**Thorne Nature Experience**

P.O. Box 19107

Boulder, CO 80308

Phone: (303) 499-3647 ext. 103 Fax: (720) 565-3873

Website: [www.thornenature.org](http://www.thornenature.org) Email: [gwen@thornenature.org](mailto:gwen@thornenature.org)

**Summer Camp Student Teaching Assistant Application Form**

* Student Teaching Assistant (STA) responsibilities are like Teaching Assistant (TA) responsibilities in that they assist a Thorne Instructor with a Camp Experience and help the Instructor lead activities, keep the group safe, and other functions as agreed upon.
* All STAs must be between the ages of 13-15 years of age or older by the date at which they begin volunteering for Thorne Summer Camp. (TA’s must be at least 16).
* Previous experience as a Thorne camper is preferred to be a STA.
* STA’s must register for the Camp Experience(s) as a camper and pay a $35 fee per Camp Experience because STA’s are still covered by Thorne’s childcare license under Colorado state law.
* STA’s attend a training at Sombrero Marsh that will either be on Saturday, May 21, 2016 or on Sunday, May 22, 2016 (specific timing TBD).
* STA’s can only assist with Camp Experiences that meet at the Kassler Center, Sombrero Marsh, Chautauqua, or Various Locations (because STA’s cannot ride the Mapleton bus). STA’s cannot assist with Adventure camps.
* STA’s can request to work with certain Camp Experiences, and we will do our best to meet their requests. We also need to consider Thorne’s priorities, and might request that STA’s help with alternative Camp Experiences, depending on Thorne’s needs.
* To apply to be a STA, please fill out this application and send it to [Gwen@thornenature.org](mailto:Gwen@thornenature.org). Applications will be reviewed starting in March. If you are accepted into the STA program, Gwen will next ask you to register as an STA through the CampMinder registration system.
* This information is confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside of Thorne Nature Experience.

**I. Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_

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

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**II. Volunteering Details**

1. Please indicate the dates for which you are available, as well as your preference, if any, of which “Camp Experience” or age group you’d like to work with. You can find more information about our “Camp Experience” offerings and age groups at <http://www.thornenature.org/programs/summer-camps/> under the heading “2016 Camp Experience Descriptions and Schedule.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PREFERRED DATE(S)** | **PREFERRED “CAMP EXPERIENCE” OR AGE GROUP** |
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2. Will you be volunteering for school credit?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ If **yes**, please describe any paperwork that Thorne will need to fill out for you in order for you to receive school credit:

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3. Are you aware that STA positions are not paid positions? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**III. Personal Background**

Please describe your educational background.

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Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If yes, please describe:

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What skills do you possess that would assist you in working with Thorne?

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Please describe why you wish to work with Thorne.

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Please explain what you hope to accomplish and how we can help you accomplish these goals.

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How did you hear about Thorne?

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What is your favorite Colorado wildflower and why? ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­

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**IV. References:** Please provide two references including contact information and a brief statement of how you know each one. Teachers, work supervisors, or other adults who know you well are examples of the references you should list.

**Reference 1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reference 2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**V.**

THORNE NATURE EXPERIENCE:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND RELEASE & INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

INTRODUCTION

**Please read this entire Acknowledgment & Assumption of Risks and Release & Indemnity Agreement (hereafter, “Document”) carefully before signing.** All adult participants must sign this Document. A parent or legal guardian (hereafter collectively “parent”) must sign if the participant (including paid or volunteer leaders) is under 18 yrs. of age (hereafter sometimes “minor” or “child”). In consideration of the services of Thorne Nature Experience, the entity owning (or having a right to use) the property/facilities upon which the activities takes place, and each of their respective owners, members, managers, officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, volunteers, contractors and all affiliated persons or entities and their successors and assigns (individually and collectively referred to in this Document as “Thorne”), **I (participant and/or parent of a minor participant on behalf of themselves and their minor participant) acknowledge and agree as follows:**

ACTIVITIES, RISKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISKS

Participating in Thorne educational, instructional, recreational and/or adventure activities includes risks. These activities can be day or multi-day, take place indoors or outdoors and be located on public and/or private land inside or outside Colorado. Activities may include, but are not limited to: walking or hiking (on and off trail); backpacking or camping; rock scrambling or bouldering; fishing; biking (on and off trail); training in outdoor ethics or wilderness survival or animal tracking skills; scientific experiments or data collection; educational games; arts and crafts; service projects (including landscaping, facilities maintenance); training in environmental education skills; use of any equipment, facilities or premises and transportation, including field trips, in buses, vans, cars and other vehicles to and from activities (collectively referred to in this Document as “activities”). These activities may be scheduled or unscheduled, supervised or unsupervised, led by Thorne staff or its contractors, and include activities undertaken during participant’s free and/or independent time. **I acknowledge that the inherent and other risks, hazards and dangers (collectively referred to in this document as “risks”) of these activities can cause injury, disability or death to participant or others and/or damage or loss to property of participant or others. Listed below are some, but not all of the risks**. A minor participant’s parent agrees to discuss the nature of the activities and risks with their child and gives their child permission to participate in all activities and field trips (unless otherwise designated in writing during the registration process), including permission to be transported in a Thorne owned or leased school bus or van or with advanced notice to ride in a vehicle owned or operated by a Thorne staff member, volunteer or participant or the parent of a Thorne participant.

