SCA Release of Liability,

Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement

Thank you for participating in a program with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Before you begin, we need to make sure everyone understands the risks and our legal relationship. In exchange for participating in the SCA program, you agree to the following:

1. Activities and Risks
Participating in an SCA program means you may be outdoors and using tools while helping with conservation work. That can include hiking, digging, lifting, or using equipment like shovels or chainsaws. You might be working in parks, forests, city green spaces, or wilderness areas.

These activities can involve risks, such as:

- Unpredictable weather or environmental conditions
- Getting sick or injured in a place where evacuation or treatment are significantly delayed
- Physical strain or accidents from using tools or doing outdoor labor
- Mistakes by SCA leaders or others on your team

The lists above do not include all the activities or all the risks. These risks are inherent to the work we do, meaning we cannot eliminate them without significantly altering the activity. We believe these activities are meaningful and rewarding and we take numerous safety steps to prevent or minimize incidents.

2. Acknowledgement of Risk
By signing this form, you agree that:

- You understand and accept the inherent and other risks of participating in an SCA program.
- If you are a parent or guardian signing for a minor, you have talked with them about the risks and give permission for them to participate.

3. Release of Liability and Agreement to Cover Costs
You also agree that:

- You will not hold SCA, the site hosts, or any of their staff, volunteers, directors, or partners legally responsible for any injuries, losses, or damages that happen to you or your child as part of the program, even if you claim those individuals were negligent. But, you are not waiving claims of gross negligence.
- If someone (including your child) makes a claim against SCA because of something you (or your child) did or an injury you (or your child) suffered, you agree to indemnity SCA, meaning you will pay any costs or judgments, including legal fees.

4. Dispute
If there is a legal disagreement related to this program:

- It will be handled through binding arbitration (not in court) using the American Arbitration Association.
- Virginia law will apply and you must bring any claim only in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- The most you can recover, if anything, is the cost you paid to participate.

5. Final Agreement
Please read this carefully. By signing, you confirm that:

- You understand and agree to all the terms.
- You've had time to ask questions or consult with a lawyer if you want to.
- You (or the minor) can participate in the program safely given any health conditions you have.

If any part of this document is found to be legally invalid, the rest of it will still apply. This agreement applies to you, your family, your heirs, and anyone else acting on your behalf.

Participant Signature _____. **Date** _____

If under 18 (or if you reside in Alabama and are under the age of 19) (or if you reside in Mississippi and are under the age of 21), a parent or legal guardian must sign:
Parent/Guardian Signature _____. **Date** _____
Print Name(s) _____

(updated June 12, 2025)