



Dear Parent,

Your child has the opportunity to participate in a special activity offered by the Venture Program at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Arrangements have been made for a program that he or she is involved with to experience a **Team Challenge Course** or **High Team Challenge Course** or both courses (as circled) The program is scheduled for _____(day), _____, 20__ (date) from _____ to _____ (times).

Enclosed is an Agreement to Participate form that must be signed by you and your child for your child to participate.

- **Your child needs to sign at letter A.**
- **You need to sign at letters B. and C. and D.** for your child to be able to participate, and fill in the appropriate blanks, and provide the insurance information requested.

This Agreement form may sound overbearing. Its purpose is to ensure that you are aware of the potential risks before you agree for your child to participate. These risks should be kept in perspective: while the kinds of injuries listed (in Agreement, Section 2) can occur, they are not likely to occur. Statistics show that playing recreational soccer causes over 500 times as many injuries as challenge course adventure activities.

Venture has an excellent safety record. We are Accredited by the major professional organization in our field (The Association for Experiential Education). Our staff have a high level of training. We have taken over 25,000 participants through our Team Challenge Course during the past 25 years and have had only 2 significant injuries (a broken ankle and a broken nose). We have taken over 7500 participants through our High Ropes Course in the last 10 years and have had no significant injuries.

In my experience (from working both at Venture and at Outward Bound), ropes and initiatives courses provide a very powerful growth experience that can have a significant positive impact on people. They can build team spirit. They can provide important lessons in cooperation, compassion, and trust. They help with the development of communication skills, problem solving abilities, and leadership. And they can enhance individual self-confidence. If we didn't think they were valuable experiences, we wouldn't be offering them.

Let me stress that **no participant will be required to engage in any activity**, if he/she chooses not to do so. Each individual has the opportunity at each activity to decide if he/she wants to participate. If you have any questions you would like answered prior to signing the Agreement to Participate, please feel free to call and talk with me or with Brian Capron (Associate Director for Challenge Course Programs). It should be a fun and worthwhile experience.

Your child should:

- Wear comfortable "activity" clothes: meaning well fitting and appropriately worn clothes that are okay to get a little dirty. Sneakers are the recommended footwear.
- Not bring any valuable items, such as jewelry, etc.
- Not bring walkmans or gameboys or other distracting electronic devices.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kohn,
Venture Director