

**Parent/Guardian—Please Read and Sign**

Session \_\_\_\_\_

Without a doubt, some activities at camp involve a certain amount of risk for those who participate. While we do everything possible to make these activities safe as well as fun, we want you to choose the particular activities that you are willing for your camper to participate in. Though you give permission for your child to participate, there is a choice on the part of your child and your child will only have time for four activities, therefore he or she may still may not choose all the ones you give permission for him or her to take.

**Swimming, Minibikes, Archery, Riflery** (BB rifles), and **Challenge Course**, and **Canoeing** (ages 12 and up) are the activities that involve more risk than everyday activities. Here's what we do to make these activities safe and as risk free as possible:

**Swimming** — (1) Life guards are certified by the *American Red Cross* (a 30 hour course) and are always present whenever campers or anyone is swimming. (2) Though the standard is to have one life guard for each 25 swimmers, we try to have a better ratio at all times. (3) We use the "buddy system" to check periodically on campers in the water. (4) We have safety equipment present at the lake at all times campers are swimming—rescue tubes, life ring with rope, two-way radio to call for help should need arise. (5) Dunking and unsafe play are not allowed and these persons are removed from the water if necessary. (6) Area for non-swimmers is clearly marked and campers must pass a swim test (demonstrate that they can swim) before the can go outside the roped off area.

**Minibikes** — (1) Campers wear long pants and socks to protect legs and ankles from scratches and possible burns from exhaust pipes (though all bikes have exhaust shields), and helmets (furnished by camp) to protect head. (2) Ratio of 1 staff to 5 campers (most staff in any activity) — to make possible as much individual instruction and observation as possible. (3) Campers must demonstrate that they can ride a 2-wheel bicycle without training wheels before riding even our smallest bike. (4) Minibikes are kept in good condition, checked daily, and beginner bikes are equipped with "kill switches" so they can be cut off by instructor should the driver panic or otherwise not be able to stop in time. (5) Campers ride in a wide open field and other things present such as people, benches, posts, etc. are shielded by bales of straw to lessen any impact should such occur. (6) Campers who do not listen to instruction are not allowed to ride and campers who after trying it out do not like the activity, are given opportunity to choose another.

**Archery and Riflery** — (1) All shooting is done at the appropriate course with the instructor(s) present, and is done in an orderly manner (taking turns and properly handling equipment). No one shoots at anything other than the target, and only after instructions for such have been given. (2) Any camper who will not follow instructions concerning use of equipment, and especially those instructions concerning safety, is not allowed to participate.

**Challenge Course** — (Great for building self-confidence, great for team building, and learning cooperation, etc.) (1) Though we do not have anything termed "high elements" in our course, some activities involve being off the ground and therefore have the possibility of someone falling. Anything more than 6 feet above the ground has a foot of wood chips on the ground to lessen the impact should a person fall. Fellow campers act as "spotters" in some activities to help catch or lessen impact should a person fall in some way. (2) The Challenge Course as an activity is for ages 12 and up. Instructors for the Challenge Course are "certified facilitators" for such, having successfully completed a 30-40 hour training course. (3) The equipment and the course is inspected each year and worn ropes, etc. are replaced and/or adjusted, and wood chips renewed.

**Canoeing** — Instructors have had proper training and some experience and at present, activities take place in our small lake. Activities include learning to handle a canoe and equipment and games to strengthen skills. In future years we will offer more in this area if there is enough interest.

**In general**, our Senior Counselors and other instructors are mature individuals and have experience working with children and young people. They are usually college aged young people or other adults (sometimes school teachers). A Senior Counselor or adult is in charge of each activity and is present at the activity each day, though Junior Counselors (high school students) may be assisting with the activity.

The instructors for some activities have received special training, and in the case of Swimming are "certified life guards" by the *American Red Cross*; and Challenge Course are "certified facilitators" by the CAEI (*Christian Adventure Education Institute*). In both cases this training involves 30-40 hours and must be renewed every 3 years.

Our staff members are trained to be "risk managers" — to be alert to unsafe equipment, situations, and/or behavior and to make changes.

In spite of everything we can do to make the activity safe and to get special training for the instructors in some activities, and to train all staff to be safety conscious, accidents can happen. Therefore if you choose not to have your child involved in one or more of these activities we will be sure he or she is not involved.

**Over Please** ➡

Camper's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Circle "Yes" or "No" for Activities and Sign in Two Places Below**

Understanding something of the risk involved in these activities, and understanding the steps taken by the camp to assure the safety of my child at all times and particularly in these activities, I choose as follows concerning my child and each of these activities —

	<u>Circle One</u>	
SWIMMING	yes	no
MINIBIKE	yes	no
ARCHERY	yes	no
RIFLERY (BB rifles)	yes	no
*CHALLENGE COURSE*	yes	no
*CANOEING*	yes	no
* (12 and up only)		

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian / Date

Should something happen and my child is injured in one of the above activities or at any time or in any way while at Grace Bible Camp, I understand that any expenses for medical treatment including the emergency room, hospitals, doctors, etc. are primarily my responsibility—even if I choose not to have medical insurance for my family these expenses are still primarily mine as parent or guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian / Date

**Please mail early, or bring (or send) this form  
with camper when he or she arrives at camp!**



*Awarded to Grace Bible Camp by Markel Insurance Company for having demonstrated a professional and responsible commitment to safety education.*