



# Application

Post Office Box 566 13765  
East Third Street  
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676 USA

tel: 907.733.1016  
info@climbalaska.org

To reserve a space with AMS, please read and complete this form and send it to us in Talkeetna via email or post. After acceptance, a non-refundable deposit is required for enrollment. Deposits are: \$500 for Courses, \$3,000 for Expeditions, 20% of the total tuition for Custom programs, a full non-refundable tuition for Workshops. When your application materials and deposit have been received, you will be contacted by AMS by email or phone.

## Personal Information

Name: First	Preferred	Middle	Last
<hr/>			
Birthdate (m/d/y)	Gender	Height	Weight
<hr/>			
Occupation	Social Media Account(s)		
<hr/>			
Mobile Phone	Home Phone		
<hr/>			
English: <input type="radio"/> Fluent	<input type="radio"/> Proficient	<input type="radio"/> Can get by	<input type="radio"/> No English

## Mailing Address

Street (include apt., box, etc.)	
<hr/>	
City	State
<hr/>	
Postal Code	Country
<hr/>	
Primary Email	
<hr/>	
Secondary Email	
<hr/>	

## Emergency Contact

Name: First	Middle	Last
<hr/>		
Physical Street Address		
<hr/>		
City	State	Postal Code
<hr/>		
Country		
<hr/>		
Primary Email	Secondary Email	
<hr/>		
Phone	Relationship to Applicant	
<hr/>		

## Registration

Program Name	Starting Date
<hr/>	
Have you enrolled in an AMS program before? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
<hr/>	
Title	Date
<hr/>	
How did you hear about AMS? <i>(Please include a name if someone referred you):</i>	
<hr/>	

## Applicant Goals & Background

1. List 2 goals you have for this program. How will you define success for this experience?

2. Course applicants: Describe your regular physical activities/sports and any outdoor or climbing experience:  
*(Expedition applicants: please complete the Expedition Questionnaire)*

## Tuition & Policies

Deposits will only be processed after you have been accepted on the AMS program. Deposits are non-refundable; \$500 for Courses, \$3000 for Expeditions, full tuition for Workshops, and 20% of the total tuition for Custom programs. The full tuition balance is due in advance of the starting date: 120 days prior to Expeditions and 60 days prior to Courses. Custom programs are committed to final payment due dates in the AMS quote confirmation document. Purchasing trip cancellation insurance is recommended. AMS will accept payments by credit card, cash, or wire transfer.

Payment options: ☐ Credit Card ☐ Cash ☐ Wire Transfer ☐ Secure Online Payment

Billing Address:

Street (include apt., box, etc.) City State Postal Code Country

Deposit amount to charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the same card to process my remaining balance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on (Date): \_\_\_\_\_ Please send receipt via: ☐ email ☐ post

Card Number Exp: Month/Year CVV Code

Authorized Signature: I agree to pay the above total amount according to card issuer agreement Date

**TUITION:** Tuition for Workshops includes guides and instruction, logistics support, group technical equipment, and field communication equipment. Courses and Expeditions also include group camping equipment, food, accommodation, and transportation during the program. Denali Expeditions additionally include ground transport from Anchorage to Talkeetna, 2 nights pre-Expedition lodging in Talkeetna, and all NPS climber and entrance fees. Tuition does not include personal equipment rentals, lodging, or transportation to or from Talkeetna for Courses and Workshops, or transportation from Talkeetna to Anchorage after your Expedition. Inclusions and exclusions for Custom programs are detailed in the AMS quote confirmation document.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All deposits count toward tuition and are nonrefundable unless AMS denies your application. Any cancellation made by participants at any time after AMS acceptance incurs a \$500 administrative fee. Cancellations made 121 days or more before the starting date for Expeditions and 61 days or more for Courses will be refunded the amount of the balance paid beyond the deposit, plus administrative fee. Cancellations made within 120 days of the starting date for Expeditions or 60 days of the starting date for Courses will not receive a refund. All Custom program tuition is nonrefundable. If tuition payment is not made by the due date, the participant will be cancelled from the program without refund—unless, prior to the due date, the participant and AMS have agreed upon a written alternate payment plan. AMS reserves the right to change scheduled guides or instructors or a Course location; in this event there are no refunds. In the event of a Course or Expedition cancellation, no refunds of the deposit will be issued. The paid balance will be refunded or transferred if a Course or Expedition is canceled for any reason wholly or partially beyond AMS's control (including, without limitation: force majeure, natural disasters,

government closures, or pandemic). AMS is not responsible for any associated personal costs resulting from changes or cancellations, regardless of whether the change or cancellation is caused by AMS or is beyond AMS's control. AMS recommends that all applicants explore their options for trip insurance coverage.

