

COOPERATIVE ADVENTURE TRIP UNDERSTANDING AND WAIVER

A cooperative adventure trip is four or more individuals working cooperatively for common goals; and sharing expenses, decision-making, and responsibilities as equitably as possible. The purpose is to enable people with similar interests to gather and recreate together, to introduce new people to the outdoors, and to provide outdoor learning opportunities. These trips are governed by four key principles: **1)** group planning and organization, **2)** sharing knowledge and experience, **3)** individual assumption of risk, and **4)** democratic leadership. These concepts are explained below.

Sharing Knowledge and Experience: Cooperative Adventure Trips (CAT) are comprised of folks with varying levels of knowledge and experience. One person may be a great cook while others are good at setting up tents. Some folks may even be experts at the activity engaged in by the group (e.g., hiking, paddling, climbing, etc.). Everyone must be willing to share their experience and contribute to the group's success and safety in order for a CAT program to meet its goal.

- *What are other participant's levels of experience and skill?*
- *What should a person's minimum skill/experience level be to participate?*

Individual Assumption of Risk: In a cooperative adventure experience, each group member must be willing to assume full and total responsibility for his or her own safety and well being. Since most outdoor trips are physically demanding and take place in an environment we cannot control, there is always an element of risk and the possibility that someone could be hurt. As equal partners in this adventure, we must realize these risks and agree to assume them ourselves.

- *Who in your group has first aid, CPR or other emergency medical training?*
- *What self-rescue or relevant trainings do participants have?*
- *Who can bring a first aid kit or other safety gear?*

Democratic Leadership: On a Cooperative Adventure Trip, there are no appointed leaders or guides who are responsible for the group's safety or leadership. Trip coordinator responsibilities are to initiate the trip and to facilitate group planning and organization. The group is expected to participate in decision-making and in most cases we will adhere to majority rule.

- *What are the rules WSU and the Outdoor Program need us to follow?*
No alcohol/drugs, adhere to the WSU code of conduct.
- *What rules should we agree upon as a group to maintain safety?*
- *What rules should we agree upon as a group to facilitate a positive experience?*

Group Planning and Organizations: Cooperative Adventure Trips are initiated by Trip Coordinators; however, the group is responsible for the actual planning and organization of the trip. All costs are shared equally by all participants. During the pre-trip meeting, the group discusses all aspects of the trip including travel directions, equipment needs, personal equipment and clothing, food and safety. Mistakes made in planning are the fault of the entire group and not one particular person. For the trip to be both fun and successful

everyone must help plan and participate in the organization process, therefore pre-trip meetings are mandatory.

- *What are the duties/task/plans that still need to be decided upon?*
 - *Food*
 - *Personal equipment (what must everyone bring?)*
 - *Group Equipment (who is bringing what?)*
 - *Transportation*
 - *Costs (all costs are shared equally)*
 - *Other...*
 - *Contact list?*

Photo Release: I authorize and release to OP the use of my image in any photograph or video recording for any purpose of OP.

I understand that this is a Cooperative Adventure Trip and does not provide a leader or guide. I understand that I am responsible for my own safety and that decisions are made by the entire group.

I have carefully read, understood and voluntarily sign this Document and acknowledge that it shall be effective and binding upon myself, my family, heirs, executors, representatives and estate.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
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Email	Phone #
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Circle all that apply

WSU Student W#_____, Faculty/ Staff W#_____, Community, Male, Female

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