

Dear MAC Participants and Parents,

We're looking forward to a great year of MAC coming up! This club is an amazing way to build a community and have a lot of fun outside together using the skills we will develop. We have some great volunteers coming to help out on all of our trips and we want them all to be fun and meaningful experiences for everyone. To that end, we want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the things in the MAC handbook so that we clearly communicate what our expectations are of each participant. We ask that each family carefully read the below zero tolerance policy, and that both the youth participant and a parent/guardian sign it and return it before joining the club.

MAC Zero Tolerance Policy

The policy items listed below are serious in nature. They exist for the safety of everyone and are not flexible. Any youth who fails to abide by these policies will be removed from the group and their parents/guardians called for immediate pick-up. (As a reminder, parents should always have an alternate pick-up available during MAC trips in case of illness, injury or other factors). The youth will be allowed to return to the MAC program following a meeting with the participant, parents and Mountaineers staff during which probationary terms are established.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana and Illegal Drugs

Possession of and being under the influence of these substances during any MAC program is forbidden.

Prescription Drugs

Prescription drugs must be disclosed to MAC leaders and must be in their original prescription bottle, prescribed to the youth. Controlled substances, including painkillers, as well as any medication administered via injection (except epipen) must be kept by leaders. Youth may not carry their own controlled substance prescription medications or injection supplies. Some trip circumstances may permit an exception to this rule, which must be agreed upon in writing by both the parent and Mountaineers staff.

Weapons/Hazardous Substances

Guns of any type, knives with blades longer than 3", swords, whips and other weapons are forbidden on any MAC program. Also forbidden are any dangerous substances such as lighter fluid or other flammable liquids.

Disappearing

As part of a group ethic, all participants and leaders (youth and adult) are responsible for ensuring that the group knows where they are. During down time, youth may explore the area in groups of 3-6. Some examples are: going on a walk along a trail before dinner, riding bikes into town, going to a nearby field to play Frisbee. During any time that youth participants (including those who are enrolled but have recently turned 18) are leaving the group's immediate vicinity, they must follow this procedure:

- Group size is a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 youth.
- Youth are required to tell the primary adult leader exactly where they plan to go, and not change that plan. (Adults should know exactly where to find youth at all times).
- Youth are responsible for knowing the expected return time from the adult leader(s). Youth must return at the time specified by the adult leader(s).

When youth follow the above procedure, adults should always be able to determine a youth's location within 10 minutes. If a youth cannot be located in 10 minutes, they will be considered missing. When the youth is located, if they did not follow the above procedures, they will be sent home for disappearing.

"As a **MAC Participant**, I understand that these policies exist for the safety and benefit of everyone in the group, I understand the consequences for failing to abide by the Zero Tolerance policies, and I agree to abide by these policies."

MAC Participant Name

MAC Participant Signature

Date

"As a **MAC Parent**, I understand that these policies exist for the safety and benefit of everyone in the group, I understand the consequences for failing to abide by the Zero Tolerance policies, and I agree that I will support these policies."

MAC Parent Name

MAC Parent Signature

Date