



## **Gear Risk Warning**

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in any of our activities, you will be expressly assuming the risk and legal liability and waiving and releasing all claims for injuries, damages or loss which you or your minor child/ward might sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with and associated with this activity (including transportation services and vehicle operations, when provided).

### *Bird Watching*

The use of binoculars can cause risk of death or serious injury from improper handling if the following information is not observed: never look at the sun with binoculars, doing so can cause loss of vision; do not place binoculars under direct sunlight, doing so can cause a fire from the concentrated sun's rays; if the strap is mistakenly wrapped around the neck, suffocation may result; do not place binoculars on an unstable surface, doing so may cause binoculars to fall and could result in a personal injury; do not use binoculars while walking or driving, doing so may result in personal injury; do not swing the binoculars around by the strap, doing so may result in personal injury to yourself or others; fingers may be pinched when adjusting the width of the binoculars especially when small children are using the binoculars; using binoculars for a prolonged period may irritate the skin around the eyes.

### *Canoeing at the Schuylkill Center*

Canoeing is intended to challenge and engage the physical, mental and emotional resources of each participant. However, despite careful and proper preparation, instruction, medical advice, conditioning and equipment, there is still a risk of serious injury, including drowning. All hazards and dangers cannot be foreseen. Certain risks include, but are not limited to, dangerous weather and water conditions such as deep or cold water, above and subsurface rocks and obstacles, hydraulics, strainers and ledges, acts of nature, and insect bites. Other risks include capsizing, being pinned between rocks, logs or trees, hypothermia, sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration, inadequate supervision or instruction, horseplay and carelessness, poor canoeing technique or swimming skills, loss of balance, collision with other canoes or stationary objects, paddling the canoe in waters too difficult for the canoeist's capability, inadequate or defective

equipment, and failure to wear a personal floatation device or other safety equipment. In this regard, it is impossible for the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education to guarantee absolute safety.

- Personal Flotation Devices must be worn at all times in and around the water while using Schuylkill Center's canoes.
- Canoes can only be used on Wind Dance Pond. They **cannot** be used off of property.

### *Child Carrier*

Noncompliance of the following directions can lead to severe injuries, permanent physical damages or even the death of the child. Do not use the child carrier if your child is unable to sit up by him/herself. The maximum weight capacity for the child is 40 lbs. Never leave the child unattended in the carrier. The child should be taken out of the carrier during rest breaks. Remaining seated for a long period of time can reduce blood flow to the child's legs. The child carrier is only suitable for the transportation of a child by capable adults. Always check the child carrier for damage prior to use and do not use the carrier if damaged. The child carrier is not appropriate for sporting activities such as cycling, skiing or similar. Do not place the child carrier near a campfire, cook stove or open flame. Never place the child carrier on tables, counters or any other high surfaces. Never allow the child to stand on the child carrier seat. Fasten the child's harness and all neon buckles when in use, in addition to the wearer's harness buckles. Frequently monitor your child and protect your child from the harmful effects of the sun. Assure your child is dressed properly for the weather. Use caution as unexpected motion may affect your balance. Slipping or falling while carrying the child can lead to severe injuries to the child. When the carrier is in use, avoid any sudden movements that may throw the child off balance and be extra cautious when bending forward or leaning. To protect the child's head from injury, pay attention to branches, door frames and other similar obstacles. To protect the child's feet from injury, be careful when putting the child carrier down or when the child carrier is near the ground. Be extra careful when putting on or removing the carrier. If your child has special needs, consult with a physician before using a child carrier as it may not be appropriate for your child.

### *Hammock*

Use hammocks with caution as accidents can happen. Under no circumstances should you hang the hammock higher than 18 inches off the ground. Check the area beneath the hammock is free of sharp objects, rocks, or other debris that could create a hazard in case of a fall. Check your surroundings, above and below, and make sure to choose a suitable, stable tree. Before every use, fully inspect your gear, including carabiners and rope, for snaps, fraying, or anything unusual from the time of purchase. Always store gear indoors when not in use, as elemental damage will quickly degrade the product. Do not permit children to use unattended. Do not jump or swing

aggressively in the hammock. Always follow provided instructions. Always test the hammock to ensure it is hung correctly before putting your full weight into it. Do not stack hammocks. Do not modify your hammocks.

### *Tent Camping*

By its nature, the natural world contains many hazards and dangerous conditions, including rugged terrain, ponds, streams, reservoirs, ditches, wilderness, cliffs, ice, steep and unfinished and unpaved roads and trails, wildlife, livestock, open trenches and the like, as well as other man-made hazards, including ponds, irrigation ditches, wells, culverts, reservoirs, fencing and the like. The natural world has and poses inherent risks, dangers and hazards for me and/or my minor child, particularly when camping there. These risks include, but are not limited to, forest fires and fallen trees; broken glass, discarded needles; and other hazardous trash and waste; poison ivy and other plants that may cause rashes and allergic reactions; bug bites and stings; exposure to storms, heat, wind, water, lightning strikes, and cold; attacks from bears, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, coyotes, and other wild animals; getting lost; trespassing; and individual slips/trips and falls. Tent camping may result in injury or illness including, but not limited to, serious bodily injury, disease, strains, fractures, partial and/or total paralysis, or other ailments that could cause serious disability to me and/or my minor child, or death. These risks and dangers may be caused by negligence of other campers, the negligence of third parties, accidents, the forces of nature or other causes, and I acknowledge that risks and dangers may arise from foreseeable and unforeseeable causes including risks, hazards, and dangers that are integral to any camping activity. While camping, there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise which may be necessary to deal with potential injuries to which I and/or my minor child may be exposed.

### *Snowshoeing*

There are hazards and risks associated with snowshoeing, such as: falling or loss of balance; icy, slick or uneven surfaces; avalanches, cornices and crevasses; collisions with nature or man-made objects and other people; tree wells and stumps; downed timber and other forest growth; rocks, drainage channels, streams, creeks, holes, debris, and other rugged mountainous terrain; marked and unmarked obstacles; unmaintained or unmarked trails/roads or trail obstructions; falling snow or ice from natural or man-made sources; equipment malfunction, failure or damage; improper use or maintenance of equipment; misloading, entanglements, or falls from ski lifts; varying visibility, storms, lightning, hail, snow and other adverse weather; becoming lost or separated; lack of shelter; limited access to and/or delay of medical attention; participant's health condition, physical exertion, exhaustion, dehydration, hypothermia, altitude sickness, or frostbite; and/or mental distress from exposure to any of the above. This activity requires sound

judgment, personal comfort with winter weather and physical fitness including balance, strength and the ability to slide/walk on varying terrain, snow surfaces including powder, hard pack and ice. It is possible to fall, trip, collide with another person or strike a rock, tree or other obstacle or fall through ice covered lakes/streams. This could cause injury, trauma, permanent disability, or even death. An accident can also occur in an area without easy access to emergency care.