

Participant Acknowledgement of Risks WESTERN RIVER EXPEDITIONS

In consideration of the services of Western River Expeditions, its agents, owners, officers, volunteers, participants, sister or subsidiary corporations, employees, sales agents, subcontractors and all other persons or entities acting in any capacity on their behalf (hereinafter collectively "W.R.E."). I hereby agree as follows:

1. **Inherent Risks:** I acknowledge that any **water related activity** such as rafting entails known and unanticipated risks that could result in physical or emotional injury, death, or damage to myself, to property, or to third parties. I understand and acknowledge that the enjoyment and excitement of adventure activities is derived in part from inherent risks incurred by activity beyond the accepted safety of life at home or in my normal day to day activities and that these inherent risks contribute to my enjoyment and excitement and are an integral reason for my participation in this activity. I understand that such risks simply cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity. I also understand and acknowledge that failing to use or properly use safety equipment increases my risk of injury or of not surviving an accident or incident while rafting. The inherent risks associated with the rafting trip in which I am about to participate include, but are not limited to: encountering whitewater rapids and changing water flows and the possibility that I will be jolted, jarred, bounced, thrown to and fro and shaken about during rides through some of these rapids or changing water flows; it is possible that I could be injured if I come in contact with food boxes, oars/paddles, other storage containers, or other fixed equipment necessary to the operation or outfitting of the raft; I recognize there may be foot cups or foot holds in watercraft which may assist in stabilizing or holding myself or others in the watercraft but which may present an increased risk of knee, ankle or other injury as a result of restricted movement; the raft may break down or be faulty; it is possible that loss of control of the raft could occur resulting in collision or capsizing or sinking and that if a raft turns over or flips I could be "washed" overboard; rafts are slippery when wet and are naturally unstable so that I could slip and fall or be knocked out of the raft even in flat or non-moving water; while in the water I may become disoriented, panicked and/or experience trauma from rocks, boulders, etc.; I can slip or fall during hiking or portaging or getting to and from the raft and I understand that the areas in which I might hike sometimes hide dangerous obstacles such as tree wells, tree stumps, creeks, rocks and boulders, forest dead fall, etc.; the raft or any portion of it may collide with or encounter other rafts, man-made or natural objects including submerged or semi-submerged trees, rocks, branches, boulders, bridges, etc.; accidents can occur getting on and off the raft; changing weather conditions, storms or even lightning are possible; exposure to the natural elements can be uncomfortable and/or harmful and I am aware that this exposure could cause sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat cramps or fatigue, some or all of which may diminish my or the other participants' ability to react or respond; I understand that prolonged exposure to cold water can result in "cold water immersion" syndrome or "cold shock," hypothermia and in extreme cases death; I may encounter dangerous wildlife, insects, etc.; communication in the river terrain in which this activity occurs is always difficult and in the event of an accident, rescue and medical treatment may not be immediately available. **I acknowledge that I AM ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE for my own safety during my participation in W.R.E. events/activities.**

I specifically acknowledge also that W.R.E. activities may involve camping in rustic and rugged situations which may present "comfort style" issues for which I accept responsibility. I acknowledge that food preparation is an integral part of these activities and that I and other participants may be eating in the outdoors or community style environments and that some of the food may not be to my liking; there may be errors in food storage or preparation that could cause my dissatisfaction and/or illness; I acknowledge my responsibility to inform W.R.E. of any specific food related allergies. Water purification systems may or may not be used and/or may or may not function correctly; I specifically acknowledge that, in the event I choose to consume alcohol during my trip, I will bear complete responsibility for myself and for any damages I may cause to W.R.E., its property or to other guests. I acknowledge that my time at W.R.E. events/activities may require me to use equipment (IE – tents, stoves, water filtration, etc.) that I might not be familiar with and will require me to interact with other guests and participants with whom I am also unfamiliar; any of these things can cause my discomfort and stress and have inherent risks. I acknowledge that I could be left alone, unsupervised and/or out of contact with a guide/staff person for extended periods of time. I acknowledge that there are numerous other issues I may encounter, such as campfires and latrine issues which, while they seem open and obvious, also have inherent risks associated with them.

