



## CANOE PROGRAM WAIVER & RELEASE

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County is committed to conducting its recreation programs and activities in a safe manner and holds the safety of participants in high regard. The Defenders continually strives to reduce such risks and insists that all participants follow safety rules and instructions that are designed to protect the participants' safety. However, participants and parents/guardians of minors registering for this program/activity must recognize that there is an inherent risk of injury when choosing to participate in outdoor recreational activities. You are solely responsible for determining if you or your minor child/ward are physically fit and/or skilled for the activities contemplated by this agreement. It is always advisable, especially if the participant is pregnant in any way or recently suffered an illness, injury or impairment, to consult a physician before undertaking any physical activity.

### WARNING OF RISK

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 rapids, deep or cold water, above and subsurface rocks and obstacles, hydraulics, strainers and ledges, acts of God, 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 ability, inadequate or defective equipment, and failure to wear a personal floatation device or other safety equipment. In this regard, it is impossible for the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County to guarantee absolute safety.

### WAIVER AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up and participating in this program/activity, 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 program/activity (including transportation services and vehicle operations, when provided).

**I recognize and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury to participants in this program/activity, and I voluntarily agree to assume the full risk of any and all injuries, damages or loss, regardless of severity, that my minor child/ward or I may sustain as a result of said participation. I further agree to waive and relinquish all claims I or my minor child/ward may have (or accrue to me or my child/ward) as a result of participating in this program/activity against the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, including its officials, agents, volunteers and employees.**

**I have read and fully understand the above important information, warning of risk, assumption of risk and waiver and release of all claims. If registering on-line or via fax, my on-line or facsimile signature shall substitute for and have the same legal effect as an original form signature.**

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Participant or Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Participation will be denied if the signature or parent/guardian signature and date are not on this waiver.**

Environmental Defenders of McHenry County  
124 Cass St, Ste 3, Woodstock IL 60098-3296  
815-338-0393 fax 815-338-0394  
mcdef@owc.net www.mcdef.org