**TRANSFERS:** Transfers to different Courses or Expeditions are granted only upon availability. They must be requested at least 120 days before the starting date of the program. If approved, there is a \$250 transfer fee, due when the transfer is made. Participants who are unable to attend and do not request a transfer will be cancelled and will not receive a refund. Transfers may be made only within the same calendar year. Transfers are not applicable to Custom programs.

**BE ADVISED:** AMS reserves the right to refuse a person participation on any program if we find that person to be mentally or physically unprepared. During a Course or Expedition, AMS reserves the right to end a person's participation for any reason deemed necessary by the guides for individual or group well-being. In these cases, there will be no refund of any kind. AMS provides no guarantee that climbing objectives (e.g., summiting) will be reached, and there is no refund for individuals or groups who fail to reach the climbing objective, regardless of the reason. If a participant requires rescue, or the participant departs the program before completion, the participant is responsible for any expenses incurred. AMS is not responsible for expenses over which it has no control. Due to the environment and physical nature of AMS Courses and Expeditions, participants must be healthy and physically fit. The details on this form are held confidentially and provide AMS with important information to best serve you and ensure a successful experience. Please notify AMS with any changes that occur before the start of your program.

***I have read, understand, and accept the terms and conditions stated above and acknowledge that this agreement shall be effective and binding upon the parties during the entire period of participation. AMS may also use my name and picture in all promotional materials.***

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Health & Insurance Information

Due to the environment and physical nature of AMS Courses and Expeditions, participants must be healthy and physically fit. The details on this form are held confidentially and provides AMS with important information to best serve you and ensure a successful experience. Please notify AMS with any changes that occur before the start of your program.

*I will answer the below questions honestly and to the best of my knowledge.*

Participant's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Participant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance

*Please explain in detail any questions answered 'yes' below. Please use additional pages if necessary.*

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have health insurance?

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_ Group No. \_\_\_\_\_ Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes ☐ No Do you have travel, accident, or rescue insurance?  
Rescue insurance is not required within Denali National Park & Preserve.

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Health History *Please explain in detail any questions answered 'yes' below. Please use additional pages if necessary.*

1. Do you currently have any chronic conditions and/or are you under the care of a physician? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Condition	Medication/Dosage	Length of Treatment

2. Do you have any allergies to foods, medications, or to anything else that you are aware of? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Allergen	Reaction	Treatment

3. List all hospitalizations and operations that you have had in the past five 5 years.

Hospitalization and/or Operation	Date

4. Have you ever been told by a doctor that you had epilepsy, diabetes, high blood pressure, a heart condition, asthma or respiratory condition, ulcers, colitis or intestinal problems, or any disease? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Do you have any history of joint injuries or pain? Please provide a history and status on your current condition.

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Have you ever had Acute Mountain Sickness or Pulmonary/Cerebral Edema? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Symptoms	Mountain/Elevation	What resolved the symptoms?

7. During the past five 5 years, have you been diagnosed or treated with/treated for a mental health condition? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Condition/Duration	Treatment/Medication(s)

8. Have you ever experienced frostnip or frostbite? Please explain the severity and when it occurred.

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Will you have any dietary restrictions during this remote Course or Expedition? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Do you have any other health concerns, restrictions, or faith-based practices that could affect your participation on this AMS program? Please explain.

☐ Yes ☐ No

# EXPEDITION QUESTIONNAIRE



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## Participant Information

name

## Expedition

first choice

start date

second choice

start date

**Climbing Denali, Foraker, and other Alaska Range peaks is a tremendous challenge that will draw upon all of your past climbing experiences.** Heavy packs (60 lbs/27 kilos), glacier travel, exposed icy slopes, and extreme weather, combined with high latitudes and altitudes create uniquely challenging conditions. These physical difficulties and the mental challenge of living in close quarters for many days require the highest levels of endurance and teamwork.

Please fill out this questionnaire and provide as much detail as possible so that, to the best of our ability, we can determine your level of preparedness for your climb. Include any supporting documentation, such as evaluations or certificates of completion from previous instructional or guided climbs and training courses.

