Leave No Trace Canada Disclaimer of Liability And Course Participant Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks

For all course participants, please read this document carefully.

INTRODUCTION

This document describes the role of Leave No Trace Canada (the organization) as it pertains to Leave No Trace courses and includes the organization's disclaimer of liability and your acknowledgement and assumption of risks. Please take the time to read this information and contact your instructor with any questions or concerns.

LEAVE NO TRACE CANADA – Role of the Organization & Disclaimer of Liability

As an education entity, the organization develops and distributes educational curriculum and materials in cooperation with its partners.

However, the organization does not teach, oversee or conduct specific courses, but rather, provides organizations and individuals trained as Master Educators with teaching materials to teach these Leave No Trace courses.

The instructors for Master or Trainer courses are not representatives of Leave No Trace Canada. All organizations and individuals conducting Leave No Trace courses act as independent contractors and are solely responsible for the conduct of the courses. The organization (and its agents, owners, officers, employees, representatives and all other individuals associated with the organization) does not warrant or guarantee the quality or expertise of any individual or organization teaching a Leave No Trace course.

Further, the organization does not supervise or control these independent contractors and is not legally liable or responsible for their conduct. The organization disclaims all liability to you or others, for any injury, damage, death or other loss you may suffer, in any way connected with your participation in a Leave No Trace course.

Participants are advised to independently review and examine the qualifications of individuals or organizations providing Leave No Trace courses.

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Course Participants – Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks

Leave No Trace courses provide participants with information and techniques so that they can engage in minimum impact wilderness ethics and principles. Those who successfully complete a Leave No Trace course can then teach others about these outdoor wilderness ethics. Leave No Trace courses focus on wilderness ethics.

Leave No Trace courses do not teach traditional outdoor skills such as mountain climbing, river crossings, camping etc. However, some Leave No Trace courses must be taught in an outdoor or wilderness setting. Activities vary, but can include hiking, camping, rafting, horseback riding, and students should have basic outdoor skills before attending a course.

These activities necessarily include inherent risks, hazards and dangers that can cause or lead to injury, property damage, illness, mental or emotional trauma, disability or death.

The following describes some, but not all of those risks, hazards and dangers:

1. **Risks present in an outdoor environment.** These risks include travel in mountainous or wilderness terrain, both on and off trails. While traveling in these areas, hazards may not be marked, weather is unpredictable year round, and lightning, rapidly moving rivers/whitewater, falling rocks, snow and ice, avalanche dangers, fallen timber, stinging insects, wild animals and other hazards can exist.

2. **Risks involved in horseback riding.** Horses (including donkey and mules) are unpredictable in all circumstances. Horses can react to the environment, and the conduct of riders and other persons. Horseback riding can involve equipment that may break, saddles that may slip and other riders who may not control their animals.

3. **Risks connected with cooking and camping chores.** While camping, participants may cook over a gas stove or an open fire and are subject to the risk of gas explosion or burn. Participants need to disinfect water before use.

4. **Risks in staff judgment.** Risks involved in decision making and conduct, including the risk that a course leader, co-leader or other assistant may misjudge a participant's capability, or misjudge weather, terrain, water level, or route location.

5. **Risks associated with travel.** Travel can be on foot or by use of vehicle, boat or other means, and can be over difficult terrain or via lakes and rivers, in adverse weather conditions.

6. **Risks connected with geographic location.** Remote locations can create difficulties in communication and transportation and delays in evacuation and medical care.

7. **The risk that equipment used in an activity may break, fail or malfunction.**

8. **Risks regarding conduct.** The potential that you, other participants or third parties (e.g. drive, rescue team, hospital) may act carelessly or recklessly.

9. **Other risks, hazards, and dangers that is generally associated with education and/or outdoor activities.**

Course Participants – Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks

These and other risks, hazards and dangers may result in participants:

1. Falling
2. Being struck
3. Colliding with objects or people
4. Experiencing vehicle cap size or collision
5. Reacting to high altitudes and weather condition
6. Experiencing other problems.

These and other circumstances may cause:

- Hypothermia / Broken bones
- Dehydration / Burns
- Drowning / Damage
- High altitude sickness / Heart or lung problems
- Other injury / death

By voluntarily agreeing to participate, you assume and accept full responsibility for yourself, for the inherent risks of these activities (both known and unknown), and for any injury, damage, death, or other loss you may suffer, resulting from those risks, and resulting from your own negligence or other misconduct.

CONCLUSIONS:

As the organization continues to expand and develop as a program, the need to offer responsible, informative, training grows. The organization welcomes your interest in and devotion to the Leave No Trace program. The role of Leave No Trace Canada is to provide education curriculum to Master Educators and Trainers. Likewise, the organization is available as a resource for you as you go forth and spread the Leave No Trace message. If you have questions or concerns about Leave No Trace Canada vis-à-vis your course, please feel free to contact us. Thanks again for your interest in promoting Leave No Trace.

Course Participant

I have read and I understand the above disclaimer of liability.

I hereby release Leave No Trace Canada and the course instructor from liability for any injury, damage, death, or other loss suffered during or as a result of the Master Educator/Trainer course [circle one] being held _____, 20__.

Print Name _____**Signature** _____

Date _____Phone _____

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Signature of parent or guardian if participant is under 18 years of age

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