

# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Big Teepee Federation  
Y Guides, Princesses, and Trailblazers



Friends Always

February 2003

Pals Forever



## Welcome Trailblazers!

Smoke Signals is now the official newsletter for the:  
YMCA Guides, Princesses, and TRAILBLAZERS programs!



### Chief Screaming Eagle Speaks

Aanii Boozhoo!



I hope everyone had a good time at the Winter Campout weekends. Even though the weather did not cooperate, we still had a great deal of fun hiking and playing in the gym. Our evening entertainer, "Mother Earth," put on quite the enthusiastic show. I think everyone learned about many Native American customs and myths. I would especially like to thank the tribes that helped run the activities for the weekend.

In February, we have the Daddy/Daughter dance and the rock-climbing outings. The Daddy/Daughter dance is a chance for dads to take their young ladies on a wonderful date night. The rock-climbing event will be open to both guides and princesses. The kids and dads will be learning to rock climb at Vertical Endeavors (located at Lifetime Fitness at Warrenville Road and Diehl Road). The kids seem to take to climbing quickly while the dads see if they can still do it. In any case, there



### Next Longhouse

Thursday, March 6th,  
8-9 p.m. at the  
Kroehler Family Center  
34 S. Washington  
Each tribe should be  
represented.



### Upcoming Events

**Daddy/Daughter Dance**  
February 8th 6:30-8:30  
Washington Jr. High School

**Father/Son Rock Climbing**  
February 15th 3:00pm-5:00pm or  
5:00pm-7:00pm  
Vertical Endeavors

**Roller Skating/Blading**  
March 15th  
Funway in Batavia

**Family Bike Ride**  
April 26th 1:00pm  
Fox River

**Spring Campout**  
May 18th-19th  
Oregon Illinois

will be plenty of stories to share with mom when you get home.

As the year progresses, I request your help with the planning of next year's events. Please voice your opinion on the events that you want repeated from this year. Also, please volunteer ideas for events that we can try. You can pass ideas along to your tribe chief to bring to the monthly longhouse meeting, or you can send a note or e-mail to one of the Federation Council members. We look forward to hearing from you.

Migwetch,

Gene Poletto

Screaming Eagle of the Kaskaskia

If you inspect the Teepee on the top of this newsletter closely, you will notice an M on top of a W. This is a silent tribute to Mark, the former Smoke Signaler who passed away this past November. He will always be remembered in our hearts and in our newsletter.

Smoke Signaler

Dan Tuskey

Big Bear of the Choctaw (P)

The Indian agent, "Buffalo" Ben Pinegar, can be reached at 420-6270 Ext. 1123. Leave a message, and he will get back to you. If you need immediate assistance, contact Bill Bredeck at 420-6270.



# Big Teepee Federation - Smoke Signals

## Tribal Information

Hey tribe members. Did you wait until the last second to find a story, song, or craft for your latest meeting? Did you know that you can find all of that information and more on the Education Center at [www.bigtp.org](http://www.bigtp.org). We've put together links to Web sites that will make your lives easier and help you find information about your namesake tribe. There are

links that will show you the official sites of all of the currently

recognized Indian nations in the United States. There is even a link to a site that will provide you with contacts and phone numbers to make contact with your tribe. All of this information was put together in an effort to help our group learn more about the indian heritage as it was and how the tribes live today. Pen pal programs, reservation tours, and simple requests for information directly from the tribes will help us all become more in tune with the cultures we are

trying to learn more about through the Y Guide and Princess Program. Make it a point to spend ten minutes this weekend on the

Education Center at [bigtp.org](http://bigtp.org). We're sure you'll be amazed at what you'll find.

Moon Hawk of the Mighty Shasta

## Princess Chant Contest

This year's chants had a little bit of everything for everybody. From wonderful Native American themes to great choreography, the Princesses did a wonderful job representing all of their tribes. We hope all of you

look at the chant program as the wonderful opportunity it is for your daughters to get up in front of a crowd and perform. We often look past the value of some of our activities, but the chant program will be remembered by our children as one of the first times they performed before an audience. And they had fun doing it!!!