I acknowledge that I may choose to participate in activities that are provided by **other vendors or operators** (i.e. buses, flights, helicopters) over which W.R.E. has no control. Those activities are incidental to the activities provided by W.R.E. and may involve errors in judgment by the other vendors or operators for which W.R.E. can bear no liability. W.R.E. is **not a "Common Carrier"** but rather is in the business of providing rafting or adventure type trips. Transportation to and from the activity is incidental to the activity. Transport by car, bus or van, in some instances, may be provided by W.R.E. and may involve errors in judgment by W.R.E. staff operating the vans, buses, cars or other transport vehicles. The vehicles and transport trailers may malfunction, break down or be poorly maintained, causing injury, accidents, delays or in the extreme case, death. Furthermore, **W.R.E. Guides have difficult jobs to perform.** They seek safety, but they are not infallible. They might be ignorant of a participant's fitness or abilities. They might misjudge the weather, the elements, or the terrain. They may give inadequate warnings or instructions and/or I as the participant may fail to understand the safety directions due to language issues. I specifically acknowledge that decisions made by guides/staff and participants are often made in wilderness/remote/dangerous settings and are made based on often imprecise, momentary and subjective perceptions so that decisions are subject to errors in judgment that cannot and should not be associated with fault at a later point in time.

2. **Express Assumption of Risk:** As lawful consideration for being allowed to participate in activities offered by W.R.E., I expressly agree and promise on behalf of myself and any of the children for which I am responsible, to accept and assume all the risks existing in this activity. My/our participation in this activity is purely voluntary, and I/we elect to participate in spite of the risks. I/we expressly agree and acknowledge that the terms and conditions of this Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, Assumption of Risks and Indemnity Agreement are contractual in nature and that I/we are signing it of our own free will.

3. **Personal Skill & Insurance:** I certify on behalf of myself and any of the children for which I am responsible that I/we have sufficient skill and fitness to participate in the activities offered by W.R.E. I further certify that I/we have no medical, mental or physical conditions which could interfere with my/our safety or ability to participate in these activities, or else I/we are willing to assume and bear the cost of all risks that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition. I/we further certify that I/we have adequate insurance to cover any injury, damage or emergency transportation or search and rescue costs I/we may cause or suffer while participating, or else agree to bear the costs of such injury, damage or emergency transportation costs ourselves.

4. **Medical Issues:** I agree on behalf of myself and any of the children for which I am responsible that, in the event that W.R.E. deems it necessary to administer emergency first aid or CPR or to remove me/us from its activities or premises or from the field or to seek emergency medical care for me/us that, by signing this document, I/we are giving W.R.E. permission to: administer emergency first aid or CPR, secure emergency transport or medical care and/or disclose any medical information it may have about me/us to any health care provider which may become involved in my/our care, treatment or removal from the field. By signing this document I/we are waiving any right to object to or bring any type of action or claim against W.R.E. for its administration of emergency first aid or CPR or for securing emergency transport or medical care and/or for the disclosure of personal medical information it may have about me/us to any health related person who becomes involved in my/our care or removal from W.R.E. activities or the field.

5. **Photographic Assignment:** I understand that the W.R.E. reserves the right to take photographic or film (of whatsoever nature) records of any or all of its activities or trips and on behalf of myself and any of the children for which I am responsible I/we hereby agree that W.R.E. may use such records for promotional and/or commercial purposes without any remuneration to me. I/we hereby assign all right, title and interest I/we may have in or to any and all media in which my name or likeness might be used by W.R.E.

6. **Release as Contract and Personal Capacity:** On behalf of myself and any of the children for which I am responsible I expressly agree and acknowledge that the terms and conditions of this Assumption of Risks Agreement are contractual in nature and that I/we are signing it of my/our own free will. I/we expressly acknowledge that I/we are not under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of my/our signing of this document and that there are no other impediments or reasons why I/we would lack the capacity to enter into this contract with W.R.E.

By signing this document, I acknowledge for myself and any of the children for which I am responsible that if anyone is hurt or property is damaged during my participation in this activity, I/we may be found by a court of law to have waived my/our right to maintain a lawsuit against W.R.E. on the basis of any claim from which I/we have released them herein. I/WE HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT (TWO PAGES). I/WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD IT, AND I/WE AGREE TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS.

Participant Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Phone: _____ Today's Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Reservation / Confirmation Number: _____

Parents or Guardians Additional Signature (Must be completed for participants under 18 years of age)

I/we represent that I/we have complete and absolute authority to bind, contract for and legally act on behalf of the minor child listed below; I/we believe and represent that I/we have the legal authority to sign this Agreement. I/we understand and acknowledge that W.R.E. relies to its detriment on this representation/agreement. In consideration of my child or ward ("Minor") being permitted by W.R.E. to participate in its programs or activities, I further agree to hold harmless W.R.E. and assume all risks from any/all claims which are brought by, or on behalf of Minor, and which are in any way connected with Minor's use or participation.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code: _____