

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT - DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
WILDERNESS SCHOOL**

**STUDENT CONTRACT**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Referring Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Introduction:** The Student Contract is an agreement made between students and families, their Referring Agencies, and the Wilderness School. This agreement relates directly to what students want to gain from participating in the program. It also outlines the basic expectations of students when they are attending Wilderness School.

Why do you want to attend the Wilderness School Expedition?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. Setting Goals:** Goals are an important part of your involvement with the Wilderness School. They express your desire to make improvements in your life. We would like you to set two goals for your Expedition you are about to start. Use the guidelines below to help you get started, then write your goals in the space provided below. When setting goals for your Expedition, be sure to:

- Be Honest: Include things about yourself that can be improved.
- Be Realistic: Set goals you can accomplish.
- Be Specific: Break goals down into small steps.

Write two goals for the Expedition. Focus on areas you would like to change such as behaviors and attitudes or that you would like to learn such as skills and knowledge of yourself. Use your own words and make sure your goals matter most to you.

<b>Goal 1:</b>	<b>Steps to reach goal 1:</b>
	1.
	2.
<b>Goal 2:</b>	<b>Steps to reach goal 2:</b>
	1.
	2.

**III. Family Support and Involvement:** Please list the steps you will take to support your child's efforts to reach his or her goals.

**IV. Referring Agency Support and Involvement:** Please state how you will support your student's efforts to reach his or her goals.

**V. Student Follow-Up Goals:** (List two goals for the fall, winter and spring following your summer Wilderness School Expedition)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Basic Expectations:** Wilderness School courses take place in isolated areas where the consequences of accidents and injuries are potentially serious. Students must be aware of the rules listed below so all crew members remain safe and healthy at all times. Group members must be conscientious of themselves as well as all other participants on the course. Wilderness School requires all students to read and agree to follow the behavioral policies, basic safety rules, and rules for participation listed below. Violations of Wilderness School Behavioral Policies require intervention from program staff and removal from the course to determine whether the student shall be allowed to continue participating in the program.

**Behavioral Policies**

1. **Non-Compliance:** Failure to comply with program policies, procedures, expectations, or staff directions or requests in a deliberate, repetitive manner will result in removal from the course activity and group participation, with contact made with the Referring Agency and/or family.
2. **Violence and Threatening:** Violent or threatening behavior will result in the student’s removal from the course activity and group participation, with contact made with the Referring Agency and/or family.
3. **Severe Emotional Disturbance:** When a student’s actions present a reasonably assured risk of harm to self or others, the student will be removed from the courses and care of the student will be relinquished to an emergency medical service, an M.D., parent or family, or Referring Agent.
4. **Emotional Safety:** Intentional, repetitive actions (verbal or physical) that result in emotional distress or intimidation of a persistent nature will result in removal from the course activity and group participation, with contact made with the Referring Agency and/or family.
5. **Sexual Activity:** Engaging in or being suspected of sexual activity will result in removal from the course activity and group participation, with contact made with the Referring Agency and/or family.
6. **Drugs and Alcohol:** Using or being suspected of using drugs or alcohol will result in removal from the course activity and group participation, with contact made with the Referring Agency and/or family. Please note: There is no use of tobacco products at the Wilderness School.

**Basic Safety Rules and Rules for Participation**

1. Stay with the group at all times.
2. Do not attempt to leave the program on your own.
3. Personal knives are not allowed on the course.
4. Everyone must eat three meals every day.
5. Prescription medications must be taken in accordance with Doctor’s orders
6. Shoes must be worn at all times, even when in the water.
7. Listen to and follow all procedures for specific activities, such as canoeing or rock climbing
8. Show respect for all Wilderness School participants and staff.
9. Show respect for the environment, public property and private property.
10. Show respect for yourself -- always be willing to try.

**Student Agreement:** By signing my name below, I agree to work towards the goals I have written in this contract. I also agree that I have read and understand the rules detailed in this contract and that I will follow them for the safety and well-being of all Wilderness School participants.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Referring Agent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wilderness School Agreement:** By signing my name below, I agree that I have read this contract and agree to the goals and areas of support as written above. I also agree to provide guidance for this student to thoroughly understand all expectations.

**Wilderness School Staff Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_