



Informed Consent for Participation

This document is intended to secure your informed consent for participation in activities on the property of Hutch Farms and provided by The Outdoor Connection.

Please be informed of our required forms and fees for service, our request for use of video and photos of participants to be used for marketing purposes, and the general expectations of our program.

Our background: The team at The Outdoor Connection has a shared experience of mental health counseling, outdoor adventure training and other educational and therapeutic modalities. We have several years of experience working with participants of a variety of ages and in a variety of settings.

Our philosophy: We truly value the opportunity to build relationships with our participants and believe it is the key ingredient to sparking positive change and wellness in all those who engage in our programming. We believe in a wellness model so we will always focus on an individual's strengths and where to go from there. We believe in empowering our participants and using a wide variety of techniques and interventions, in particular nature therapy, animal-assisted therapy and adventure therapy to help foster the Crucial C's (Courage, Capable, Connect, Count).

Risks of Nature-Based Outdoor Programming: Participation at the Hutch Farms location exposes participants to certain risks of being in the outdoors. Accidents and injuries resulting from the forces of mother nature, live animal and bug interactions, slipping and falling, malfunctioning equipment, unseen obstacles, fatigue, illness (including exposure to and infection with viruses or bacteria), and your own and others' misjudgment are very real possibilities. You must further acknowledge that the preceding list is not inclusive of all possible risks associated with Hutch Farms and The Outdoor Connection program participation. In addition to reading this information here, each participant must have a COMPLETE and SIGNED release of liability waiver and medical form on file PRIOR to participation.

Risks of Animal-Assisted Programming: Sometimes animals have unpredictable behaviors and their interaction with participants may be varied. They may be very alert and engaged with the participants and the activities at hand, or they may choose to lay quietly and rest in another part of the property. We will make the determination of what is best for the participants and the animals and will work to facilitate as much interaction as possible.

Animals will often use body language as a way of interaction with participants. This means they may rub up against participants, put their body in close position and even touch their noses to and sniff participants. These are positive signs from animals and can be expected most days. Animals will exhibit these behaviors in an effort to become familiar with and interact with the participants.

Marketing and Media Release: Occasionally, photos and videoing will take place during programs and may be used for Hutch Farms and The Outdoor Connection publications including its website and social media. However, we will not identify you or your child by name or release any personal information.

Limits of Confidentiality/ Mandated Reporting: It is important that you understand the laws of the State of Texas and all exceptions to confidentiality. In certain situations, we are required by law to reveal information obtained during our program to other persons or agencies without your permission. This includes the following:

- In the case of suspected abuse/neglect of children or the elderly.
- In the case of potential harm to self or others.

Payment of Fees for Service: All fees for services are to be paid upon registration for a camp or particular program. At times, deposits are required to reserve participant spots.

Written Acknowledgement and Consent to Participate

I have reviewed this Informed Consent and I agree to the risks, conditions, expectations, use of photos and videos as well as associated fees to attend programs at Hutch Farms and The Outdoor Connection. I will maintain financial responsibility for all services relevant to me and/or my child(ren) including all related medical costs in the case of accident or injury. I agree not to hold Hutch Farms or The Outdoor Connection responsible for illness or injury while me or my child(ren) are on their property or under their care and supervision.

I accept this agreement and consent to programming at The Outdoor Connection.

Participant Name

Parent/ Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date