

Circle: Session 1 June 14-20 Session 2 June 21-July 3 Session 3 July 6-18 Session 4 July 20-August 1 Session 5 August 3-15

Circle: Pathfinders Main Camp TYC Voyagers Explorers Rangers LIT CIT Staff Trip: _____

McGaw YMCA Camp Echo Waiver of Liability Form

EVERYONE SIGN THIS SIDE ... PARENTS OF PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE 18 ALSO SIGN THE OTHER SIDE

Please complete in full and return at least **four weeks prior** to the participant's camping experience to:
McGaw YMCA, Program Support Office, 1000 Grove Street, Evanston, IL 60201.

Participant's Name (Last, First) _____

- Participant is a child, under the age of 18 (**parent or guardian should sign this form – both sides**)
- Participant is an adult, 18 years old or older (**participant should sign this form – front side only**)

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION: SIGNED BY PARENT (OR ADULT PARTICIPANT) PLEASE READ THE WAIVER BEFORE SIGNING. *If you need more time, let us know.*

I certify that I am aware that the participant is taking certain risks by participating in activities at Camp Echo, including but not limited to adventure trips, high ropes course activities, and climbing excursions (for teen campers); horseback riding and mountain bike riding; and water skiing (for blue swimmers).

I understand that during participation in these activities one may be exposed to physically and psychologically stressful and challenging situations including, but not limited to, risks and dangers inherent in the activity itself, exposure to forces of nature, motor vehicle travel and (for teen campers) possible accident or illness in places remote from any medical facility.

I have noted on the back of the participant's **Camp Echo Health Form** any special needs of the participant or activities from which the participant should be restricted.

I understand that, although Camp Echo has taken precautions to provide proper organization, supervision, instruction, and equipment for each activity, it is impossible for Camp Echo to guarantee absolute safety. I understand that I share responsibility for the safety of the participant and assume that responsibility.

I hereby **assume all risks and dangers and will hold harmless** the McGaw YMCA, Camp Echo, their respective officers, agents, and employees, and all groups and persons connected herewith, from all actions, causes of actions, suits, and any claims, demands, and liabilities whatsoever, both in law and equity, and or any of their respective officers, agents, and employees, in connection with participating activities, except in cases of gross negligence.

The participant agrees to comply with all instructions and directions of the responsible Camp Echo staff persons or designated outside experts during his or her participation.

The terms hereof shall be binding on my executors, heirs, administrators, and assignees, and shall serve as an assumption of risk and general release for the participant while enrolled at Camp Echo and participating in camp activities.

• SIGN FOR ASSUMPTION OF RISK, GENERAL RELEASE, AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS:

(signature) _____ (date) _____

COMPLETE THIS SIDE IF THE PARTICIPANT IS A CHILD, UNDER THE AGE OF 18

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION: SIGNED BY PARENT

PLEASE READ THE AUTHORIZATION BEFORE SIGNING. *If you need more time, let us know.*

I hereby give permission for the Camp Director or designated staff persons under the direction of the Camp Director to search the participant's belongings with the participant present when, in the judgment of the Camp Director or designated staff persons under the direction of the Camp Director, a serious rule violation is suspected; or when the health, well-being, or safety of the participant or others requires it.

• **SIGN FOR PERMISSION TO SEARCH PARTICIPANT'S BELONGINGS, IF NECESSARY:**

(signature) _____ (date) _____

REQUIRED WAIVER: SIGNED BY PARENT

PLEASE READ THE WAIVER BEFORE SIGNING. *If you need more time, let us know.*

I understand that Camp Echo is a tight-knit community of friends and that camper/camper and camper/staff **communication** (mail, phone, internet-based, face-to-face) is likely to occur **outside of camp**. I understand that Camp Echo will inform campers and staff members that any and all out-of-camp communication must be healthy and appropriate and that the parents of the camper(s) involved should be aware that it is occurring. If I do not want my child to communicate with others from camp outside of camp I will instruct my child not to initiate any and to reject it and inform me of any problem should others initiate it. If I become aware of unhealthy, inappropriate, or repeat unwanted communication I will take responsibility for contacting the other party or their parents directly, and/or appropriate outside authorities if necessary. I will inform the Camp Echo Director immediately if a staff member is involved.

I understand that many individuals in the 13-to-23 age bracket, as well as others, including many Camp Echo staff members and teen program participants, have established profiles and group pages on a variety of **social networking websites** (such as MySpace, Facebook, Xanga, and others), and that the content of such profiles and group pages is, for the most part, self-regulated. I understand that the only official website for Camp Echo, and therefore the only official web-based communication venue for Camp Echo, is <www.ymcampecho.org> and the web pages that it links to through its menus.

I understand that the Camp Echo hiring process requires applicants to disclose the address of all **public** profiles or group pages they have on social networking websites and that the **public** web pages are reviewed during the hiring process as part of the staff member's reference and background check; however, Camp Echo does not check or monitor the **private** web pages of staff members before or after hiring. (We define **public** pages as those that can be viewed without obtaining permission to enter that person's website, and **private** pages as those that require permission.)

I understand that Camp Echo will instruct staff members to use discretion in admitting teen program participants to their private sites, and if they do so, that the viewable content thus revealed must be healthy and appropriate. If I do not want my child to participate in online social networking with others from camp outside of camp I will instruct my child not to participate and to reject any invitations to do so. If I allow my child to participate, and I become aware that s/he is viewing inappropriate or unhealthy content on a social networking website maintained by someone s/he met at camp, I will take responsibility for contacting the other party or their parents directly, and/or appropriate outside authorities if necessary. I will inform the Camp Echo Director immediately if a staff member is involved.

I hereby assume responsibility for the participant's communication with other Camp Echo campers and staff members upon conclusion of the camp, and will hold harmless the McGaw YMCA, Camp Echo, their respective officers, agents and employees, and all groups and persons connected herewith, from all actions, causes of actions, suits, and any claims, demands, liabilities, whatsoever, both in law and equity, and or any of their respective officers, agents, and employees, in connection with any outside-of-camp communication or online social networking occurring after the participant's time at Camp Echo.

• **SIGN FOR ACCEPTANCE OF OUTSIDE-OF-CAMP COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY, AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY.**

(signature) _____ (date) _____