

## **Aldo Leopold Charter School Acknowledgement of Risks**

In consideration of the services of Aldo Leopold Charter School, its agents, founders, employees (faculty and staff), Governing Council members and their officers, contractors, and all other persons or entities associated with it (collectively referred to as "ALCS"), I agree as follows:

Although ALCS has taken reasonable steps to provide my student with appropriate equipment and skilled staff for the course so s/he can enjoy an activity for which s/he may not be skilled, I acknowledge that this activity has risks, including certain risks which 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, disability or death. I understand that ALCS does not want to frighten me or reduce my student's 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 associated with some school activities. The following describes some, but not all of those risks.

ALCS outdoor trip participants live, camp and travel out of doors, where they are subject to numerous risks, environmental and otherwise. Activities vary from course to course, and include hiking, often with frequent river crossings, backpacking, water travel, and outdoor travel at significant altitude. ALCS trips often occur in remote places. At times, we may travel more than a day's journey from medical facilities. Communication and transportation are difficult and sometimes evacuations and medical care may be significantly delayed.

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

Travel is by vehicles including school bus, bicycle, skis, boat/kayak and foot over rugged, unpredictable off-trail terrain, including boulder fields, downed timber, rivers, river crossings, high mountain passes, snow fields, steep slopes, and slippery rocks. Attendant risks include collision, falling, drowning, and others usually associated with such travel, as well as environmental risks.

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



Decisions are made by the instructors and students in a wilderness setting, based on a variety of perceptions and evaluations which by their nature are imprecise and subject to errors in judgment. Students are required to be certified in First Aid specific to wilderness conditions and in CPR. Throughout the course, students are responsible for their own safety and for the safety of other members of their course.

I am aware that ALCS trips include risks of injury or death to my student. I understand the description above 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 student's involvement with ALCS is purely voluntary, no one is forcing my student to participate, and I choose to have my student participate in spite of and with full knowledge of the inherent risks.

I acknowledge that my student's participation in these trips may require a degree of skill and knowledge different from other activities and that my student has responsibilities as a participant. I acknowledge that the faculty of ALCS has been available to more fully explain to me the nature and physical demands of these activities and the inherent risks, hazards, and dangers associated with these activities.

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**Acknowledgement of Risks  
For the Parent**

Since my student is under 18, I am signing as a parent or guardian to reflect my agreement to indemnify (that is, protect by payment or reimbursement) ALCS and its representatives from any claim which may be brought by or on behalf of the student, or any member of the student's family, for injury or loss resulting from those inherent risks of the course, described and not described above, and from the negligence of the student:

**Acknowledgement of Risks  
For the Student**

I represent that I am fully capable of participating in ALCS activities without causing harm to myself or others. Therefore, I, and my parent(s) or guardian, if I am a minor, assume and accept full responsibility for me and for injury 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 inherent 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.

*Please sign the Policy, Permissions, and Agreements Checklist in the Registration Packet.*

