a) NEGLIGENCE, INCLUDING FAILURE ON THE PART OF ANY OF THE RELEASEES TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT THE PARTICIPANT FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS OF THE ACTIVITIES;
PARTICIPANT	b) BREACH OF ANY CONTRACT OR WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED; AND/OR
PARENT/ GUARDIAN INITIALS	c) BREACH OF ANY STATUTORY OR OTHER DUTY OF CARE, INCLUDING ANY DUTY OF CARE UNDER THE BRITISH COLUMBIA OCCUPIERS LIABILITY ACT.

2. **NO REPRESENTATIONS:** We acknowledge and agree that the Releasees make no representations regarding the safety of the Activities or regarding whether the Activities are appropriate for the Participant to undertake.

3. **VOLUNTARY ASSUMPTION OF RISKS:** We acknowledge and agree that participation in the Activities involves certain inherent risks, dangers, and hazards, which can result in personal injury, death, property damage, and other loss. Risks, dangers, and hazards may include but are not limited to:

- a) slipping and falling;
- b) overturning a kayak, canoe, stand up paddle board, or other water craft;
- c) exposure to very cold water;
- d) variation in the water conditions, surfaces and currents, including high waves, and river currents;
- e) changing and inclement weather conditions including storms, high wind and lightning;
- f) equipment failure, the use of inadequate or inappropriate equipment, and the use of improperly prepared or adjusted equipment;
- g) steep slopes in their natural state that may contain obstacles and hazards, and terrain that may not have been

- h) traveled on or climbed before and is not regularly patrolled or inspected;
- h) variation in terrain including holes, depressions, loose gravel, rocks, mud, roots, deadfall, rocks, or other natural or man-made objects on or adjacent to the trails;
- i) exposure to fire;
- j) encounters with wild and domestic animals;
- k) becoming lost or separated from the Releasees or other participants;
- l) failing to act safely, or within one's own ability, or to stay within designated areas;
- m) failing to read and comply with signage, or with any of the Releasees' instructions;
- n) the proximity of medical care which may or may not be readily available;
- o) theft, vandalism, and loss of personal property;
- p) negligence of participants, instructors, and bystanders; and
- q) **NEGLIGENCE ON THE PART OF THE RELEASEES, INCLUDING FAILURE TO TAKE REASONABLE STEPS TO SAFEGUARD OR PROTECT ME FROM THE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS OF ENGAGING IN THE ACTIVITIES.**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT THE ABOVE LIST IS NOT INCLUSIVE OF ALL POSSIBLE RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS

PARTICIPANT	ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE INFORMED OURSELVES TO OUR OWN SATISFACTION OF THE NATURE OF THOSE INHERENT RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS AND WE FREELY ACCEPT AND FULLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, DANGERS, AND HAZARDS, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR LOSS RESULTING THEREFROM.
PARENT/ GUARDIAN	

4. **PARTICIPANT'S CONDUCT:** We represent, acknowledge, and agree that:
- a) the Participant has the experience required to participate safely in the Activities and that the Participant has no known physical or mental condition which would impair their capability for full participation in the Activities;
 - b) we are solely responsible for assessing whether any of Activities are too difficult for the Participant, and by the Participant commencing any of the Activities, we acknowledge and accept the suitability and conditions of those Activities;
 - c) the Participant's risk of injury is reduced if the Participant follows all rules established for participation;
 - d) the Participant's risk of injury increases as the Participant becomes fatigued;
 - e) if the Participant observes an unusual or significant hazard or risk, the Participant will remove themselves immediately from participation and bring such to the attention of a representative of the Releasees; and
 - f) the Participant will obey any and all guidelines, rules, and regulations which govern their participation in the Activities, as established by the Releasees from time to time.
5. **MEDIA RELEASE:** We give/We do not give (*circle one*) the Releasees permission to use and/or reproduce all digital media taken of, or including the Participant, and/or information gathered about or including the Participant, including any agency, clients, publication or other organization or institution, in all forms of media, for distribution to the general public for the purposes of publicity and promotion.
6. **NO ALCOHOL, CANNABIS, OR OTHER DRUGS:** We acknowledge that alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs, both prescribed and non-prescribed, have the capacity to impair judgment and reduce the Participant's ability to effectively manage risks. Consuming alcohol, cannabis, or other drugs prior to or while participating in the Activities is strictly prohibited.

We declare that we have read, understand, and agree with this Consent and Acknowledgment Form:

Parent/Legal Guardian Last Name: _____ First Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Telephone: _____	Relationship to Participant: _____
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____	Participant Signature: _____

WITNESSED BY AN ADULT (Not the Signing Parent/Legal Guardian)

Declared before me at the city of _____, BC this ____ day of _____ 20 ____ _____ Witness Signature	Witness Name: _____ Witness Address: _____ _____ Witness Phone: _____
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