**Denali Applicants Please Note:** *Carefully review the required experience information within this document to further understand the rigors of climbing Denali. Before attempting Denali with us, your resume must meet all the criteria. Denali is NOT the place to learn about mountaineering for the first time; it is the place to put acquired skills to the test.*

Screening applicants is not an exact science. We rely upon applicants to assess their skills honestly, so that every team has the best chance to climb Denali while managing risks with strength and in excellent form. We take screening very seriously, and while we inquire about previous experience and fitness levels to determine ability, it does not always ensure absolute readiness for Denali. We ask that you prioritize your training and preparation and follow our recommendations to help avoid disappointment. In the past 10 years, the average summit success rate was between 36–68%. Denali's summit can be elusive for even the best-prepared climbers. It is not unusual for qualified climbers to make several attempts before reaching the top. That is why, at AMS, we share your goal of summiting yet also define success as the highest-quality climbing experience overall.

Climbers who are unprepared, or who climb in a manner that puts themselves or others at risk, will be asked to leave the expedition early. This will be determined by the guides, with their knowledge of risk management and the stamina required for the climb.

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## Questionnaire

1. How often do you climb mountain routes that require using a rope?

2. Describe your experience practicing self-arrest, using an ice axe, and climbing while wearing crampons:

3. Have you ever climbed a 35-degree slope with crampons on? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Are you comfortable climbing with crampons on, while carrying a 60-lb pack, on an exposed terrain of 35 degrees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Have you ever participated in a formal climbing or backpacking instructional course? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
If yes, were you climbing with a backpack? What was the pack weight? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Can you carry a 60-lb (27-kilo) backpack while also pulling an approximately 40-lb (18-kilo) sled? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Have you ever gone on an unsupported overnight backpacking trip where you carried all of your own supplies? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Describe your winter camping experience:

Date	Location	# of Days	Route & miles covered	Pack weight	Shelter used	Guide company (if applicable)

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**Additional Comments**

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**Climbing Resume**

Date	Mountain/Location	Route	Guided?	Mountaineering Skills	Elevation reached; if no summit, why?
6/14	Gannet Peak/WY	Standard	Yes. Exum Lead guide: Mike Gardner	Ice axe, crampons, roped glacier travel	13,804ft - summit

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**Additional Comments**

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**Other Wilderness Backcountry Travel Experience**

Date	Location	Route & miles covered	Pack weight	Guided?	Shelter used	No. of days

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**Regular Fitness Routine and Strength Training**

Activity	Frequency

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**Planned Pre-Expedition Training Program**

Approx. date	Training



## Supplement for Denali Applicants: Expedition Requirements

*By joining an AMS Denali expedition, you are making a commitment to arrive for your climb physically and mentally prepared for its rigors. Your training leading up to this expedition will make it a successful experience and add to the safety of yourself and the team. Below are some characteristics of the climb to help you determine whether it is right for you.*

### Remote

Denali is located in an isolated wilderness area where there are no roads, trails, or huts. Access is restricted to one glaciated airstrip surrounded by miles of crevasses. If you or your guides determine you are not prepared for these challenges, you will be evacuated in the safest and most expedient way possible, but it will take time. There will be no high-pointing. You are expected to recognize the difficulties associated with remoteness.

### Unsupported/Self-Sufficient

Denali is unsupported. Unsupported means you have to pack your personal and group equipment, food, and fuel. There are no porters, cooks, or other support staff. You and the guides do it all. Denali should not be the first time you go on an unsupported expedition. With experience, you become more careful in choosing what is essential to bring. Your gear check in Talkeetna will be strict and focus on the necessities. You are expected to understand the challenges facing unsupported expeditions.

### Winter Camping and Travel

Denali is located only 50 miles south of the Arctic Circle. It demands expertise in winter climbing and camping techniques. It is not enough to know how to tie a knot; you need to be able to tie it with mittens. When you forget to sleep with your water bottle, you waste valuable time and fuel resources trying to melt it in boiling water. Failure to dry your socks every night will lead to foot problems. You must be skilled with snowshoes. We will travel on snowshoes up to 11,000 ft, then use crampons for the rest of the climb. You are expected to go on winter climbs and overnight winter backpacking trips to prepare you for the environment you will encounter on Denali.

### Pack and Sled Weight

The single biggest contributor to difficulty on Denali is pack weight. You should be comfortable carrying a 60-lb pack. Climbing Everest or any of the other 7 summits won't help here. The first day travelling on the glacier you will be carrying a full, 60-lb pack and pulling a 40-lb sled. This totals 100 lbs of gear. Higher on the mountain, you have to be able to comfortably put on and take off your backpack on a 30-degree slope wearing crampons. It will be windy and cold. Every person is expected to be able to handle these loads.

