

**Participant's Name (first and last):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity: USU STARS! GEAR UP River's Edge: Backcountry Science**

The person participating in the Activity (defined above) is referred to as "Participant." I, the undersigned, am a Participant or, if Participant is under 18, I am the minor Participant's parent or legal guardian. I, in consideration for Participant's opportunity to participate in the following activity:

**ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITY:** I understand and certify that I am voluntarily choosing to participate in **USU STARS! GEAR UP River's Edge: Backcountry Science** and will not hold them responsible for known and unanticipated risks and dangers. These risks and dangers include, but are not limited to, falls, falling objects, and unobservable broken equipment or unauthorized use of equipment which could result in damage to or loss of property, illness, or disease, physical or mental injury, or death of myself or other persons. I understand injuries that may result from my participation in scheduled or unscheduled activities related to this program include, but are not limited to cuts, bruises, sprained joints, broken bones, psychological trauma, infection, and death.

I acknowledge that I have familiarized myself with the risks and dangers of **USU STARS! GEAR UP River's Edge: Backcountry Science**. I am voluntarily choosing to participate, will follow the rules of conduct, will follow the operating and safety procedures, and will follow any directions given by authorized University employees. I understand that: 1) the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs is prohibited; 2) the possession or use of fireworks, guns, and other weapons is prohibited; 3) the operation of a motor vehicle by minors is prohibited while attending and participating in the program; 4) no violence, including sexual abuse or harassment, will be tolerated; 5) hazing of any kind is prohibited; 6) bullying including verbal, physical, and cyber bullying is prohibited; 7) theft of property is prohibited; 8) misuse or damage of University property is prohibited. Charges will be assessed against those participants who are responsible for damage or misuse of university property; and 9) the inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited, including use of such devices in showers, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.

**RELEASE:** I further agree to release the State of Utah, Utah State University, their agencies, departments, officers, employees, agents and all partners, officials, and staff or volunteers from any and all liability, claims, demands, breach of warranty, negligence, actions, and causes of actions whatsoever for any loss, claim, damage, injury, illness, attorney's fees, or harm of any kind or nature to me arising out of participant's involvement in a visit at Utah State University. This release extends to any claim made by parents or guardians or their assigns arising from or in any way connected with the aforementioned activities.

**INDEMNIFICATION:** I hereby agree to hold harmless and indemnify USU against any and all losses, liabilities, or claims arising out of or connected to Participant's participation in the Activity. The indemnification obligations outlined herein extend to any and all costs and expenses, including attorney fees, incurred by USU in connection with any such loss, liability, or claim.

**Participant Behavior Agreement**

I understand that **USU STARS! GEAR UP** may, at their sole discretion, dismiss any participant for inappropriate, disrespectful, illegal, or dangerous behavior at any time. In this event, I understand that I am responsible to pick up my child on the same day at my own expense. If my child breaks or damages any property as a result of their direct or indirect behavior, I hereby agree to pay for its repair or replacement.

**Risk Mitigation Policy**

In accordance with university and federal policy, USU STARS! GEAR UP conducts Western Identification Network (WIN) background and Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender (NSOPW) checks to ensure the safety of minors placed in our care. Such checks are completed on USU STARS! office staff that regularly interact with students as well as temporary positions such as camp leaders and chaperones hired through USU. (For USU STARS! coordinators and volunteers arranged through partner schools, we expect the LEAs to cover all background requirements in accordance with school district policies.) All outside vendors USU STARS! has hired to help with activities such as College Prep Retreats, Bus Tours, or summer camps are required to have similar risk mitigation and background check policies. Background checks must be re-completed if a break in employment lasts over 120 days.

**Participant  
Informed Consent Form**



Chaperones or camp leaders are provided at a ratio of not less than one adult for every 15 students. USU STARS!

students, chaperones, and outside vendors or speakers will follow Utah State University, county, and the State of Utah COVID-19 protocols.

**Medical Treatment Consent**

Consent is expressly given, in the event of injury, for any emergency medical aid, anesthesia, and/or operation, if in the opinion of the attending physician, such treatment is necessary. I agree to be personally responsible for costs of any emergency or other medical care that the participant receives. Participant’s medical insurance will be the primary and sole source of coverage for treatment. I agree to release the State of Utah, Utah State University and their agencies, departments, officers, employees, agents, and all partners, officials and staff or volunteers from the cost of any medical care that participant receives as a result of participation in the Activity.

**Photography & Video Release**

I hereby grant absolute rights and permission to the **USU STARS! GEAR UP** staff and their partners to photograph, videotape, audiotape, and otherwise record images of this minor for purposes that may include but are not limited to publications, social media, websites, and presentations

**I have carefully read, and I understand the contents of the foregoing language, and I specifically intend it to cover the minor participant’s participation in the above activity USU STARS! GEAR UP River’s Edge: Backcountry Science.**

**MINOR PARTICIPANT (UNDER 18) INFORMATION**

Requires signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Minor Participant Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, the legal guardian of the above-named minor, under eighteen years of age, in consideration of participant’s participation in the overnight **USU STARS! GEAR UP River’s Edge: Backcountry Science** do hereby agree to this waiver and release.

I recognize that participation in **USU STARS! GEAR UP River’s Edge: Backcountry Science** may involve moderate to strenuous physical activity and may cause physical and/or emotional distress to participants. There may also be associated health risks. I state that participant is free from any known heart, respiratory or other health problems that could prevent participant from safely participating in any of the activities.

**ADULT PARTICIPANT OR SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**

By signing below, I represent that I am at least 18 years old, or if signing for a minor to participate in the Activity, that I am the parent or legal guardian of the minor Participant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Parent/Legal Guardian  
or Adult Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

**Participant  
Informed Consent Form**

