

Rose Urban Rural Exchange

RISK ACKNOWLEDGMENT, ACCEPTANCE AND RELEASE

You are going to participate in activities where risk may be greater than what you normally encounter in your day-to-day routine. For your own personal safety and well being as a participant in the Rose Urban Rural Exchange offered by the Alaska Humanities Forum, you need to plan ahead of time in order to make your experience safe. During your orientation sessions the staff, contractors of the Alaska Humanities Forum and guest speakers will discuss with you the basic rules of safety while staying in your host community. Following these instructions, you must exercise common sense and personal awareness to reduce the element of risk and damages to yourself and others. However, it will be impossible for the Alaska Humanities Forum and your host community, host culture camp and/or host family to eliminate all hazards or to guarantee your safety against all risks. You must understand this fact and you must promote personal responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others participating in the program. You must act reasonably, prudently, and exercise common sense and good judgment throughout your experience in the Rose Urban Rural Exchange. To emphasize the importance of this, we will require you to read and return the following description and acknowledgment of risks and release.

1. **Acknowledgment of Risk.** In consideration of the services of the Alaska Humanities Forum, its board of directors, agents, and employees, the following school districts; Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough and Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts, host families, the non-profit corporations of Aleutian-Pribilof Islands Association/Native Village of Sand Point, Camp Qungaayux, Calista Elders Council, Ilisagvik College, Kodiak Island Borough School District/Native Village of Afognak, Hydaburg Haida Culture Camp/Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Koyukon Athabascan Culture Camp/Koyukuk Tribal Council, Organized Village of Kake, Native

Village of Hughes, Nuniaq Camp/Native Village of Old Harbor, Native Village of Klukwan, and all other persons associated with the Rose Urban Rural Exchange.

I agree that the risks associated with the course are as follows: Although the Alaska Humanities Forum and its staff have taken reasonable steps to inform me of the appropriate clothing and gear needed to participate in or observe subsistence activities in the villages, such as ice fishing, seal and bird hunting, certain risks are inherent, and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the activity. These inherent risks can be causes for the loss or damage of my personal belongings, accidental injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. The following describes some but not all of those risks.

2. Description of Activities and Inherent Risks. As a participant in the Rose Urban Rural Exchange, you will be transported to and from your village and/or culture camp by commercial plane, and in some cases it will be necessary to travel to your host village or culture camp from a neighboring village by all terrain vehicle (ATV), boat or ferry. Upon your arrival in your host village the mode of transportation within the village and surrounding areas may include automobile, ATV, and/or boat or ferry. During your stay in your host village you **may** participate in or observe a variety of activities, such as traditional Native dancing, Native games, traditional arts and crafts, such as woodworking, sewing and beading, basket making, drum making, fish wheel, canoe and kayak building; the gathering and preparation of traditional foods, fishing, seal hunting, bird hunting, and other physical activities such as kayaking or canoeing.

You **may** travel outside the village or culture camp on day trips to participate in or observe subsistence activities such as fishing, seal hunting or bird hunting. You may drink water from local water sources; carry your own gear and equipment; and travel across the tundra on an ATV or boat. During the spring and summer months between June through August, the climate may vary greatly according to the eco-regions, which may include the following conditions: there may be rapid water run-offs from the low

tundra lands, which may result in deep pools of water on the tundra. These pools run off into the frozen sloughs and rivers, which may create large holes on the ice of the lakes and rivers and create dangerous conditions. In participating in or observing subsistence activities, you may engage in strenuous physical activity for long periods during the day; and possibly be exposed to rain, snow, wet conditions, extremes of cold and inclement weather, standing water, changing ice conditions, a variety of wild animals, open ocean water and any and all other natural hazards, risks and dangers that exist and may occur in a wilderness environment. You may also be in remote areas for hours, away from health clinics or other emergency medical facilities. While you are in the wilderness setting, you may face risks associated with errors and imprecise group and individual perceptions and judgments. The risks of the activities may include but are not limited to drowning, broken bones, sprains, strains, sunburn, windburn, cuts and internal and external injuries with bleeding.

When traveling by boat, you may be in open water and be exposed to waves, tides, and powerful currents and may encounter violent storms and sea mammals. You will also be exposed to risks associated with capsizing or sinking in extremely cold waters, which may expose you to hypothermia or accidental death.

3. **Acknowledgment of Risks and Release.** I am aware that the activities associated with this trip entail risk of injury or death to any participant. I have read the description of risk activities contained in this statement, and I understand the description of these inherent risks is not complete and that other unknown or unanticipated inherent risks may result in injury or death.

I agree to assume and accept full responsibility for the inherent and unanticipated risks identified herein and those inherent risks not specifically identified. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary, no one is forcing me to participate, and I elect to participate in spite of and with full knowledge of the inherent risks. I acknowledge that engaging in this activity may require a degree of

skill and knowledge different than other activities that I have participated in the past. I represent that I am in good shape and have met the criteria for participation in this activity and that I have obtained an appropriate medical release form. I certify that I am fully capable of participating in the activity.

Therefore, I assume and accept full responsibility for myself, including all minor children in my care, custody and control, for bodily injury, death, or loss of personal property and expenses as a result of those inherent risks and dangers identified herein and those inherent risks and dangers not specifically identified, and as a result of my negligence in participating in this activity. I have carefully read and clearly understand and accept the terms and conditions stated herein and acknowledge that this agreement may be effective and binding upon myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representative and estate, and for all members of my family, including minor children. By entering this Agreement, I release the Alaska Humanities Forum, its employees and board of directors and the Rose Urban Rural Exchange Task Force Committee members, the host culture camps, host families and members of their families, the Tribal Councils/IRAs and their members, and/or the village city or governing bodies, and the Anchorage School District, Mat-Su Borough and Fairbanks North Star Borough School Districts from all liability for any loss or injury, of whatever kind or nature, may arise from the risks disclosed and acknowledged in this release.

I agree that if I choose to extend my trip either before or after the official trip dates I choose to do so as an individual and am no longer considered a teacher participant.

_____ Dated: _____
Signature of Participant