

Disciples Center at Tawakoni, Augusta, KS

Christian Church in Kansas (DOC)

Attention Parents:

Challenge Course provides both opportunity and risk

Background: All Challenge (ropes) Course activities are carefully supervised by trained, certified facilitators. Each spring Challenge Options does an inspection of our course and all the related equipment. Challenge Options is related to the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) which is the group who sets standards and works to make these courses and the activities on the course safe. The insurance industry recognizes the significance of the ACCT and groups like Challenge Options, who are in compliance with industry standards. (Our insurance agent told us, "There is greater likelihood of a mishap with a toaster than on a ropes course." This illustrates how carefully monitored the ropes course industry is!)

In the typical camp program at Disciples Center/Tawakoni – young people can expect to participate on the Challenge Course twice during the week, and these sessions are typically 60-90 minutes in length. Again, they are carefully supervised by trained facilitators only. In 2009 we added the "high course" and include it as an option for older youth (8th grade and older) as an option least once during the week. When on the high course they will be wearing protective equipment (helmets, chest and seat harness, etc.) to minimize any possible injury.

In all our Challenge Course activities the general rule prevails: "Your challenge, your choice." This means that no one – neither youth nor adult – is pressured to participate if they choose to sit out. There is encouragement – we find that when we participate beyond our typical "comfort level" we grow significantly. BUT... no one is pressured to participate if he/she chooses not to.

If there are further questions, we invite you to contact Steve Martin – either send an e-mail note (smartin@kansasdiscalples.org) or call the Regional Office (800-737-8130) and Steve will be happy to visit with you about your questions.

Please review and complete the reverse side of this note and send it with your young person when he/she checks in for a week of tremendous camp activity!

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Release of Liability

_____ I understand that Challenge Course / climbing activities are, by their nature, physically and emotionally demanding, and that participating in the Challenge Course program may involve risks such as bending, twisting, lifting, running, jumping, climbing, swinging, increased heart or breath rates, heights of 40 feet or more, and physical contact with others.

_____ I understand that although camp staff will make every reasonable effort to minimize exposure to known risks, not all dangers and hazards can be foreseen (i.e. cuts, bruises, scrapes, fractures, falls, fatalities, etc.). I am aware that certain risks and dangers exist in the activities that are beyond the control of camp staff.

_____ I understand that youth have the right and the responsibility to limit their participation in any activity that he/she believes will compromise his/her safety, and agree to notify the facilitator if he/she has a safety concern. If my child chooses to physically participate in any of the activities, I voluntarily assume all risks associated with such participation.

_____ I understand that the camp staff has the right to deny my child's participation and that it is his/her responsibility as a Participant to follow the safety guidelines and procedures established by the Facilitator(s). If, at any time, he/she does not understand or has not heard specific instructions given by the Facilitator(s), I realize that it is my child's responsibility to ask for clarification and/or assistance.

_____ I understand and assume all dangers and risks (both known and unknown) associated with my child's participation in the Challenge Course program and waive, release and discharge Disciples Center/Tawakoni and the Christian Church in Kansas (DOC), Inc. and their agents, officers and employees from all claims or causes of action arising from my child's participation. I do hereby release Challenge Options Inc., and their agents, officers, and employees from any and all liability, even if arising from the negligence of the releasees, and agree to indemnify and hold Challenge Options Inc. harmless for any accidents, injury, loss or damage of property, and from any legal fees that I may ever have as a direct or indirect result of participating in the Challenge Options program. This release, indemnification, and waiver shall be construed broadly to the maximum extent under applicable law.

_____ My signature on this document is also intended to bind my representatives, administrators, successors, heirs, next of kin and assigns on my behalf.

I understand the slight risk involved in the activities on the Challenge Course at Disciples

Center/Tawakoni, and I agree that my child, _____ may

participate with his/her group, as he/she chooses, during the regular camp activities.

Signed _____ date _____