Top Chant Winners:

Best New Tribe Chant - Biloxi  
Most Entertaining Chant - Yuma  
Best Heritage Chant - Choctaw  
Best Overall - 3 Way Tie: Hopi, Zuni, HunkPapa

## Your Story Here

## Native American Task Force

The task force meets immediately following the longhouse meetings each month. This committee is open to all who have an interest in working to keep and maintain the Native American theme of our program.

## Kids Corner:

Laura Kaley from the Seneca Princess Tribe won the Winter Campout Patch Design Contest. Congratulations on your awesome design, and thank you to all the kids for their awesome entries!

## Big Teepee Federation - Smoke Signals

### 2002/2003 BIG TEEPEE FEDERATION COUNCIL

Federation Chief	Gene Poletto	Kaskaskia	904-8404	gpoletto@worldnet.att.net
Assistant Federation Chief	Dan Maloney	Shasta (P)	561-3406	naperdan@aol.com
Desert Nation Chief	Steve Rothmund	Anasazi (P)	753-9940	srothmun@sidley.com
Forest Nation Chief	Dean Degenhardt	Onondaga (G)	961-3985	ddegenhardt@engineering.com
Lake Nation Chief	Steve Just	Apache (G)	305-9926	stevejust@lucent.com
Mesa Nation Chief	Jeff Meyers	Potowatomi (P)	548-1853	jlae1547@execpc.com
Plains Nation Chief	John Ovington	Kaskaskia	922-8951	Ovington90@aol.com
Prairie Nation Chief	Bob Olszewski	Onondaga (P)	548-9886	grizzleyoski@aol.com
Sachem (Chief Emeritus)	Charlie Kinne	Onondaga (G)	428-7827	ckinne@ppke.com
Medicine Man (Membership)	Dan Tuskey	Choctaw (P)	717-1989	dtuskey@hotmail.com
Task Force Chairman	Ollie Simeth	Mojave (P)	845-9774	simetol@mail.northgrum.com
Scout (Webmaster)	Eric Weimer	Onondaga (P)	605-4315	gr8ful@acm.org
Sand Painter (Patches)	Dan Tuskey	Choctaw (P)	717-1989	dtuskey@hotmail.com
Smoke Signaler (Newsletter)	Dan Tuskey	Choctaw (P)	717-1989	dtuskey@hotmail.com
Guide/Princess Agent	Ben Pinegar	YMCA	420-6270	bpinegar@heritageymca.org
Program Director	Bill Bredeck	YMCA	420-6270	bbredeck@heritageymca.org



Federation Longhouse meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of every month at 8:00 pm in the Kroehler Family Center. Each tribe should be represented. This is where you can get up-to-date accurate information on the upcoming activities, program status, and particularly earn your tribe honor tribe points. If your tribe is never represented at the council meetings ... you will probably not be looking forward to honor tribe patches at the spring campout. Don't wait until it's your turn to represent your tribe ... Come check a meeting out for yourself!

# Big Teepee Federation - Smoke Signals

## Tribal Property Winners

### Guides Weekend

Best Tribal Property	Onondaga
Best Drum	Oneida
Best Banner	Yakama
Best Torch	Choctaw
Most Authentic Tom-Tom Beater	Apache
Best Teepee	Kaskaskia
Best Poster	Chippewa
Best Totem Pole	Algonquin
Best Crafts	Cherokee
Best Talking Stick	Iowa
Best Peace Pipe	Lakota
Best Tribal Spirit	Blackhawk
Best Tribal Shield	Yellowknife
Most Decorative Drum	Chickasaw
Best Tribal History Display	Algonquin

### Princess Weekend

Tribal History	Powhatan	1st
	Onondaga	2nd
	Mojave	3rd
Father/Daughter Concept	Apache	1st
	Tonkawa	2nd
	Powhatan	3rd
Princess Participation	Biloxi	1st
	Cherokee	2nd
	Blackfoot	3rd
Native American Theme	Nez Perce	1st
	Zuni	2nd
	Havasupai	3rd
Overall Displays	Shasta	1st
	Choctaw	2nd
	Zuni	3rd

## Rock-Climbing Event Update!

**Inside this Smoke Signals you will find a release waiver for the February Rock-Climbing Event. This form must be filled out completely BEFORE you arrive at the facility! If you do not have this completely filled out, you will not be able to register or even get in line for a harness until it is completely finished. There are no exceptions to this rule. The Vertical Endeavors Company requires this waiver of ALL.**

# Big Teepee Federation - Smoke Signals

## HERITAGE YMCA GROUP BIG TEEPEE FEDERATION

### Y-GUIDE/PRINCESS REGISTRATION

This registration and applicable fees must be returned to the Kroehler Family Center at 34 S. Washington St. or the 95th St. Family Center at 2120 W. 95th Street, both in Naperville, IL.

