

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
WILDERNESS SCHOOL

CONSENT AND WAIVER FORM - DCF COMMITTED STUDENTS

TO THE STUDENT AND PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN: The Wilderness School conducts physically demanding courses of up to twenty days in length. The program is not a summer camp experience. The student must be emotionally as well as physically prepared for the rigorous demands of the experience. Students participate in back country expeditions that may include hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, a high ropes course, a service project, an 8.5-mile marathon run and a solo experience. Students sleep in tarps inside sleeping bags for the entire course. Students carry thirty to fifty pound backpacks on average of eight miles per day and for extended periods.

The Wilderness School provides ample and nutritious meals prepared by the student. Special dietary requirements cannot always be met. All drinking water from natural sources is purified by boiling or by use of a chemical (iodine) water purification treatment. Personal hygiene and self-care are limited to a primitive wilderness setting (cold water bathing). Toilet facilities are limited to latrines and outhouses. Expeditions occur in remote areas and in all types of weather, including wind, rain, cold, heat and electrical storms. Additional environmental hazards include potential exposure to diseases such as Rabies, Lyme Disease, West Nile Disease, or Giardia through contact with animals, insect bites and stings. Due to the remote environment, contact with students is through correspondence only. Mail is forwarded from the East Hartland base camp to students via resupplies and other scheduled visits by program support staff. While the course is stressful, it is expected that any person with normal physical and mental abilities can complete the program successfully. The use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs is prohibited.

The Wilderness School is a referral program servicing agencies such as youth service bureaus, school systems, residential programs, probation and parole offices, and DCF regional offices. Students attending the program may exhibit school problems, have police or court contact, or be involved in counseling or psychiatric care. Wilderness School courses are diverse and are enrolled in single gender groupings according to the open enrollment of the course. When courses are over-enrolled with either male or female students, mixed gender groupings may be considered based upon the discretion of the Wilderness School.

<u>NAME OF APPLICANT:</u>	PLEASE CHECK
<u>CONSENT AND WAIVER - DCF COMMITTED STUDENTS:</u>	
1. There are certain inherent risks to be assumed when participating in activities of a physical nature and the student may risk personal injury. Wilderness School Instructors will inform students of safety rules and will conduct all activities in a safe manner. However, the entire responsibility is not the Instructors'. Students also have a role in maintaining the safety of the group. Students should call to the attention of the Instructors any situation that seems to be a possible danger to any Wilderness School student or staff. This could include: <u>A. Broken equipment; B. Feeling sick or very tired; C. Having considerable trouble performing or learning a skill.</u> I acknowledge that I have been advised of the potential risks.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2. We have read the above information and understand the physical and stressful nature of the 20-Day or 5-Day Expedition, and the nature of the student population. Consent is granted for the student to attend the Wilderness School and to participate in the Follow-Up activities of the program. We have described any medical or physical conditions that might affect the student's ability to participate in any activity. As a student, I will wear any required equipment, and follow the directions of the Wilderness School staff at all times. I understand Behavioral Policy violations (see Student Contract) or other inappropriate behaviors will lead to removal from the course.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Permission is granted for the student to be transported in a motor vehicle operated by an employee of the Department of Children and Families to and from Wilderness School activity sites.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Permission will be obtained from the DCF Hotline for any medical treatment, emergency anesthesia and/or operation that might become necessary.	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

