



Dangerous Activity Participation Policy

To participate in a Dangerous Activity, Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA) requires that students obtain special permission. Also, in many cases students must be licensed or certified in the activity and/or provide proof of supplemental medical insurance to cover accidental injuries or death in the pursuit of the high risk or Dangerous Activity.

Prior to participating in the Dangerous Activities listed here, students must provide their District Office a *Dangerous Activity Permission to Participate* form signed by the student, natural parent(s), host parent(s), Area Representative, and YFU Support Services Manager or District Director. Student and natural parents must provide proof of other medical insurance coverage as a condition to YFU approving participation in an activity not indemnified through YFU USA group insurance or YFU partner insurance.

Before engaging in a high-risk activity NOT expressly listed below, students must inform their local district office. ***The assumption should always be that medical, accident, and repatriation insurance is NOT in place if a student takes part in a high risk activity without YFU's permission.***

Students are expected to take adequate safety precautions and must follow all local laws when participating in any kind of physical activity (i.e. helmets may be required when riding a standard bicycle, life jackets are required when boating or white water rafting, etc.). Violating YFU rules governing Dangerous Activities (e.g., being the driver) will nullify a student's medical/liability coverage through YFU.

YFU USA provided insurance does not provide liability coverage for damage caused by a student in pursuit of Dangerous Activities; the student and the natural family are responsible for finding out whether their private insurance coverage applies. For more information on insurance coverage refer to the YFU website at www.yfu-usa.org.

A. Dangerous Activities Requiring Permission Form and Guidelines

Climbing and Rappelling Walls in Controlled Settings

Students must complete appropriate training, use prescribed safety gear, and be supervised by a host parent or responsible adult.

Driving Farm Tractors

Students are permitted to drive standard farm tractors on private property. Instruction and supervision by a host parent or responsible adult are required. Driving tractors or other farm equipment must be in the context of helping out with chores and not a recreational activity. For students covered under the YFU USA plan, driving a tractor is an exception to the motor vehicle exclusion in the medical portion of the policy and it is ultimately up to the insurance company to decide what constitutes a "standard farm tractor" should a claim arise.

Driving Ride-on Lawn Mowers

Students are permitted to drive standard ride-on mowers on private property. Instruction and supervision by a responsible adult are required. Use of ride-on mowers must be in the context of helping out with chores and not a recreational activity. For students covered under the YFU USA plan, driving a ride-on mower is an exception to the motor vehicle exclusion in the medical portion of the policy and it is ultimately up to the insurance company to decide what constitutes a "standard ride-on mower" should a claim arise.

Horse Jumping

Students must be trained and supervised by a qualified instructor. Students must follow safety guidelines and utilize prescribed protective gear.

Hunting and Other Use of Firearms

Students must complete a certified training course in the use of firearms or other weapons used. Students must be properly licensed for both the type of game (animals) sought and the weapon used (including air/spring powered guns and bows and arrows). Students must follow safety guidelines, utilize prescribed protective gear, and follow all local laws. The hunting activity must be supervised by host parent(s) or a responsible adult.

Paint Ball and Archery

Students must complete appropriate training, follow safety guidelines, use prescribed safety gear, and be supervised by a host parent/responsible adult. Students may not engage in these activities for hunting purposes.

Rappelling and Rock Climbing on Natural Formations

For all rappelling, rock climbing, and technical climbing, students must complete a training course and be accompanied by a certified instructor (if student has already completed a training course, he or she must provide proof of current certification and must be accompanied by a responsible adult). Students must follow safety guidelines and utilize prescribed protective gear.

Scuba Diving

Students must complete a training course and be accompanied by a certified guide (if student has completed a training course, he/she must provide proof of current certification and be accompanied by a responsible adult). Students must follow safety guidelines and utilize prescribed protective gear.

Skiing/Snowboarding Outside Ski Resort Maintained Trails/Slopes

Students must complete appropriate training, use prescribed safety gear, follow advisory precautions on local conditions, and be supervised by host parent or a responsible adult.

Spelunking

Students must be trained and accompanied by a certified guide, follow safety guidelines, and utilize prescribed protective gear.

White Water Rafting

Students must be trained and accompanied by a certified guide, follow safety guidelines, and wear prescribed protective gear, including a life jacket.

