

Whitewater Rafting/Kayaking

Whitewater rafting/kayaking like all recreation activities is hazardous. You will be traveling outdoors, where you will be subject to numerous risks – environmental and other risks.

- Environmental Risks include: rapidly moving, deep or cold water, flash floods, mud slides, insects, predators, snakes and other animals; falling or rolling rock, lightning, high winds, hail, avalanches, and unpredictable forces of nature including weather that may change to extreme conditions without notice. Additional risks include allergic reactions, psychological distress, hypothermia, hyperthermia, sunburn, heatstroke, dehydration, and other mild or serious conditions. Exposure to the natural elements can be uncomfortable or harmful.
- This whitewater rafting/kayaking trip requires physical exertion as well as emotional and mental stability. You will be primarily responsible for your own rescues. Rescues may not be available or may take considerable time to evacuate due to the inherent nature of the activity. You may become lost or separated from others in the group: communication may be difficult.
- Horseplay, carelessness, poor technique, poor conditioning and violating the rules are all risks associated with this whitewater rafting/kayaking trip.
- Accidents can occur while traveling to and from the activity site. You will be traveling in 12 to 15 passenger vans.
- Athletic injuries are also a risk associated with a whitewater rafting/kayaking trip. Whitewater rafting/kayaking accidents may result in scrape, abrasions, sprains, broken bones, torn muscles or ligaments, head, neck or spinal injuries or death.
- Risks also include decision making and conduct, including the risk that a course leader, co-leader or other participant may misjudge someone's capabilities or misjudge weather, terrain, water level, or route location etc.
- As a rafter/kayaker, you are totally responsible for your own movement and safety while in the raft/kayak. You will encounter numerous rapids during the trip. Rafters/kayakers can be jolted, jarred, bounced, thrown about, and otherwise shaken while paddling through some of these rapids. It is possible that passengers could be injured if they come in contact with other boaters, their own boat or rocks or debris in the river.
- Rafts/kayaks may overturn, which can result in all of the following events: prolonged exposure to cold water leading to the possibility of hypothermia and impaired health or death; injuries from rocks or other debris or objects.
- When you are upside down you can hit objects with your head or body that are under the water.
- Slipping or falling accidents can occur when entering or exiting the boat, pool or river.
- You run the risk of being caught in a strainer including fallen trees, or other debris, in the water. This may result in you being caught between the force of the water and branches/debris; strainers can result in drowning.
- Equipment may fail, malfunction or be defective. Improper use of the equipment can result in injury, paralysis or death.
- Drowning is always a possibility whenever you are around water.
- When moving or loading rafts/kayaks and other equipment items may fall and hit you causing injury.

NOTE: This list is not an exclusive or exhaustive list of all possible injuries, trauma or accidents that may occur while rafting/kayaking. The undersigned hereby acknowledges and agrees that there are inherent risks associated with this Activity that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injury or loss.