

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child is scheduled to experience a Waterhouse Center team building adventure. The words "adventure-based learning" and "challenge course" can be vague so I would like to explain briefly what Waterhouse Center is and why and how we operate.

At Waterhouse Center we use a six step learning process. Participants are given a **PROBLEM** to solve – such as getting the group through the "Spider's Web" (a rope net suspended between two trees at ground level). They **RESPOND** to that problem (attempt to get everyone through the web). There is an **OUTCOME** based upon their response (they either succeed in getting everyone through or they don't). We then sit down and **CLARIFY** the relationship between their response and the outcome and **GENERALIZE** this back to their daily lives (e.g., we ask them how their behavior on the problem was like or unlike the way they solve problems at school, home or in their community). We then encourage them to **ACT** on what they have learned back at school, home or in their community.

At Waterhouse Center there are various types of activities or problems to solve. The group team-building activities are all at ground level and require no special safety equipment, athletic prowess, not physical endurance. We have had participants on crutches and in a wheelchair participate in the low activities. Two national safety studies have shown challenge courses to be 15 times safer than riding in an automobile!

It is in the doing that real learning takes place! At Waterhouse Center we do not teach carpentry, culinary arts, math or science. We do address the issues of trust, support, communication, responsibility, commitment, and problem solving with a hands-on approach. In other words, your child experiences individual and group growth and has fun doing it! **There is no coercion. The level of participation is always the choice of each participant.**

**YOUR CHILD HAS TWO FORMS TO BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY YOU: THE MEDICAL/HEALTH INFORMATION FORM IS SO WE CAN PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, THE RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM IS REQUIRED BY OUR INSURANCE COMPANY.**

If you would like more information, have additional questions or would like to visit our Center, please call us at (360) 794-0415.

Thank you,

Donna Lowe, Mary Pat Sullivan, John Grebe  
Waterhouse Center