B. Dangerous Activities Requiring Supplemental Medical Insurance, Permission Form, and Guidelines

Riding in a Private Plane/Vehicle/Device for Aerial Navigation

The pilot must be properly licensed, local laws followed, and all prescribed safety measures in place. ***Natural parents must provide proof of medical insurance coverage.***

C. Prohibited Dangerous Activities

Bungee jumping

Hang gliding

Parachute jumping

Parasailing

Piloting a private plane

Mountaineering

Driving

PROHIBITED (even on private property): operation of vehicles including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), automobiles, snowmobiles, trucks, motorized trail bikes, go-carts, personal watercrafts, mopeds, motorcycles or snowmobiles.

Students are permitted to ride as passengers on the above vehicles provided they follow all local laws and safety precautions, BUT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THEY PERMITTED TO DRIVE. Students are **not** covered for injuries/death to themselves or others for accidents when they are driving a vehicle.



Dangerous Activity Permission to Participate

This completed Permission to Participate Form with all required signatures must be on file at the YFU District Office before the activity begins. If you are unable to get the form to your natural parents for their signature(s), they can write a letter which states that they “release Youth For Understanding and the host family from all responsibility during the time our son/daughter is engaged in that activity.” This letter must include their signature(s) and the date permission was given.

Permission to engage in a dangerous activity does not imply that the approved activity is covered by the insurance policy of the student. Host parents and students are responsible for reviewing the student insurance policy before engaging in any approved dangerous activities.

For each activity requiring permission, provide a rationale about why permission should be granted, including: prior or current training, experience, use of proper equipment, qualified supervision, etc. Dates can be specific or cover the entire YFU program period. A copy of this form will be returned to the student when approval is granted. Please make additional requests on separate forms.

DANGEROUS ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

YFU Student Name

YFU Student Home Country

YFU Student Date of Birth

Student's Age

Description of Activity

Date(s) Activity is Planned

Reason for Participating

MEDICAL INSURANCE CONFIRMATION – please check one

This student and the activity are covered by YFU group medical policy.

This student and the activity are covered by YFU partner provided medical policy.

Country Name: _____

This student and the activity are covered by the following medical policy held by natural parents, and this policy includes repatriation of remains benefit (insurance information is required for approval):

Insurer's Name: _____

Policy Number: _____

Policy Effective Dates: _____

RELEASE

In consideration of participating in the Activity listed above, I represent, that I understand the nature of this Activity and that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in such Activity. I acknowledge that if I believe event conditions are unsafe, I will immediately discontinue participating in the Activity. I fully understand that this Activity involves risks of serious bodily injury, including permanent disability, paralysis and death, which may be caused by my own actions, or inactions, those of others participating in the event, the conditions in which the event takes place, or the negligence of YFU and the host family; and that there may be other risks either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I fully accept and assume all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity, during the time I am engaged in the activity(ies) described on this form. I hereby release and discharge YFU and the host family from all responsibility from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of YFU and the host family, including negligent rescue operations; and I further agree that if, despite this release, waiver of liability, and assumption of risk I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against YFU and the host family, I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless YFU and the host family from any loss, liability, damage, or cost which anyone may incur as the result of such claim. I have read this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and have signed it freely and without any inducement and assurance of any nature and intend it be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

NATURAL PARENT CONSENT

I, the minor's parent and/or legal guardian, understand the nature of the above referenced activities and the minor's experience and capabilities and believe the minor to be qualified to participate in such activity. During the time my (our) son or daughter is engaged in the activity(ies) described on this form I (we) hereby release, discharge, YFU and the host family from all responsibility from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages and covenant not to sue and AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS YFU and the host family from all liability, claims, demands, losses, or damages on the minor's account caused or alleged to have been caused in whole or in part by the negligence of YFU and the host family or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations, and further agree that if, despite this release, anyone on the minor's behalf makes a claim against YFU and the host family, I WILL INDEMNIFY,SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS YFU and the host family from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss liability, damage, or cost may incur as the result of any such claim.

SIGNATURES FOR APPROVAL

Student Signature

Date

Natural Parent Signature

Date

Host Parent Signature

Date

Area Representative Signature

Date

Support Services Manager or District Director Signature

Date