

WARNINGS & LIABILITY LIMITS For ADULT Members of the Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Inc.

1. OKCC recommends members read the American Whitewater safety code. Member acknowledges having access to a copy (www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/safety:start). OKCC advises members to study safety advice in books such as *Whitewater Rescue Manual* and to take courses on river safety and rescue plus First Aid and CPR.
2. The literature discusses common dangers, but on the water perhaps nobody will recognize the danger. Hunger, fatigue and weather weaken perception and judgment. A little imagination suggests dangers not ordinarily discussed, such as car wrecks, solvent fumes while working on boats, back injuries from portaging, rattlesnake bites while scouting, and so on. There are more risks inherent in the sport than the club can itemize. People make errors in judgment and execution. Boats collide, perhaps because somebody loses control or doesn't look. Lead boats signal a following boat into a bad route through a rapid. Rescuers throw ropes in error or pull a pinned boat into a worse fix. CPR cards expire. Somebody fails to tie a boat onto a car. OKCC regards such events as errors of strategy or execution made in a sport, and the signers of this waiver release, discharge and covenant not to sue the OKCC for the consequences. Each member must anticipate the errors and take appropriate precautions.
3. The club can't expect members to hazard their families' financial security when they volunteer to coordinate trips. Coordinators' only reward is esteem, and the club believes their only penalty should be loss of that esteem. This waiver therefore excludes liability for setting bad examples, advising erroneously, misjudging a participant's readiness for a trip, or otherwise falling short of the coordination the club hopes for. Coordinators are not certified by any outside agency; any coordination standards the club may adopt are exhortations, not guarantees.
4. By joining the OKCC the member assumes the risks to self — as well as to any minor for which he or she is parent or legal guardian — of death, permanent disability, or injury mentioned here or in the literature and those inherent in the sport. The member waives claims which may arise against the club, its members, officers, servants, agents and trip coordinators and assistants, for death or injury to person or property, including claims of vicarious liability and claims arising from negligence. Not waived are claims against an individual who causes injury intentionally, recklessly or with gross negligence and claims among driver, owner and passengers of a motor vehicle for injuries ordinarily covered by vehicle insurance.
5. OKCC adopts the AWA code's declaration of an individual's responsibility for his or her own decisions. Only the paddler knows his or her own health, strength and preparedness. Each experienced paddler has at some time declined to put in after arriving at a river, ocean or lake shore even though others did, or declined to run a particular rapid even though others did. OKCC disavows the AWA code's characterization of a river trip as a "common adventure" in which participants "share the responsibility for the conduct of the trip."
6. This waiver shall be broadly construed in favor of protection from liability, as members are mutually relinquishing possible claims in exchange for protection. This protection from liability extends to guests who have signed the club's waiver. Only formal action at a club meeting can relax the liability limits. **As a complete, unconditional lifetime release of all liability even if a OKCC member's membership lapses**, this waiver's limits apply to members even on private boating trips and after membership is discontinued, unless the persons involved agree otherwise.

I have read the **OKCC WARNINGS AND LIABILITY LIMITS**. I understand it, agree with it, and by signing this form, acknowledge the OKCC Warnings and Liability Limits as a condition of membership in the Oregon Kayak and Canoe Club, Inc.

Name (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Name (print) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Note: All participants 18 years and older must sign and submit the ADULT waiver for membership. MINOR participants under age 18 must sign and submit MINOR waiver with signature by parent or guardian. See <http://www.okcc.org/membership/> for copy.

OKCC ANNUAL DUES: \$30 per household. Membership expires Dec 31 of each year.

If you join after September, your membership lasts through the next calendar year. Joining the OKCC qualifies you for discounted membership in American Whitewater.

To join OKCC, send completed waiver with check made out to "OKCC Inc." to OKCC, P.O. Box 692, Portland, OR 97207