

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Winter 2010

Dear Families:

We believe young people seek adventure. Merrowvista provides an ideal environment for exploring new activities in a structured manner. However, some of the activities may involve risks young people do not encounter every day.

At the American Youth Foundation we make reasonable efforts to conduct safe programs, to inform families of inherent risks, and to provide adequate insurance coverage. This letter is one effort to apprise you of our concern for our participants' safety and to seek your cooperation.

Risk management is an essential element of the activities we offer and we observe reasonable precautions. We conduct our programs according to the practices and procedures recommended by the American Camping Association (ACA), as well as the Association of Experiential Education (AEE). Our risk management program includes staff selection criteria, training and supervision, written policies and procedures for activities, systematic review of incidents for improvements, and outside reviews of our programs. While we anticipate our careful supervision will protect the well being of each participant, we are also aware it is possible neither to foresee every contingency nor to eliminate all risk.

Examples of activities that may occur in our programs at Merrowvista include traveling in AYF vehicles, swimming, sailing, canoeing, camping, using stoves and open fire, and using ropes/obstacle courses that may be 50 feet high or more. Consider the obvious risks of these activities. Inherent risks include collision, capsizing, burns and falling. Environmental risks include inclement and unpredictable weather, deep and/or cold water, rapidly moving water, falling objects, insects, lowered and elevated body temperatures, sunburn, allergic reactions, and other injuries and illnesses. There are, of course, other problems that could impact our activities.

To ensure us that you understand the kinds of activities and risks involved in AYF programs, I ask parents to sign below and return the signed forms to Merrowvista with the other required forms. Your signatures will confirm that both parents and participants have read this letter and that you acknowledge and accept the risks involved in our programs and the responsibility to come prepared for camp. In signing the statement, parents/guardians grant permission to the participants to attend and parents & participants acknowledge having read and understood the goals, rules, and procedures in this handbook and agree to abide by them.



Anna Kay Vorsteg  
Executive Director, American Youth Foundation

## PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK, EXPECTATIONS & INFORMATION RELEASE

I give  I do not give permission to the AYF to use photographs, videotapes, or reproductions of my child's likeness or voice for education and promotional purposes. I waive the right for any future claims, including remuneration. (If unchecked, we will assume permission.)

I have supplied accurate information and understand it will be treated as confidential and will be shared only with staff working directly with my child. I further state that I have not withheld any information that is essential to Merrowvista staff providing care for my child. In order that Merrowvista may provide each camper maximum opportunity for his/her personal development, I confirm that my child is physically and emotionally prepared to fully participate in the Merrowvista Camp programs. I have read the Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk above and I understand there are risks involved in AYF activities. I accept those risks as part of my child's participation.

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_