

AMERICAN ALPINE INSTITUTE, LTD.

Recognition of Hazards, Assumption of Risk, & Release from Responsibility & Liability

DO NOT INITIAL OR SIGN THIS FORM WITHOUT READING IT CAREFULLY. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE INQUIRE.

1. Purpose of this form:

As used in this release "AAI" means American Alpine Institute Ltd., its directors, officers, instructors, guides, employees, medical advisors, and agents.

This is an agreement to comprehensively release and hold harmless AAI from any claims arising out of your participation in one or more of its climbing programs and/or climbs attempted by you thereafter.

This form makes your assumption of risk complete and your release of AAI from liability comprehensive, since it applies to all your activity with and related to AAI, including instruction; practice climbing; skiing; snow shoeing; belaying; ascending, descending and traversing terrain; camping; rescues; and the learning, practice, and application of other climbing and protective system skills, as well as travel to and from particular destinations, whether on foot on a snowmobile, on a bike, in a boat, or in a vehicle.

I UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION AND THAT THIS FORM IS A COMPREHENSIVE RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS I MIGHT HAVE AGAINST AAI.

2. Recognition of Hazards:

All climbing and/or skiing involves hazard and the risk of injury and/or death. The climbing and/or skiing that you will do with AAI is no exception. Your climbing or skiing will involve objective hazards that may include the movement or fall of rock, snow, ice, and water, none of which can necessarily be controlled or accurately predicted. There is always the possibility of rapid weather deterioration with rain and snow and sub-freezing temperatures.

There are additional risks involved in your climbing/skiing because of the potential of falling and being injured. Especially in rugged terrain or in any terrain with crampons on and/or an ice axe in hand, even a slip or short fall can cause a serious injury. There is additional potential hazard due to failure of equipment, failure of belays, failure of anchors, and failure of other climbers to take needed actions or perform certain skills.

Climbing and skiing are both physically intense sports. They include the possibility of exercise-induced or sport-induced injuries, including but not limited to fracture, sprain, dislocation, muscle pull, altitude sickness, snow blindness, general or specific strain. You may experience negative psychological and/or physical effects from the stresses inherent in multi-day group travel and climbing.

In the case of injury or illness in the mountains, there may be a need for evacuation or medical treatment when none is available on a timely basis. Because evacuation and/or medical treatment may not be available, there may be a need for your guide or instructor to give you such treatment as the cleaning and closure of wounds; the splinting of strains, sprains, or breaks; the dispensing of prescription medicines; and other medical practices or first aid without the direction or supervision of a physician.

Select programs may employ snowmobiles, mountain bikes or boats to access terrain. The use of these methods of travel may result in serious injury or death.

Some programs may require participants to cross moving water by wading or swimming. Accessing water in any way, either to access terrain, to recreate or by accident during a program may result in drowning, injury and/or death.

I UNDERSTAND AND RECOGNIZE THESE HAZARDS, AND I ACCEPT THEM AS A PART OF THE TRAVEL AND CLIMBING THAT I AM UNDERTAKING WITH AAI.

3. Authorization and Release (this includes a complete release from responsibility and liability)

I understand and recognize that there is a significant element of danger and risk in climbing and/or skiing, and I accept and assume those risks. I certify that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury or damage I may cause or suffer while participating, or else I agree to bear the costs of such injury or damage myself. I further certify that I am willing to assume the risk of any medical or physical condition that I may have.

In the event that injury or illness renders me unconscious or if I am otherwise unable to make judgments or decisions on my own about whether to accept first aid treatment, I hereby authorize my instructor, guide, and other AAI personnel to administer first aid to me without the supervision of a physician and according to their own judgment, and including but not limited to any or all of the following: the dispensing and administration of prescription drugs; the cleaning, closure, and bandaging of wounds; the splinting and bandaging of strains, sprains, and breaks; the administration of cardio/pulmonary resuscitation; the administration of artificial respiration; the application of tourniquets; and moving me to another place in hopes of improving my safety and/or that of the

person(s) helping me, notwithstanding my injured condition.

In consideration of the services I am to receive from AAI, I assume the risks indicated above and release AAI from any and all claims, damages, liability, expense, or cost of any kind that may arise out of the services and/or other arrangements provided for me. I hereby voluntarily release, hold harmless, and agree to fully indemnify and defend AAI from any claims or demands arising from my actions or omissions in connection with the activities described here and/or with the other arrangements provided for me, whether negligently or otherwise. In defending against any such claims, I will employ competent lawyers of my choosing on behalf of AAI, subject to AAI's consent (which will not be unreasonably withheld), and I will keep AAI apprised of all significant developments regarding such claim. The terms hereof serve also as a release of liability and an assumption of risk by my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, and members of my family.

I understand that AAI acts not as agent but only as coordinator between myself and the companies providing transportation, accommodations, and other services used in conjunction with my program, and that all these services are subject to terms and conditions set by those companies. In accepting such services, I agree that AAI shall not be held responsible or liable for any claims, damages, liability, expense, or cost of any kind that may arise out of those services.

If AAI incurs attorney's fees or costs to enforce this agreement (whether or not suit is brought), I agree that AAI shall be entitled to recover from me all such fees and costs.

I agree that in the event any part or portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, then such part or portion will be stricken but the rest of the agreement will be given full force and effect.

In any legal action arising out of this Release and/or my participation in this program (including all supervised or unsupervised activity in preparation for, during, following, or resulting from it), I agree irrevocably to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the Superior Court of the State of Washington for Whatcom County. Any such action shall be governed by the laws of the State of Washington.

4. Photographic Release

I agree to give AAI permission to use photos/video taken of me during this program for marketing and advertising purposes both electronically and in print. Additionally, I give my guide permission to use photos/video taken of me during my program in articles, books or online for promotional or educational purposes.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD ALL OF THE FOREGOING BEFORE SIGNING. I HAVE RECEIVED NO OTHER PROMISE, AGREEMENT, OR EXPLANATION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL LIABILITY OF AAI.

_____		_____	
Signature		Name (please print)	
_____	_____	_____	
Date	Emergency phone	Person to contact	
_____		_____	
Trip Name		Trip Date	

PARENTS OR GUARDIAN'S ADDITIONAL INDEMNIFICATION

(Must be completed by participants under the age of 18)

In consideration of _____ (print minor's name) ("Minor") being permitted by AAI to participate in its activities and to use its equipment and facilities, I agree to indemnify and hold harmless AAI from any and all claims which are brought by, or on behalf of Minor, and which are in any way connected with such use or participation by Minor.

Parent or Guardian: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____