



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN CADET TRAINING CENTRE**  
**CADET LEADERSHIP AND CHALLENGE COURSE**  
**Parent / Guardian Consent and Acknowledgement of Risk Form**

Dear parents,

I wish to congratulate your child's/ward's selection to attend the Leadership and Challenge Course at the Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre, Alberta. Thousands of Army Cadets as well as representatives from the United Kingdom, Germany, France and the United States have safely completed this course since its inception in 1948. Being selected to attend this prestigious and highly rewarding advanced training opportunity is a testament to your child's/ward's dedication, commitment and ability as an Army Cadet.

In 2008, Parks Canada has implemented a new regulation aimed at custodial groups such as ours that requires parents/guardians to sign an acknowledgement of risk form in order for their child/ward to participate in training activities inside the boundaries of Banff National Park. Without your signed consent, Parks Canada will not allow us to train inside the park boundaries. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to inform you of the training your child/ward will be participating in, the potential risks associated with their participation in that training, steps that we have taken to minimize those risks and for you to provide us with your informed consent authorizing your child's/ward's participation in the training activities.

The Leadership and Challenge Course is comprised of six training cycles conducted in an area that covers 4000 square kilometers within the boundaries of Alberta and British Columbia Provincial Parks and Banff National Park. Cadet training includes:

- alpine trekking (both day and overnight hiking expeditions, overnight component is four days / three nights, conducted in mountainous terrain);
- glacier training (both day and overnight expeditions, overnight component is four days / three nights, base camp operation, glacier ascents conducted in mountainous terrain);
- rock climbing (both day and overnight climbing trips, overnight component is three days / two nights, multi-pitch climbing conducted in mountainous terrain); and
- watermanship training (overnight paddling trip, four days / three nights, base camp operation, paddling is comprised of either canoeing or kayaking, conducted on moving water).
- horseback training (3 days horseback riding in mountainous terrain, overnight component is 2 days / one night) with 2 days Wilderness First Aid Training within the confines of the training centre.

The sixth training cycle, mountain biking, is divided into three activities as follows:

- mountain biking (both day and overnight biking trips, overnight component is 2 days / one night, biking takes place both on and off trails, conducted in mountainous terrain);
- orienteering (day activity only, map and compass navigation in wooded and hilly terrain on Training Centre property); and

- Parks Project Trails building in Banff National Park 2 days (cleaning trails, shoveling, raking, moving smaller rocks, clearing bushes)

As with any training on mountainous terrain in a wilderness environment there is a degree of inherent risk associated with your child's/ward's participation. The potential hazards associated with this course include, but are not limited to:

HAZARD	LIKELIHOOD (often, occasional, rare)	SEVERITY (severe, moderate, minor)	SAFETY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
Extreme Weather	Occasional	Minor ➔ Severe	Check forecast; appropriate clothing & equipment; pacing to maintain warmth; carry emergency gear (stove, tarp, thermos etc.)
Athletic Injuries (e.g. sprains & strains)	Occasional	Minor ➔ Severe	Begin training in easy terrain to lessen likelihood of falls; appropriate pacing; instructor coaching, appropriate teaching progression, warm up time
Trips, Falls, Collisions (including cuts, head & spinal injury)	Rare - Occasional	Minor ➔ Severe	Advise cadets about dangerous terrain; control speed; keep tidy training area; discontinue involvement for students who fail to obey instructions
Falling objects (rocks, trees, equipment)	Rare-Occasional	Moderate ➔ Severe	Assess overhead hazards, avoid areas of known hazard, alert group to hazard & implement management strategy if unavoidable
Falls from Height	Rare	Moderate ➔ Severe	Cadets to remain a minimum of 2-3 body lengths from edges, drop offs etc.; careful route finding
Driving Accident	Rare	Minor ➔ Severe	Keep vehicles in good repair; check road conditions if they are suspect; monitor cadet behaviour in vehicle;
Animal Encounter	Rare	Minor ➔ Severe	Check alerts on the web; provide training regarding animal encounters and controlling food in field; stick together as large group if dangerous animals are spotted
Equipment Failure	Occasional	Minor ➔ Severe	Use quality equipment; provide clear equipment list; check student equipment, carry repair kit
Avalanches	Rare	Minor ➔ Severe	Choose appropriate terrain; use certified guide, monitor conditions, group management to keep cadets in safe zones
Burns	Occasional	Minor ➔ Severe	Supervise stove / lantern use & fire lighting
Allergic Reaction	Rare	Minor ➔ Severe	Check medical forms prior to trip; carry EpiPen for allergic reactions; First aid trained staff
Cold Related Injuries	Occasional	Minor ➔ Severe	Self & staff monitoring; use of proper clothing; appropriate pacing, carry emergency gear
Drowning	Rare	Severe	Use of Personal Flotation Devices, provide training for capsizing and rescue drills; take care filling water bottles
Lost Participant	Rare	Moderate ➔ Severe	Keep group together; brief cadets on lost and alone procedures; regroup at

			junctions; have tail end sweep
Food/Water Loss or Contamination	Rare	Moderate → Severe	Purify water; cook / refrigerate food adequately; store food away from animals or other contaminating causes

While the above list may cause concern, I assure you the safety of your child/ ward is our primary concern. All of our training activities are assessed from a risk management perspective and are not approved unless they are deemed to be safe. To this end we have contracted with Yamnuska Mountain Adventures, a reputable outdoor guiding service provider, with a view for all concerned to benefiting from its expertise. We have spared no expense or effort and are therefore completely confident that the training provide at Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre is as safe as possible.

That being said, training injuries can and do occur. To further mitigate this eventuality we provide all military training staff employed in supervisory positions on the course with the Wilderness First Aid Course. In addition, we have developed and tested a detailed Emergency Response Plan which allows us to safely evacuate injured cadets from any training cycle in any location to professional medical care in a very timely fashion. Our Operations Centre is manned 24 hours a day every day that cadets are in the field and all groups are in constant communication via radio and satellite phone.

In addition to these safety measures, the Department of National Defence and Yamnuska Mountain Adventures ensures that:

- the supervisors and staff are fully trained and qualified;
- the cadets who undertake the course are adequately supervised;
- the location and / or facilities meet the applicable health and safety standards;
- any equipment made available or used in the activity has been inspected and is deemed to be appropriate, safe and well maintained; and
- the location where the activity will take place is appropriate for course use and the training objectives as intended.

For additional information regarding the Leadership and Challenge Course visit the Rocky Mountain Cadet Training Centre website. For additional information regarding the guiding services provided by Yamnuska Mountain Adventures visit their website at [www.yamnuska.com](http://www.yamnuska.com).

We require that you read and sign the enclosed form and submitted **before 1 July**. Cadets will not be permitted to train until such time as it is received and it could mean that we have to return them home. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and I wish your child/ward the very best summer training experience.

The following two pages (A and B) will be returned to, either:

- the cadet corps commanding officer for transfer to respective Regional Cadet Support Unit (RCSU), or
- the Assistant National Army Cadet Coordinator (D Cdts & JCR 4-4-2) by fax at 613-996-1618

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY, SIGN AND RETURN**

**A. INFORMATION**

CADET NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

My child/ward will be given the opportunity to participate in the following program or activity under the supervision of the Department of National Defence and Yamnuska Mountain Adventures:

<b>Activity Name:</b> CADET LEADERSHIP AND CHALLENGE COURSE
<b>Dates:</b> Approximately 5 July to 15 August
<b>Location:</b> Banff National Park (other areas may be used if conditions and safety dictate)
<b>Officers / Guides in Charge (subject to change):</b>  A: Commanding Officer –Lcol A. Dengis; B: Deputy Commanding Officer – as assigned; C: Chief Training Officer – as assigned; D: Company / Platoon Staff – as assigned; and E: Yamnuska Mountain Adventures Certified Guides – as assigned.

The Department of National Defence and Yamnuska Mountain Adventures will make every reasonable effort to ascertain that:

- a) the supervisors and staff are fully trained and qualified;
- b) the cadets who undertake the program or activities will be adequately supervised;
- c) the location and/or facilities meet the applicable health and safety standards;
- d) any equipment made available or used in the activity has been inspected and is deemed to be appropriate, safe and well maintained; and
- e) the location where the activity will take place is appropriate for course use and the educational objectives as intended.

Potential hazards, which were detailed in the covering letter, may include, but are not limited to:

Extreme weather	Avalanches
Athletic injuries (sprains & strains)	Burns
Trips, Falls, Collisions (including cuts, head & spinal injury)	Allergic reactions
Fall from height	Cold related injuries
Falling objects	Drowning
Driving accident	Lost participant
Animal encounter	Food/Water Loss or Contamination
Equipment failure	

B. PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

Transportation: Cadets will be transported via School Bus, Highway Coach Bus and Vans.

1. I accept the mode of transportation for this activity as outlined above;
2. I am satisfied that I have been informed of my right to obtain as much information about this program, or activity as I feel necessary, including information beyond that information provided to me by the Department of National Defence to the extent that I require and am not, in any way, relying solely upon information provided by Regional Cadet Support Unit (Northwest) in the enclosed letter, Yamnuska Mountain Adventures or Parks Canada respecting the nature and extent of the risks and hazards associated with the program or activity;
3. I freely and voluntarily assume the risks and hazards inherent in the nature of the program or activity and understand and acknowledge that my child/ward, as a participant, may suffer personal and potentially serious injury due to an unforeseeable or fortuitous event;
4. My child/ward has been informed that he/she is to abide by the rules and regulations including directions and instructions from Parks Canada representatives, the Yamnuska Mountain Adventures guides as well as the Department of National Defence administrators, instructors and supervisors as imposed on cadets while participating in the program or activities. This shall include his/her participation in all of the introductory sessions and the meeting of all prerequisites prior to his/her participation in the activity or program;
5. In the event that my child/ward fails to abide by the rules and regulations imposed on the cadets while participating in the program or activities, disciplinary action may either require that he/she not participate in the program or activity, or that he/she may be returned home to me;
6. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to advise the Department of National Defence of any medical or health concerns of my child/ward, which may affect his/her participation in the stated program or activity; and
7. I consent that the Department of National Defence, through its employees, agents, and officers may secure such medical advice and services as those individuals, in their sole discretion, may deem necessary for my child's/ward's health and safety.

Based on my understanding, acknowledgement and consents as described herein, I agree that

\_\_\_\_\_ (Name of cadet)

has my permission to participate in the Leadership and Challenge Course under the supervision of the Department of National Defence and Yamnuska Mountain Adventures guides.

I verify that I have read the enclosed covering letter (please tick the box):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian (Please print) Parent / Guardian

Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_