**Please fill out form completely!**

The YMCA accepts its responsibility to create an environment where models of acceptable behavior are found, and prohibits its staff, volunteers and participants from consuming alcohol at YMCA events  
**The alcohol policy will be enforced. Please don't risk future participation in events!**

Father/Child Name:			
Phone #:		Tribe:	

Event	Code	Registration Deadline	# Attending	Cost	Total Paid
Roller Skating March 15th 4:30 -6:30 Funway Roller Rink	03FEB1644	March 1st		\$16/Pair, \$8 for each additional	
<b>Please note that the above price includes roller skate rental, and not roller blade rental. The roller blade rental is available at the rink for an additional \$2.50.</b>					

**Payment:**     Cash     Check    **Total Paid:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Charge #: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa - MC - Discover    Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Participants or guardian assumes all risks of injury arising out of his or her presence on or about the premises or at another location, use or intended use of equipment and facilities, or his or her participation in the activities of the Heritage YMCA Group, an Illinois chartered not for profit corporation and does hereby for himself, herself, heirs, executors and administrators waive, release, and agree to hold free from all claims for damaged the Heritage YMCA Group, and its representative officers, directors, Trustees, Board of Directors, members, employees, or agents. I hereby allow the YMCA to take pictures (still or video) of myself and/or my children and grant permission for these images to be used in YMCA publications, presentations, publicity, or promotions. I have answered all above questions accurately, declare myself/family to be physically sound, having medical approval to engage in YMCA activities, have read the information above agreeing for myself and as a chosen representative for my family to the policies and procedures of the Heritage YMCA Group.

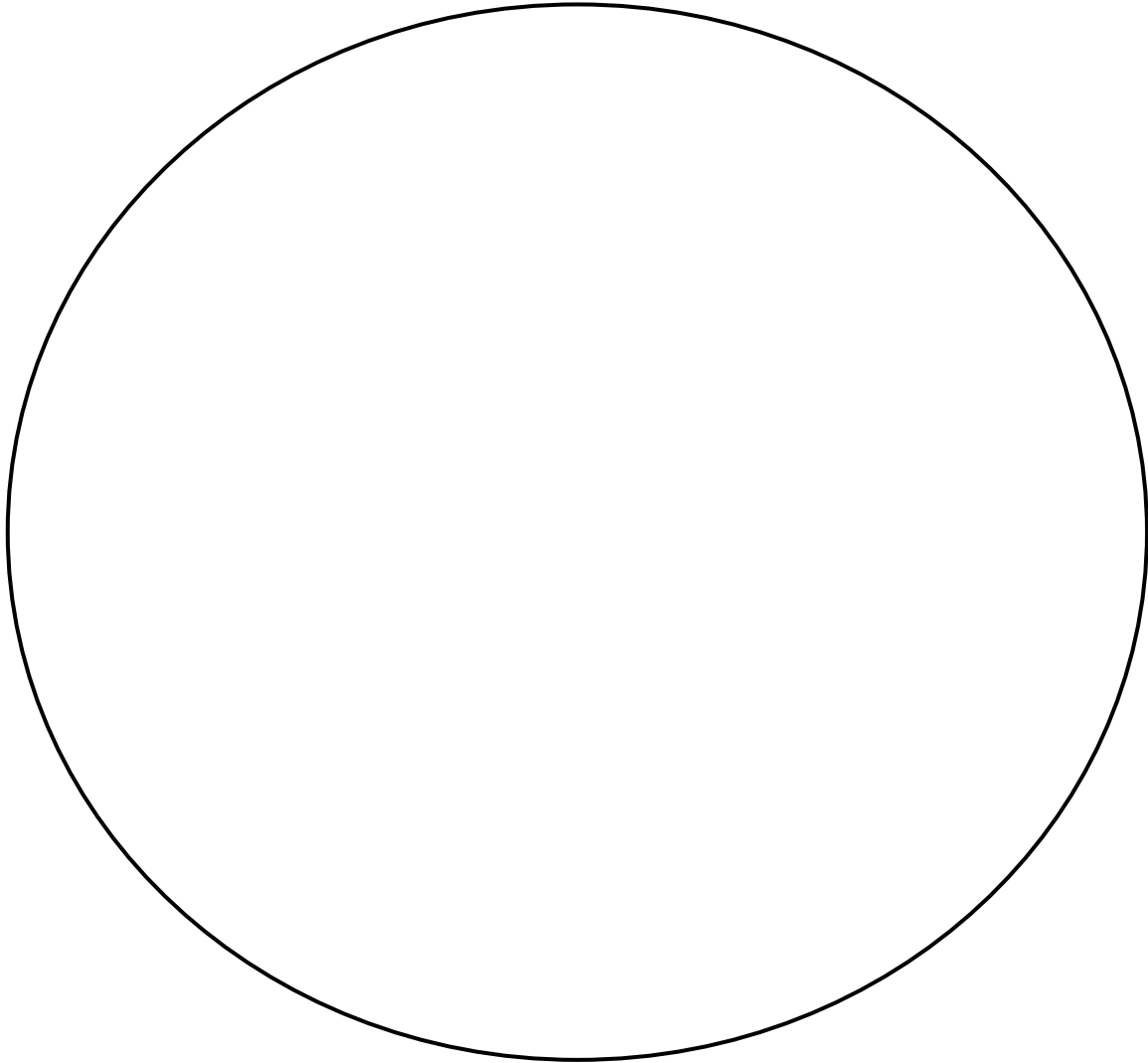
Signature of Participant (18 and over) or Guardian

<b>Employee Use:</b> _____ Today's Date: _____ Employee Initials: _____ Center: _____
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# Family Bike Ride Patch Design Contest

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Form is due back at Kroehler Family Center by March 1st, 2003



**Rules:**

- Must be a kid to enter.
- Use crayons only.
- Use only 6 colors plus black.

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tribe:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRAILBLAZERS**  
Heritage YMCA Group

**March Event**

**Spring Campout at Camp Tecumseh**

*12635 W. Tecumseh Bend Rd.*

*Brookston, IN 47923*

*(765) 564-2898*

Enjoy a weekend of spring camping at Camp Tecumseh. Lodging will be provided in cabins 1, 2, 3, and 4. Camp Tecumseh offers **TWO** overnight options. **1.)** You can arrive Friday evening and stay the weekend. Saturday morning breakfast will be provided by Camp Tecumseh. This option also includes overnight lodging for Saturday night, plus Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday morning breakfast. The cost for this plan is \$65 per person. **2.)** You can arrive at Camp Tecumseh on Saturday and receive overnight lodging for Saturday night. In addition, you will receive Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. The cost for this option will be \$50 per person.

Registrants will receive a follow up information packet with directions, lodging assignments and other event specifics prior to the event. NOTE: THERE IS A 90 PERSON MAXIMUM FOR THIS EVENT SO SIGN UP QUICK!!!

Dad's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please return this entire sheet!***

**Camp Tecumseh-**

Brookston, IN- Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

**Due by Wednesday, March 19, 2003**

Option 1.)# attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ (03FEB 1682)

Option 2.)# attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ (03FEB 1683)

Trailblazer Registration(s)  
Spring 2003

Dad's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this entire sheet!*

**Camp Tecumseh-**  
Brookston, IN- Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>  
**Due by Wednesday March 6, 2002**

Option 1.)# attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$65 \_\_\_\_\_ (03FEB 1682)

Option 2.)# attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ (03FEB 1683)



## **What the heck is Trailblazers?**

**The Trailblazers program is the continuation of the Y-Guides and Princesses programs, starting at 4<sup>th</sup> grade and continuing until you want to stop. We have even had high school age kids join to participate in some of our activities.**

**We are providing a periodic update on Trailblazer activities in the Smoke Signals for your information only. Please understand that these events are open only to Trailblazers, not Guides and Princesses. Our hope is to entice you, so you will sign up for Trailblazers when your time in Guides and Princesses is over.**

**One of the biggest differences in Trailblazers is that we do not have tribes or monthly meetings. We focus our energy and calendars on the activities. Trailblazer groups are smaller and the Trailblazers are older so we can do different types of things that younger kids and large groups can't accomplish.**

**We have some events we try to schedule every year- canoeing, camping, lazer tag and Camp Tecumseh, (a YMCA camp that has horseback riding, wall climbing and more). Other events that Trailblazers have tried are sleeping on a submarine, white water rafting, cave camping, skiing and an indoor water park.**

**Once we slept in the castle at the Stronghold where the spring campout is for the Guides/Princesses.**

**Trailblazers go outdoor camping in a different place every year, from the Indiana Dunes to Devil's Lake in Wisconsin.**

**For the remainder of this year we have planned the following:**

- A sleepover at the Adler Planetarium**
- Snow skiing at Alpine Valley**
- A late nighter at the YMCA**
- Cabin camping at Camp Tecumseh**
- Road rally**
- Outdoor camping at Wedron, IL.**

**We have and will continue to work with Gene Poletto to avoid conflicts with the Y-Guides and Princesses where possible, so those of you with children in both programs can make the most of the opportunity**

**Our leader is Ken Suchomel. You tribal elders will remember Ken as the Federation Chief in the 1990's. He has been running Trailblazers for seven years, and has been in the YMCA program for 11 years. Next year Ken will be turning the program over to Doug Tulloch, Charlie Kinne and a small council of dads .**

**So, if you have an idea for an event, contact Ken, Doug or Charlie. If you have a question about your signup for an event, prices, dates, etc., then contact Ben at the YMCA.**

**RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, INDEMNIFICATION AND RULES AGREEMENT**

**WARNING, THIS AGREEMENT IS LEGALLY BINDING.** BY SIGNING IT, YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO RECOVER COMPENSATION THROUGH THE COURTS OR OTHERWISE, FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURIES OR DAMAGE TO YOUR PROPERTY, OR FOR YOUR DEATH, ARISING OUT OF YOUR USE OF THE VERTICAL ENDEAVORS, INC. ROCK CLIMBING WALLS OR EQUIPMENT, OR ARISING OUT OF YOUR PARTICIPATION IN CLASSES OR ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY VERTICAL ENDEAVORS, INC. YOU WILL BE RELEASING THE LANDLORD OF VERTICAL ENDEAVORS, INC. ANY PERSONS WHO HAVE DESIGNED, MANUFACTURED OR INSTALLED THE FACILITIES, CLIMBING WALLS OR EQUIPMENT OF VERTICAL ENDEAVORS, INC. AND ANY PERSONS USING THE CLIMBING WALLS OR EQUIPMENT OF VERTICAL ENDEAVORS, INC. THIS AGREEMENT IS BINDING ON YOU, YOUR HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, ASSIGNS, AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES. THIS AGREEMENT ALSO REQUIRES YOU TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE PERSONS RELEASED FROM ANY LOSSES, LIABILITIES, DAMAGES AND COSTS.

**ASSUMPTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK**

I, the undersigned, acknowledge and agree that the use of the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc., and the taking of classes or participating in activities sponsored by Vertical Endeavors, Inc. has INHERENT RISKS. Those risks include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Injuries resulting from the NEGLIGENCE of the owners, operators, employees, or volunteer assistants of Vertical Endeavors, Inc., or the NEGLIGENCE of other climbers, visitors, or persons who may be present at Vertical Endeavors, Inc., or the NEGLIGENCE of the designers, manufacturers or installers of the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc., or the NEGLIGENCE of the landlord of Vertical Endeavors, Inc.
2. Injures or death resulting from the failure or negligent misuse of the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc.
3. Injuries resulting from slips, trips or falls while using the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc.
4. Injuries resulting from the fall of other persons who may come into contact with me or from any falls in which I come into contact with other persons.
5. Injuries that occur from the NEGLIGENCE or lack of adequate training of those volunteers or employees of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. who seek to assist with medical or other help either before or after injuries have occurred.
6. Injuries resulting from the failure of equipment used at Vertical Endeavors, Inc., including but not limited to, failure of ropes, slings, harnesses, belay devices, handholds, anchor points and any other part of the climbing structure.

I am aware of these and NUMEROUS OTHER INHERENT RISKS in using Vertical Endeavors, Inc.'s facilities, climbing walls or equipment. I FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY for these risks and for the injuries that may occur as a result of these risks EVEN IF injuries occur in a manner that is not foreseeable at the time I sign this agreement. I realize that by voluntarily assuming the risks involved, I will be SOLELY RESPONSIBLE for any loss or damage I sustain, including PERSONAL INJURIES to me, damage to my PROPERTY, or damage arising out of my DEATH.

X Initial \_\_\_\_\_ (If participant under 18, Parent/Legal Guardian must initial.)

**RELEASE AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE**

In consideration of my observing or using the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc., and/or in consideration of my participating in the classes or activities sponsored by Vertical Endeavors, Inc., I hereby agree to RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY, DISCHARGE, and PROMISE NOT TO SUE VERTICAL ENDEAVORS, Inc. (a Minnesota corporation), or any member, employee, volunteer, or agent of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. or any other climber, visitor, or person present in or using the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc.

In consideration of my observing or using the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. and/or in consideration of my participating in the classes or activities sponsored by Vertical Endeavors, Inc., I also hereby agree to RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY, DISCHARGE, and PROMISE NOT TO SUE the designers, manufacturers or installers of the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. or the landlord of Vertical Endeavors, Inc.

This agreement releases the aforementioned persons from any liability to me, my heirs, or next of kin, assigns, or personal representatives, for any losses or damages or claims or demands arising out of my PERSONAL INJURIES, damage to my PROPERTY, or from my DEATH.

If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the Agreement which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, and to this end the provisions of the Agreement are to be severable.

X Initial \_\_\_\_\_ (If participant under 18, Parent/Legal Guardian must initial.)

**INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT**

In consideration of my observing or using the facilities, climbing walls, or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. and/or in consideration of my participating in the classes or activities sponsored by Vertical Endeavors, Inc., I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the persons RELEASED and DISCHARGED by me from any loss, liability, damages or cost that they may incur due to the presence of any claims or actions by me, or by my heirs, next of kin, assigns, or personal representatives, arising out of my observing or using the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. event.

X Initial \_\_\_\_\_ (If participant under 18, Parent/Legal Guardian must initial.)

**RELEASE OF IMAGES**

In consideration of my observing or using the facilities, climbing walls or equipment of Vertical Endeavors, Inc. and/or in consideration of my participating in the classes or activities sponsored by Vertical Endeavors, Inc. I hereby grant to Vertical Endeavors, Inc., its subsidiaries, affiliates, licensees, successors and assigns, the right to photograph me and use my name and likeness for any legitimate business purpose, including but not limited to publicity, promotion and advertising. This grant shall extend to any and all reprints and reissues of any such photographs.

X Initial \_\_\_\_\_ (If participant under 18, Parent/Legal Guardian must initial.)

**CLIMBING FACILITY RULES**

The participant agrees to follow the posted rules of the climbing facility and to comply with the judgement of the climbing facility staff. Any infractions of the posted facility rules will result in loss of climbing privileges for that event.

X Initial \_\_\_\_\_ (If participant under 18, Parent/Legal Guardian must initial.)

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT THOROUGHLY AND UNDERSTAND THE TERMS. NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS OR STATEMENTS OR INDUCEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ME THAT CHANGE, ALTER OR MODIFY ANYTHING WITHIN THE WRITTEN AGREEMENT. I AGREE TO SAID TERMS.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (If participant under 18, Parent/Legal Guardian's signature.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Street (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ City (Print) State Zip

X \_\_\_\_\_ Print Parent/Legal Guardian's Name

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Participants Birth Date Age

Do you know of, or have you been advised of, any medical conditions that you have that would prevent you from safely participating in the activities of rock climbing and/or belaying. YES / NO (circle one) - If yes, please describe:

X I AM THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR AND I AM SIGNING THIS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF THE MINOR. PRINT CHILD NAME \_\_\_\_\_