

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK FOR
UNCW CHALLENGE 'ROPES' COURSE PROGRAM
UNCW DISCOVER OUTDOOR PROGRAMS**

The UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course consists of a variety of activities that are categorized as "low" or "high" elements. The "low" elements are a series of team activities that may place participants on beams, platforms, ropes, and/or cables 4 inches to 10 feet of the ground. In these instances, group members and staff act as spotters to minimize the chance of falling. The purpose of these activities is to promote group problem solving, communication, trust, and cohesiveness.

The "high" elements of the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course provide an opportunity for participants to walk across beams, cables, and ropes that are approximately 35 feet off the ground. Participants access the "high" elements by either climbing a cargo net or a 4-inch square, jointed post with attached hand and foot holds. Participants exit the "high" elements by riding a pulley and rope system that runs along a cable a distance off the ground and when stopped, can be assisted down a ladder; or a rope and pulley system that runs along a cable controlled by hydraulics that gently lowers them to the ground. The use of harnesses, carabiners, pulleys, and ropes will assist participants in case of a fall while accessing, participating in, and exiting the "high" elements. Participants are instructed on how to use this equipment, practice the use of equipment, and are supervised by trained staff while participating in "high" elements of the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course.

Successful participation in the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course program is not dependent on one's physical strength or athletic ability, but on willingness to face mental challenges and work as a responsible and caring group member. At any time during UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course program participants may choose not to engage in a specific activity, or continue with the program.

While the safety of participants is top priority for the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course program, potential injury can occur as a result of participation. These injuries include, but are not limited to, scrapes, splinters, damage to the musculoskeletal system, serious back and neck injury, and death.

Because the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course program takes place out-of-doors, natural risks of the setting include but are not limited to, exposure to various weather conditions, organic debris, uneven terrain, poison ivy, mosquitoes, and other plants and animals.

I understand and accept that the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course exposes me to numerous known and unanticipated risks which could result in personal injury, illness, death, and/or damage to myself or my property. I choose to participate in the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course program despite the named and unnamed risks and potential injury. I agree to accept and assume all responsibility for risk and personal injury, illness, death, or damage to myself or my property arising from my participation in the UNCW Challenge "Ropes" Course program. My participation is voluntary, and I understand that I may choose not to participate at any time.

I have carefully read and understand this Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk, I also understand that I will be asked to read carefully, understand, and sign a separate Release of Liability.

Participant's Signature

Printed Name

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature
(if under 18 years of age)

Printed Name

Date

**CHALLENGE "ROPES" COURSE PROGRAM
RELEASE OF LIABILITY
UNCW DISCOVER OUTDOOR PROGRAMS**

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk and have agreed to its terms. I fully understand that there are certain elements of danger inherent in recreational activities, and that participating in a recreational activity could entail loss of life, personal injury, and loss of or damage to property.

I understand and agree that the terms "recreational activity" and "activity" as used herein encompass all aspects of the activity, including preliminary and subsequent matters such as, but not limited to getting outfitted for the activity and travel to and from the place of activity.

In consideration of Discover Outdoor Programs, furnishing services to enable me to participate in this activity, I hereby voluntarily release and forever discharge Discover Outdoor Programs and its officers, agents and employees from any and all liability or claims for any injury, illness, death, or damage to myself or my property arising out of or in any way connected with my participation in this activity. This release and discharge specifically includes, but is not limited to, liability or claims based upon the ordinary negligent acts or omissions of Discover Outdoor Programs or its officers, agents or employees.

I further agree, promise and covenant not to sue, assert or otherwise maintain any claim against Discover Outdoor Programs or its officers, agents or employees, for any injury, illness, death or damage to myself or my property arising from or in any way connected with my participation in this activity.

In signing this document, I fully recognize that if injury, illness, death or damage occurs to me while I am engaged in this activity, I will have no right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against UNCW, Discover Outdoor Programs, Campus Recreation or its officers, agents or employees, even if they or any of them negligently cause my injury, illness, death or damage, unless that negligence is gross or willful negligence.

I hereby grant UNCW Discover Outdoor Programs the right to use, for promotional purposes only, any photographs taken by them of me during my participation in their recreational activities.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Participant's Signature

Printed Name

Date

Parent or Guardian's Signature
(if under 18 years of age)

Printed Name

Date