

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK STATEMENT – READ CAREFULLY

The Odyssey program, by its nature, is a set of challenging outdoor activities that bring many benefits, but there are also some possible risks we want you to be aware of.

The following conditions are possible:

HIKING – You will be hiking up and down rocky mountain trails and possibly crossing streams. This can aggravate even minor physical problems. It is important that you are accustomed to handling some physical stress, as you may experience fatigue, blisters, and minor cuts and scrapes. Although much less likely to occur, other possible problems include heat exhaustion, sprains, broken bones or other accidents. The Adirondack Mountains generally have pleasant weather during the summer, but rain, and cold temperatures can occur, resulting in temporary discomfort, but also increasing the risk of hypothermia. Although leaders are trained and will sign the groups in at the trailhead, medical facilities are remote and wilderness evacuation is involved and time consuming.

KAYAKING – You will be kayaking on Lake Champlain. While you will be taught by and guided by experienced instructors, it is essential that you listen to and follow all instructions concerning water safety. You are responsible for using all safety devices (e.g., PFDs), kayaks, and paddles properly.

We firmly believe that the benefits of this program to you far outweigh the potential risks and that accidents occur much less frequently when adequate preparation is accompanied by sound judgment. You, however, must take a very active role in maximizing your chances for success and safety, and minimizing risks. This can best occur if you do the following:

1. Read and understand the information on the Acknowledgment of Risk Statement and the Liability Release. If you have questions, call us.
2. Be sure to follow the supplied equipment list exactly. Many wilderness and service accidents occur because people do not bring the proper equipment and clothing. This endangers not only you, but also the safety of others.
3. Take responsibility for your physical fitness. Although the Odyssey program attempts to accommodate different levels of physical ability, you are responsible for your level of involvement. Be honest with yourself and with us in what you can handle.
4. Follow the advice of the Odyssey Leaders. The staff is eager to help you have a successful and meaningful experience.

LIABILITY RELEASE – READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

I understand that my safety is ultimately my own responsibility. I also understand that I am responsible for furnishing my own proper clothing and equipment, except for items of equipment that the Odyssey program will provide. I am responsible for the safety and good operating condition of all equipment regardless of where I obtain it.

I agree that I will choose a level of involvement that does not exceed my physical capabilities. I certify that I am in good health and physical condition, and have no physical problems that could be aggravated by this activity.

By my signature on the Liability Release form and my participation in the Odyssey program, I certify that I am cognizant of the inherent danger, risks, and hazards incidental to my chosen level of involvement. This may include, but is not limited to, the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain, accident or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature, swimming, kayaking, camping, cooking/preparing food, travel by vehicle, and involvement in a low ropes course.

In acknowledging the above-mentioned risks and responsibilities, I hereby release and forever discharge the Odyssey program, its leaders, the State University of New York, the College Auxiliary Services, and New York State, from any and all liability and all claims that I have or might have as a result of my participation.

I have fully informed myself of the contents of this affirmation and release by reading it before I signed it. If I am under 18 years of age, my parent or guardian must give their written permission.

Signature *date*

As the parent or guardian of the applicant, I fully understand the rewards and risks involved with participating in the Odyssey program. In acknowledging the above-mentioned risks and responsibilities, I hereby release and forever discharge the Odyssey program, its leaders, the State University of New York, the College Auxiliary Services, and New York State, from any and all liability and all claims that I have or might have as a result of the applicant's participation.

Signature *date*

N.B. – We reserve the right to deny participation to any student who fails to properly sign this liability release or who, in our opinion puts themselves at too great a risk by applying to participate in the program. Anyone so denied will be notified immediately and his or her payment refunded.