### Glacier Travel

The Kahiltna Glacier has crevasses that are unavoidable. Throughout the climb we travel on an active glacier and we travel over snow bridges. We use route-finding strategies and roped travel techniques to reduce cases of crevasse falls and to help reduce significant injuries in the case of a crevasse fall. In order for this belay technique to work, the rope needs to be a certain tension. This requires everyone's constant attention to maintain the leader's pace, not your own. She or he will set a pace that you should be able to follow all day. It will be moderate, but steady, with regular breaks for food and water. You will travel between camps and to the summit roped to team mates for the entirety of the expedition.

### Crevasse Rescue

Climbing Denali is technically basic, but the rescue systems you might have to use are quite advanced. Knowing what to do in a real crevasse fall is best left to the guides, but what if the guide falls into a crevasse? Building anchors, tying off a fallen climber, transferring a load, and setting up a hauling system are all prerequisites. You might be the one who drops into the crevasse, so you need to know how to ascend a rope. Before you

fly onto the glacier, you will have an opportunity to ascend a fixed line at AMS. You are expected to understand the fundamentals of crevasse rescue and how to successfully ascend a fixed line.

### Crampons

Denali is an icy mountain, climbed almost entirely wearing crampons. Crampons are vital tools that must be sharp and must never fall off your boots. Repeated trips, falls, or stepping on the rope are safety hazards for yourself and your team mates. You are expected to be comfortable climbing in crampons while carrying a 60-lb pack.

### Self-Arrest

Being able to arrest a fall is a vital mountaineering skill. Lower on the mountain, crevasse falls are the concern. Higher on the mountain, falls on steep, exposed, icy slopes are the concern. You are expected to be able to get into the self-arrest position and arrest a fall using an ice axe.

### Technical Skills

The West Buttress route requires basic climbing skills: figure 8 knot, prussic hitch, rope coiling, belaying, building an anchor, passing running protection, using an ascender on a fixed line. These skills are best learned for the first time in a formal class setting, then practiced later unsupervised. You are expected to understand basic climbing skills and commands.

### Teamwork

You will be part of a group. The people that matter will be the members of your group. Strength on Denali is working together and functioning well, which requires strong communication skills, honesty, patience, and politeness. Being a strong team member is about putting in 110 percent. Only a team of climbers will reach the summit; no soloing is permitted. You will be expected to participate in teamwork, resolving conflicts, and building camaraderie.

### High Altitude-Related Illness

Denali's high altitude poses a health challenge for all participants. We recommend that you subject your body to high altitude before attempting Denali. High-Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) and High-Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) are serious, potentially deadly, illnesses. Anyone showing early signs of either illness, with shortness of breath following mild exercise and coupled with a 10-point drop in blood-oxygen saturation levels, should not go higher. You are expected to communicate honestly about your health and any medications you plan to take. We have expert physicians as our advisors, but our guides are not doctors, so we cannot guarantee that our guides will detect or respond to symptoms of HAPE. We expect you to familiarize yourself with the symptoms of HAPE and be alert to any changes within your own body during the climb.

### Stamina

Denali is a marathon, not a sprint. If you are consistently struggling and not recovering on the lower mountain, you will be required to descend early before moving to higher elevations. Therefore, it is in your best interest to arrive as prepared as possible. If you are unprepared and pose a safety risk to yourself or others, the guides may be required to turn your entire rope team around at higher elevations on the mountain, where the exposure and consequences pose a greater risk for yourself and the entire team. Anyone in doubt of their physical preparedness may be asked to perform a stamina evaluation test. You are expected to have the stamina to endure the rigors of expedition life and be ready for a 12- to 14-hour summit day.

*Please sign and date that you have read and understand these requirements. If you have additional questions, please contact us.*

Signature

Date

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS; ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY

Alaska Mountaineering School, LLC



## WARNING

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You have requested to engage in an outdoor activity with Alaska Mountaineering School LLC ("AMS"). There are significant elements of risk in any activity associated with outdoor adventures, including but not limited to: mountaineering, bicycling, camping, climbing/hiking/trekking, fishing, hunting, skiing, sledding, swimming, wilderness lodges, and the presence or use of animals, watercraft, transportation by aircraft, firearms or other weapons, and the use of any related equipment (referred to herein as "activity"). Although we have taken reasonable steps to provide you with appropriate equipment and/or skilled guides so that you can enjoy an activity for which you may not be skilled, we wish to remind you this activity is not without risk. Certain risks cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the activity. The same elements that contribute to the unique character of the activity can be causes of loss or damage to your equipment, accidental injury, illness, or, in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. We do not want to frighten you or reduce your enthusiasm for this activity, but we do think it is important for you to know in advance what to expect and to be informed of the inherent risks.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS

