

## **ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS for SUNY Potsdam Leadership and Challenge Center**

**SUNY POTSDAM** has done everything possible to assure that our participants experience a rewarding experience. We wish to inform our participants that climbing wall and ropes course activities are not risk free. The same elements that contribute to the unique character and fun of these activities such as the physical exertion or the height can cause loss or damage to equipment, injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. We do not want to heighten or reduce your enthusiasm for the experience, but we do want you to know in advance what to expect, and to be informed of the some of the possible risks. We ask that you read this, sign it, and return it to the course instructor.

### **CLIMBING WALL AND ROPES COURSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK**

Climbing walls and ropes courses, like many recreation activities, are hazardous. The obvious accidents that occur in climbing/ropes courses are falls while climbing. Whenever you fall you may fall only a few feet or all the way to the ground. As you fall you may hit objects or the wall/ropes course that are in your path. If the rope catches your fall, the jolt from the rope may cause injury. In the case of lead climbing this jolt may have more of an impact on the body. Falling to the ground may cause serious injury from any height. Participants who choose to lead climb need to understand that falls may be greater and more intense. Also, participants may experience exhaustion or tiredness from the course or climbing. A large amount of physical exertion will be required.

In addition to the hazards of falling, you may be hit by objects falling off the wall/ropes course. Holds, climbing equipment and even people may fall and hit you as you are standing at the base or while climbing.

Participants will wear a harness and tie into ropes. This system is designed as a safety system. However, a slip/fall in a harness can be painful. Participants may experience a jolt and a tightening of the harness. Sitting or hanging in a harness for a period of time may be uncomfortable. Participants may experience rope burns or cuts from the ropes, cables, logs, etc., traveling through the hands or over parts of the body.

Equipment may fail. Climbing/ropes equipment is tested before use, however the extreme conditions of the environment in which climbing/ropes equipment is used in conjunction with the damages caused by the wall/ropes course can cause climbing/ropes equipment to fail. Improper use of the equipment, or not properly tying in will result in injury. The climbing hold may spin or break. As you climb you may pull out protection from the wall or it may become unclipped. SUNY Potsdam's Leadership and Challenge Center will not be liable for any injuries that occur, caused by the use of personal gear, of either your own or of another participant.

The list of possible accidents stated above may inflict bodily injury, disease, strains, fractures, partial, and/or total paralysis, death or other ailments that could cause serious disability. It is also possible that some participants would suffer mental anguish or trauma from the experience or their injuries. Lead climbing can create a greater risk of injury during a potential fall, especially head injuries for both the climber and belayer, due to the nature of the activity. This list is not an exclusive or exhaustive list of possible injuries, trauma or accidents that may occur while climbing. Most of these injuries are rare and you are not likely to encounter them, however they have occurred and you need to know about them and other possible injuries not mentioned above. These injuries occur more often when the participants are using drugs or alcohol or are not physically able to undertake the activity. You need to understand that your involvement and participation in this activity is voluntary. You have the right and you must notify us if you do not want to participate in any or all of the activities. Do not allow your friends or other participants to influence your decision to participate or not participate. If at any time you are unsure, frightened, or unable to proceed please notify us at once and we will assist you in coming off the wall/ropes course.

**Remember! This is a voluntary activity and it is your decision to participate or not.**

For and in consideration of being permitted to participate in the SUNY Potsdam's Leadership and Challenge Center (the "SPLCC") along with lead climbing activities sponsored by the SUNY Potsdam, I agree, on behalf of myself, my family, heirs, and personal representatives, to assume all the risks and responsibilities of my participation in the SPLCC activities. I acknowledge the activities associated with the SPLCC (which include but are not limited to bouldering [un-roped climbing], indoor rock climbing, lead climbing [climbing above ones' protection], high-rope course elements and low rope course elements have inherent risks, hazards and dangers. I also acknowledged that lead climbing by its very nature is more risky than top roping. I have been fully and completely apprised of the actual and potential risks inherent in the SPLCC activities which include, but are not limited to property damage, personal injury and **death** arising from my participation in the activities as well as the risks associated with traveling to and from any off-campus site of the SPLCC. By signing below, I am asserting that I am knowingly and voluntarily assuming such risks.

When partaking in the activities at the SPLCC participants, by signing, you will be acknowledging that you understand the knowledge and experience of the belayer and are taking on the responsibility/risk for any injury, by fault of the belayer. While those employed by the SPLCC have been certified and gone through extensive training, human error can still occur on the rare occasion. In this case SPLCC will not responsible for the human error that may occur during these activities, by their employees or others whom have been selected to belay.

Furthermore, I do hereby acknowledge complete responsibility for all doctor, hospital, dental, first aid and other medical expenses, and for transportation, room and board and personal expenses, which I may incur as a result of any injury arising from SPLCC activities.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, I release and indemnify the State of New York, the State University of New York, SUNY Potsdam, the SUNY Potsdam Student Government Association, the SPLCC, the SUNY Potsdam Wilderness Education Program and their officers, employees, agents and volunteers, from and against any present or future claim, loss or liability for injury to person or property which I may suffer, or for which I may be liable to any other person, during or as a result of my participation in the SPLCC activities.

In signing this Assumption of Risk and Release, I acknowledge and represent that I have read the foregoing, understand it, and sign it voluntarily, that no oral representations, statements or inducements, apart from this written agreement, have been made, that I am at least 18 years of age and fully competent (or if not, my parent or guardian is also signing), and I am executing this Assumption of Risk and Release for full, adequate and complete consideration, fully intending to be bound by the same.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian if student under 18

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness