

BAINBRIDGE OMETEPE SISTER ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

PARENT PERMISSION FORM:**STUDENT DELEGATE DISCLOSURE OF RISKS AND DANGERS
ASSUMPTION OF RISK RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

I/We, _____ and _____,
Parents or Legal Guardians of _____, hereby grant permission for him/her to be a participant on the trip from Bainbridge Island, Washington, to Ometepe Island, Nicaragua, from ___/___/___ through ___/___/___ (dates). In addition, we authorize the chaperones on the trip to act as parent and legal guardian with the same authority as the parent or legal guardian, including but not limited to securing and authorizing any medical care, procedure, or treatment for any illness or accident that occurs during the trip.

Disclosure of Risks and Dangers

The Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association (hereafter known as BOSIA) provides the opportunity for adult and student delegates to visit our sister island of Ometepe, Nicaragua, to stay in commercial lodgings and/or with a family there, and to engage in activities which are in accordance with our stated purpose of developing peaceful exchanges and friendship between the peoples of the two islands. Student delegates on trips to Ometepe are accompanied by volunteer adult chaperones. While the chaperones are known to BOSIA organizers to be responsible adults and persons of good reputation in the community, they are not subjected to background checks, and they are not provided any special training for this role. While in Nicaragua, delegates and chaperones will live and travel as the local people do, which may expose them to risks. The list below does not cover every conceivable risk, but is intended to be representative:

General Risks and Dangers: There are general risks associated with travel of any sort. In Nicaragua there may be additional risks and dangers:

Transportation: Standards of transportation safety, including but not limited to the following, are lower in Nicaragua than in the U.S., and are outside the control of BOSIA: the condition, maintenance and safety requirements of surface, air, and water vehicles; the condition, maintenance and policing of roads, airways, and waterways; training and licensing of vehicle operators; requirements for personal safety such as seat belts; travel in the back of an open truck; provision for rescue operations in case of accident; and general safety standards with respect to any aspect of public or private transportation.

Health, Sanitation and Environmental Protection Standards: Standards of health, sanitation, and environmental protection are lower than in the U.S. As a result, delegates may be exposed to contaminated food and water and to other medical problems and diseases endemic to the area, including but not limited to those discussed during orientation. They may also be exposed to environmental contamination such as smoke, pesticides or other toxic substances.

Medical Care: While there are doctors and clinics in Nicaragua and on Ometepe which can provide basic medical care, appropriate medical care under some conditions outside the control of BOSIA will be limited or unavailable for the following reasons: limited medical supplies and facilities to treat a condition that otherwise might be manageable, inadequate training of medical personal, limited or non-existent diagnostic tools and laboratories, lack of an ambulance or other medical transportation, and limited or non-existent communication systems such as radio or telephone. Also, while the chaperones may have some first aid experience, they are not trained medical personnel.

Bites: Delegates may be exposed to poisonous snakes, insects, spiders, scorpions, etc. Mosquito bites may cause Malaria or Dengue Fever.

Other Conditions: Various other types of risks and dangers occur in Nicaragua including but not limited to the following: inadequate supply of life preservers on boats, lack of lifeguards at public swimming places, fewer police and other enforcement officials, sexual assault, criminal or terrorist activity, political unrest, personal or family conflict, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, mudslides, and uncontrollable disease epidemics. Unknown and/or unanticipated risks may be encountered during the trip.

Assumption of Risk

I/we the undersigned student delegate and his/her parents/guardians as applicable understand that the risks described above, and other risks not listed exist, and that as a result there is the possibility of serious illness, disability, accident, or even death. I/we have read completely the "Disclosure of Risk" information above and I/we have had the opportunity to ask questions about the risks and dangers associated with such a trip. As a condition of participation in the trip I/we hereby assume the risks and dangers associated with such a trip voluntarily and without any coercion of any kind.

I/we understand that all participants in the trip must be covered by medical insurance, and I/we represent that we have such insurance. I/we understand that BOSIA strongly recommends that we obtain travel insurance (available through most travel agents) that would pay for trip cancellation, medical expenses and/or medical evacuation, if needed.

I/we understand that decisions are sometimes made by chaperones to meet changed or unforeseen circumstances or emergencies in order to insure the well being of individuals and/or the group. Such decisions might result in changes in plans and/or additional expense.

Release and Hold Harmless Agreement

I/we hereby release and agree to hold harmless, and to indemnify to the fullest extent allowed by the law of the State of Washington, the Bainbridge Ometepe Sister Islands Association, its members, volunteers, Board of Directors, and the chaperones from all claims for liability and damages resulting from the trip, whether arising from their own fault or otherwise. This Release and Hold Harmless Agreement extends to damages for economic loss, property damage, personal and bodily injury, and death. I/we recognize that there may be hazards encountered or injury or damages incurred which we did not foresee at the time we sign this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement, but it is nevertheless my/our intention that this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement apply to such injury or damages.

SIGNATURE OF DELEGATE

DATE

SIGNATURE OF MOTHER OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE

SIGNATURE OF FATHER OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE