

## Safety and Release Form for Crow's Path

First, welcome to Crow's Path! As we get to know the animals and plants of the woods around our camp, we will learn many tools and skills for engaging with these creatures. Many of these skills (e.g. fire-by-friction, carving, shelter building) offer elements that, if done incorrectly, may be potentially dangerous. Participants will be closely supervised by lead mentors and/or trained volunteers that have been practicing outdoor survival skills and are well-trained in engaging the wild in a safe and respectful way. Below are some of the elements that can be potentially dangerous.

**Knives** - There is always real danger in using a knife. As is often the case, prevention is the best medicine. Before any knives are used by the kids, we will go over safety and each kid will receive one-on-one knife safety instruction. There are 5 main rules for using a knife safely.

- 1) ask permission from one of the mentors;
- 2) find a quiet space and sit down;
- 3) announce to others that you're using a knife and get a safety circle (keep a safe distance of at least one arm's length from other people);
- 4) always carve away from yourself; and
- 5) when done, put the knife back in its sheath. With proper care and attentiveness knives are safe and an incredibly rewarding tool.

**Fire** - Fire will be a central tenet of our community. We will be harvesting local wood for fuel in a way that promotes the growth of other trees and learn how to tend a fire in a way that leaves minimal impact. We will learn how to safely manage a fire in a variety of conditions – from hot and dry to cold and wet. Each kid will have the opportunity to start a fire using fire-by-friction. We will have one fire keeper at a time.

**Other tools** - At other points throughout the year, we will be using bow saws, hand axes, and other tools. As with knives, for each tool we will talk about the potential dangers and always review and practice safe techniques for using each. We keep a low ratio of kids to mentors to ensure each kid gets proper attention when using potentially dangerous tools.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby give permission for my child and/or guarantor, \_\_\_\_\_ to use a knife and other tools listed above under the supervision of a Crow's Path mentor or other volunteer during Crow's Path. I have read the above on Knife Safety, and understand both the risks involved and that reasonable care will be taken to ensure my child's safety.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information, please contact us:**

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