Acknowledgment of Risk Statement—Read Carefully

I. The Passages Orientation Program you are about to participate in can result in several positive outcomes for you—including meeting new people and making new friends, discovering that you perhaps are more capable than you thought, developing a sense of self-sufficiency and self-confidence, and learning new outdoor skills. The nature of a set of challenging outdoor activities brings many benefits, but there are also some possible risks we want you to be aware of.

If you are choosing to participate in a three-day, two-night backpacking trip, you will be carrying a backpack weighing up to 50 pounds (possibly more) up and down rocky mountain trails and possibly crossing streams. This can aggravate even minor physical problems, such as weak knees, ankles, or vertebrae. It is important that you are not overweight and that you are accustomed to handling some physical stress. It is possible that you will experience fatigue, blisters, and minor cuts and scrapes. Although much less likely to occur, other possible problems include heat exhaustion, sprains, broken bones, or other accidents. The Olympic Mountains generally have pleasant weather in late summer, but rain, snowstorms, and freezing temperatures can occur, resulting in temporary discomfort, but also increasing the risk of hypothermia. Although leaders are trained in first aid, and area search and rescue personnel will be aware of our presence, medical facilities are remote and wilderness evacuation is involved and time consuming. The leaders do not carry cellular phones.

If you are participating in the basecamp experience, the risks are fewer. Depending on the involvement you choose in activities such as day hikes in the mountains or canoe trips, many of the above-mentioned considerations apply, but over a shorter duration. Medical personnel will be on hand at the basecamp at all times.

We firmly believe that the benefits of this program to you far outweigh the potential risks, and that accidents occur much less frequently when adequate preparation is accompanied by sound judgment. You, however, must take a very active role in maximizing your chances for success and safety and minimizing risks. This can best occur if you do the following:

1. **Read and understand** the information on the Acknowledgment of Risk Statement and the Liability Release. **If you have questions, call us.**

2. **Be sure to follow the supplied equipment and clothing list exactly.** Many wilderness accidents occur because people do not bring the proper equipment and clothing, and/or underestimate the extreme weather conditions that can suddenly occur in the Pacific Northwest. This endangers not only you, but the safety of others you are with as well.

3. **Take responsibility for your physical fitness.** Although the Passages program is designed to accommodate many levels of physical ability, you should choose your level of involvement wisely. **Be honest with yourself and with us in what you can handle**—beginning, moderate, or advanced backpacking trip, the basecamp experience or overnight canoe or kayak trip.

4. **Follow the advice of the Passages Leaders.** These students and staff are eager to help you have a successful and meaningful experience. **They have also been trained in wilderness first aid and safety.**

II. The Perspectives Orientation program you are about to participate in can result in several positive outcomes for you—including meeting new people and making new friends, developing a sense of self-sufficiency and self-confidence, and learning new things about your new community. The activities that are part of the Perspectives program bring many benefits, but there are also some possible risks we want you to be aware of. The Urban Plunge program and the Group Activities program may require that you travel in a bus, in a van, or on foot with a student leader. There are inherent dangers and risks involved in any sort of travel and we ask that you be aware of those dangers and act wisely.
Liability Release—Read Carefully Before Signing
After reading the Acknowledgment of Risk Statement above, read this Liability Release carefully and sign at the bottom.

I understand that my safety is ultimately my own responsibility. I also understand that I am responsible for furnishing my own proper clothing and equipment, except for items of equipment I've indicated that I will rent from the Passages program. I am responsible for the safety and good operating condition of all equipment regardless of where I obtain it. I also understand that the backpacking trip leaders DO NOT carry cellular phones.

I agree that I will choose a level of involvement that does not exceed my physical capabilities. If I am choosing the three-day, two-night backpacking trip, I certify that I am in good health and physical condition, have no physical problems that could be aggravated by this activity and am not greatly overweight.

By my signature on this form and my participation in the Passages and Perspectives program, I certify that I am cognizant of the inherent dangers, risks, and hazards incident to my chosen level of involvement (i.e., beginning, moderate, or advanced backpacking/canoeing trip or the basecamp experience). This may include, but is not limited to, the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain or on water, accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature and travel by vehicle.

In acknowledging the above-mentioned risks and responsibilities, I hereby release and forever discharge the Passages and Perspectives Orientation program, its staff and leaders, and the University of Puget Sound.

I have fully informed myself of the contents of this affirmation and release by reading it before I signed it.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY—READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

Name (please print) First Middle initial Last

__________________________
Signature of parent or guardian Date Signature of student Date (if student is under 18 when signing form)

__________________________
Birth date (Month / Day / Year)

Please do one of the following:
1. Bring this form with you and turn it in at Orientation Check-In on August 21, 2015.
2. Scan this form and send it to stuact@pugetsound.edu
3. Fax this form to 253-879-2932.
4. Mail this form (if before August 17th) to: Student Development University of Puget Sound 1500 North Warner, Tacoma, WA. 98416-1003