

## **YMCA Camp Pepin Wrangler Camp Acknowledgement of Risks**

YMCA Camp Pepin takes every precaution to create safe experiences for our campers. However, these activities have risks, including certain travel, environmental, and out-of-doors risks that cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the activities. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of these activities could potentially also be causes of loss or damage to the participants' equipment, accidental injury, illness, or (in extreme cases) permanent trauma, disability, or death. Camp Pepin does not want to frighten participants or reduce their enthusiasm for these activities, but believes that it is important for them and for their parents or guardians to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the activities' inherent risks. The following describes some, but not all, of those risks:

- Wrangler Camps occur in rural settings. However, medical facilities and/or services are generally less than 20 minutes away.
- Participants may or will travel by 15-passenger vans, which undergo a thorough professional mechanical inspection prior to each summer camp season, and which undergo a written vehicular inspection prior to each excursion. Camp Pepin staff members participate in a driver training session that is specific to handling 15-passenger vans with trailers, and must demonstrate specific road skills and maneuvering competency before being added to the camp's vehicular insurance and being approved to drive a camp vehicle. All passengers are required to wear seatbelts any time their vehicle is in motion. Risks of vehicular travel may include: collision (resulting in injury or death), loss of personal items (due to theft or break-in), and mechanical breakdown.
- Participants will be working with horses in an outdoor setting. While the horses that the campers will be using have been trained and are used to working with youth, they are living animals and can therefore do unpredictable things. While every precaution is made by all parties involved to prevent physical risk to Wrangler Camp participants, horses do have the potential to cause injuries and fatalities to humans. Risks could include, but are not limited to, being stepped on by a horse, kicked by a horse, thrown from a horse, or rolled over by a horse.
- Environmental risks and hazards include insect bites or stings, tick bites that could potentially result in Lyme's Disease, snake bites, poisonous plants, lightning, and unpredictable forces of nature (including weather which may cause extreme conditions without warning). Possible risks include, but are not limited to, sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration, wounds, trauma, and conditions that may be mild, serious, or deadly.

In consideration of the services of the Red Wing Family YMCA and Camp Pepin, its employees, affiliates, and all other associated persons or entities, I understand and acknowledge the risks stated above. I also further acknowledge the potential for other risks to occur that may be unforeseen and unstated.

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

Parent's or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_