



Raven's Wood Outdoor School for Renegades **Safety and Release Form for Raven's Wood**

Welcome to Raven's Wood Outdoor School for Renegades!! As we get to know the animals and plants of the woods around our forest, we will learn many tools and skills for engaging with these creatures. Many of these skills (e.g. fire-by-flint, carving, shelter building, deck construction, tent erection, etc.) offer elements that, if done incorrectly, may be potentially dangerous. Participants will be closely supervised by Staff and/or volunteers who are well-trained in engaging the wild and using tools 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. We will go over safety and each kid will receive one-on-one knife safety instruction before any knives are used by the kids. There are five main rules for using a knife safely: 1) Ask permission from one of the Staff and/or volunteers. 2) Find a quiet space and sit down. 3) Announce to others that you are using a knife and get a safety circle, keeping a safe distance of at least one arm's length from other people. 4) Always carve or cut away from yourself. 5) When finished, put the knife back in its sheath. With proper care and attentiveness, knives are safe and an incredibly useful and rewarding tool.
- *Fire:* Fire will be a central element 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-flint. 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, hammers, 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(ren) and/or guarantor(s), _____ to use a knife and other tools listed above under the supervision of a Raven's Wood Staff during our programs. 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.

Photo Release

I do do not give Raven's Wood the right to use my child's photograph for flyers, the website, or other Raven's Wood related purposes only. Children's names will always be withheld from said publications, except if by a journalist reporting to a published medium. Then, Raven's Wood will ask your permission specifically for this purpose.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Today's Date: _____

1046 Poor Farm Road, Thetford Center, VT 05075 • (802)785-4459
ravenswoodschoolvt@gmail.com • ravenswoodindependentschool.org