

**UNCW DISCOVER OUTDOOR PROGRAMS**  
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM**  
**UNCW CHALLENGE “ROPES” COURSE PROGRAM**

The UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course consists of a variety of activities that are categorized as “low” or “high” elements. The “low” elements are a series of team activities that may place participants on beams, platforms, ropes, and/or cables 4 inches to 4 feet off the ground. In these instances, group members and staff act as spotters to minimize the chance of falling. The purpose of these activities is to promote group problem solving, communication, trust, and cohesiveness.

The “high” components of the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course provide opportunity for participants to participate in activities that require them to walk across beams, cables, and ropes that are 35 feet off the ground. In addition, participants access the “high” elements by either climbing a telephone-like pole that has large step-like staples or by climbing a simulated rock wall. Participants exit the “high” course and elements by riding a pulley and rope system that runs along a cable gradually to a short distance off the ground in which they can be assisted down a ladder. **The use of harnesses, karabiners, pulleys, and ropes protect participants in case of a fall while accessing, participating in, and exiting the “high” elements. Participants are instructed on how to use this equipment, practice the use of equipment, and are supervised by trained staff while participating in “high” elements of the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course.**

Successful participation in the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course program is not dependent on one’s physical strength or athletic ability, but on a willingness to face mental challenges and work as a responsible and caring group member. At any time during the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course, program participants may choose not to engage in a specific activity or continue with the program.

While the safety of participants is a top priority for the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course program, potential injury can occur as a result of participation. These injuries include, but are not limited to, scrapes, splinters, damage to the muscular skeletal system, serious back and neck injury, and death.

Because the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course program takes place out of doors, natural risks of the setting include, but are not limited to, exposure to sun, heat and other weather conditions; roots, pine cones, falling limbs, and uneven terrain; poison ivy, mosquitoes, and other plants and animals.

I understand and accept that the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course exposes me to numerous known and unanticipated risks that could result in personal injury, illness, death, and/or damage to me or my property. I choose to participate in the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course program despite the named and unnamed risks and potential for injury. I agree to accept and assume all responsibility for risk and personal injury, illness, death, or damage to me or my property arising from my participation in the UNCW Challenge “Ropes” Course program. My participation is voluntary, and I understand that I may choose not to participate at any time.

I have carefully read and understand this Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk. I also understand that I will be asked to read carefully, understand, and sign a separate Release of Liability.

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Participant’s Signature

Printed Name

Date

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Parent or Guardian’s Signature

Printed Name

Date