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I acknowledge that the following describes some, but not all, of those risks: 1) Falling; 2) Cold weather, altitude, and heat-related injuries and illnesses, such as: frostnip, frostbite, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, hypothermia, altitude sickness, or dehydration; 3) An "act of nature," which may include: avalanche, rock fall, inclement weather, thunder and lightning, severe and/or varied wind, temperature, or weather conditions; 4) River crossings, fordings, portaging, or travel including travel to or from the activity; 5) Risks associated with crossing, climbing or down-climbing of rock, snow, glaciers, and/or ice; 6) Problems caused by equipment failure, operator error, or the unsuitability of personal or rental equipment; 7) Discharge of weapons; 8) Risks typically associated with watercraft, including: change in waterflow or current; submerged, semi-submerged, and overhanging objects; capsizing, swamping, or sinking of watercraft and resultant injury; hypothermia; or drowning; 9) Risks associated with my sense of balance, physical condition and coordination, and ability to follow instructions; 10) Attack by/encounter with insects, reptiles, or animals; 11) Accidents or illnesses occurring in remote places where there are no available medical facilities; 12) Fatigue, chill and/or dizziness, which may diminish my reaction time and increase the risk of accident; 13) Illness, including viral or bacterial infection, caused by exposure to contaminated or infectious individuals, air, food, or materials; 14) Risks associated with travel by small aircraft, including risk of crash or collision.

I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that these and other unknown or unanticipated risks **may result in injury, illness, or death.**

## **EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY**

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I am aware that this activity entails risks of injury or death to myself and minor children for which I may be responsible. I agree to assume responsibility for the risks identified herein and those risks not specifically identified. My/Our participation in this activity is purely voluntary. No one is forcing me/us to participate and I/we elect to participate in spite of the risks. I am/We are physically and mentally capable of participating in the activity and/or safely using the equipment. I/We accept that wearing a US Coast Guard (USCG)-approved personal flotation device for waterborne activities is a basic safety precaution and assume full responsibility for the risks of personal injury, accidents, illness, or death, including but not limited to the risks described acknowledged above. I/We also assume responsibility for damage to or loss of my/our personal property as the result of any accident that may occur.

## **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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I understand that it is my responsibility to select a program appropriate to my physical abilities, mental preparedness, and interests and that I am responsible for being in sufficiently good mental and physical health to undertake the program. I understand that I am responsible for studying all pre-departure information, for asking any clarifying questions, for bringing all the clothing and equipment included on the program's equipment list, for conforming to standards of personal hygiene to minimize the risk of illness to myself and fellow program members, for fulfilling responsibilities and training as outlined in the program information and as directed by AMS, and for acting in a manner considerate of fellow program members and the cultures and natural regions visited. I understand and agree that if, in the opinion of AMS and/or AMS guides and instructors, I fail to fulfill these obligations, AMS may terminate my participation in the program without refund. I understand that if I lose or damage AMS equipment while on the program, beyond normal wear and tear, I am responsible for replacing it at full MSRP value. I understand that these conditions are set forth to protect the safety, health, integrity, and success of the course or expedition.

## **COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH**

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I recognize that you, as provider of goods and/or services, will operate under a covenant of good faith and fair dealing, but that you may find it necessary to terminate an activity due to force majeure, forces of nature, medical necessities, or other problems; and/or refuse or terminate the participation of any person for the safety of myself and/or other participants. I accept your right to take these actions for the safety of myself and/or other participants. I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made with respect to achieving objectives.

## **AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY**

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I hereby authorize any medical treatment deemed necessary in the event of any injury while participating in the activity. I either have appropriate insurance or, in its absence, agree to pay all costs of rescue and/or medical services as may be incurred on my/our behalf. In consideration of the services of Alaska Mountaineering School, LLC their officers, agents, employees, members and stockholders, and all other persons or entities associated with those businesses, I agree as follows:

“I certify that I am fully capable of participating in this activity both physically and mentally. Therefore, I assume and accept full responsibility for myself, including all minor children in my care, custody, and control, for bodily injury, death, loss of personal property, and expenses as a result of those inherent risks and dangers identified herein and those inherent risks and dangers not specifically identified, and as a result of my/our and AMS’s negligence in participating in this activity.”

I have read the foregoing acknowledgment of risks and assumption of risk and responsibility.

Participant's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

In an emergency, notify (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List known allergies to medications, plants, or insects: \_\_\_\_\_

Advise if under a doctor’s care or using any prescription medications:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if participant is under 18 years of age):

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_