



Informed Consent Form

Welcome to Hudson Forest Play: A space and time for children to connect with nature; to play, explore and learn. Please carefully read the outline of the program and consent form below to ensure you are well aware of the risks involved in participating in this program.

Note: All instructors are certified, professionally trained, and experienced in nature pedagogy and first aid procedures.

SETTING

PROGRAM

Introduction

At *Hudson Forest Play* we support children in becoming confident, capable people who have a sound sense of their abilities and interests, and the ability to take age-appropriate responsibility for their own safety. Adult anxieties about children can lead adults to overprotect them. This makes it harder for children to learn the consequences of their actions and makes learning less engaging. Furthermore, educators, public health professionals, and child development experts are concerned that children today spend less time playing and learning outdoors, with damaging results for them and society. For this reason, unstructured outdoor play is central to this program.

Hudson Forest Play takes reasonable steps to manage and balance risks, while at the same time allowing children to play freely. Program participants acknowledge its inherent risks of harm and personal injury. While minor injuries like bruises, bumps and scrapes are not uncommon, serious injuries are rare, and life-changing injuries and fatalities are unlikely in the extreme. Still, as with almost any activity, indoors or outdoors, it is impossible to guarantee that they will not happen. You are required to accept this as a condition of your child's participation.

Risks

The variety of risks is more than can be listed here and will vary depending on the season and location. However, educators are trained and experienced, and their role is to support children in learning and playing, while keeping the risks to an acceptable level.

Below is a list of some of the more significant risks:

- Injuries from executing strenuous and demanding physical activities
- Injuries resulting from matches or fire [if applicable]
- Injuries resulting from the presence of harmful plants, natural loose parts, wild animals, and/or ticks
- Changing and inclement weather, including storms, high winds, and lightning
- The possibility that your child may not heed safety instructions or directions given to the group or delivered individually
- Injuries arising from the actions of other children
- Negligence on the part of other participants



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Consent for the following:

- That while the injuries sustained in outdoor activity are mostly minor, they can be severe, and on extremely rare occasions, even fatal, appropriate first aid procedures will be followed and emergency care notified, if necessary
- That all rules are designed to enhance the safety of your child and others and are to be followed at all times
- That fire and open-fire cooking require special instructions and training from the facilitator, when used
- That your child's risk of injury increases with fatigue, and it is their responsibility to notify the instructor when they are feeling tired
- That your child will drink water and eat a healthy snack to ensure hydration and energy levels are high

In unstructured, outdoor play, children freely choose which experiences and forms of play they are comfortable engaging in. Your child is under no obligation to participate in all experiences and may choose not to participate at any time during the program.

<p>I/We have read the risk-benefit assessment summary for the program/experience.</p>	<i>initial here</i>
<p>I/We have reviewed the risk-benefit assessment summary with my/our child and have explained to the child that they need to listen to and follow the instructions provided.</p>	<i>initial here</i>
<p>I/We are aware that, alongside the benefits, participation involves risks, dangers, and hazards, including but not limited to those referred to in the risk-benefit assessment summary, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freely and voluntarily assume the risks, dangers, and hazards inherent in participating, including all those described in the risk-benefit assessment summary and the possibility of personal injury, and the remote possibility of fatality. • Being satisfied that participation is suitable for my/our child, I/we give my/our permission and consent for him/her to participate. 	<i>initial here</i>
<p>I will notify you if my child suffers from any medical or health condition that may cause injury to themselves or others, or may require emergency care during their participation.</p>	<i>initial here</i>

Child's name

Date

Parent/guardian's name (PRINT)

Parent/guardian's signature

Emergency contact's name

Emergency contact's phone number