**Risks present in an outdoor or wilderness environment.** These risks include travel in high altitude and mountainous terrain. Participants may be subject to storms, including lightning, strong winds, rain or snow; falling or unstable rocks; hot or cold weather or water; wildfire or smoke from wildfire; falling or fallen timber; stinging, venomous and/or disease carrying animals, insects or microorganisms (alive or dead); poisonous plants; wild animals and other natural or man-made hazards. Hazards may not be marked or visible and weather is always unpredictable.

**Risks associated with any outdoor or athletic activity.** These risks include the risk that a participant may overestimate his/her abilities or fitness; be inattentive; lose control and trip or fall and/or collide with others, the ground, rocks or trees or encounter other water/terrain/road/trail hazards; not understand the functioning of (or misuse) the equipment; fail to negotiate steep, uneven or difficult terrain; not control his/her speed or experience equipment malfunction.

**Equipment risks.** The risks include the risk that equipment can be misused, or can break, fail or malfunction. Equipment includes participant’s personal equipment, Thorne equipment or any other equipment. Participants choosing to bring and use their personal equipment (including any safety gear) assume full responsibility, along with their parent/s, for choosing appropriate equipment and for the fit and condition of their equipment. If participant is using safety gear, such gear may prevent or lessen injuries in some instances; however, use of safety gear is not a guarantee of safety, and injury can occur even with the use of this gear. **Thorne equipment** **comes “AS-IS,” and Thorne disclaims all warranties, express or implied (including any conditions of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose) with regard to the equipment, property or facilities.**

**Risks involved in judgment and decision-making.** These risks include the risk that a Thorne staff member, representative, contractor, coparticipant or other party may misjudge a participant’s (or other’s) capabilities, health or physical condition (including fitness level), or misjudge some aspect of weather, terrain, water conditions, instruction, assistance or medical treatment.

**Personal health and participation risks.** The risk that participant’s mental, physical or emotional condition (including any use or abuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs), whether disclosed or undisclosed, known or unknown, combined with participation in these activities, could result in injury, disability or death to a participant or others or damage or loss to property. Participant may need to consult with a physician before participating; it is participant’s (and a minor’s parent’s) responsibility to consider whether these activities are appropriate for participant.

**Geographic location risks.** Activities may take place in remote locations, causing potential delays or difficulties in communication, transportation, evacuation and medical care. Although Thorne staff or contractors may have communication devices (including cell phones or satellite transmitters), use of these devices in outdoor, mountainous and/or wilderness terrain is unreliable and inconsistent.

**Service project risks.** Participating in service projects can include risks associated with activities such as building, digging, lifting, painting, construction, landscaping and clean-up projects. Projects may include the use of tools and equipment (i.e. saws, power tools, axes, ladders) that can cause injury resulting from use, misuse or malfunction.

**Camping risks.** Risks include gas explosion, scalding or other burns associated with cooking over a gas stove or open fire, and water contamination in natural water sources. All water from natural sources may be contaminated and should be disinfected, filtered or boiled before use.

**Premises risks.** Risks include slippery walkways, trails, and boardwalks, uneven ground, ruts, boulders, a wetland, and other conditions existing in and around the property. Participants may engage in Thorne chores using Thorne tools and materials.

**Free time risks.** Participants will have free and/or independent unsupervised time before, during and after the start of activities and at various other times. During both supervised and unsupervised activities, **all participants share in the responsibility for their own well-being and agree to obey all Thorne rules and policies**.

**Risks regarding conduct.** Risks include the potential that the participant or other individuals may act carelessly or recklessly.

**These and other risks may result in participants:** falling partway or falling to the ground; being struck; colliding with or impacting objects or people; experiencing vehicle collision, capsize or rollover; getting caught or entangled in objects above or below water; reacting to high altitudes, weather conditions or increased exertion; becoming lost or disoriented; suffering gastro-intestinal complications or allergic reactions or experiencing other problems. These and other circumstances may cause heat or cold related illnesses or conditions (including hypothermia, hyperthermia, cold water immersion, frostbite or heat exhaustion/stroke), dehydration, drowning, high altitude sickness, heart or lung complications, broken bones, paralysis or other permanent disability, mental or emotional trauma, concussions, sunburn or other burns, infections, insect or animal bites, cuts or wounds or other injury, damage, death or loss.

**I understand that the information provided in this Document, including in the Risks listed above, is not exhaustive, other unknown or unanticipated activities, risks, and outcomes may exist, and Thorne cannot assure participant’s safety or eliminate any of these risks.**

**I (participant and/or parent of a minor participant) further acknowledge and agree as follows:**

1. to review all Thorne information received, accurately complete all requested information, and abide by Thorne rules and policies;
2. any information I have provided to Thorne regarding me/my child is complete and accurate, and it is my responsibility to provide Thorne with any changes, including health or contact information, before the program start date;
3. Thorne’s staff are available should I have further questions about the activities or the associated risks;
4. participant is fully capable of participating in these activities without causing harm to him/herself or others;
5. to disclose to Thorne representatives any mental, physical or emotional condition/s or limitation/s which might affect participant's participation, and represent that participant is fully capable of participating without causing harm to him/herself or others;
6. Thorne reserves the right to dismiss any participant that staff believe, in their discretion, presents a safety, behavioral or other concern.

**Participant is voluntarily participating with knowledge of the risks. Therefore, participant (and a minor’s parent) expressly assumes and accepts full responsibility for participant, for the inherent and other risks (both known and unknown) of these activities, and for any injury, disability or death suffered by participant (and a minor’s parent) or others and for any damage or loss to property, resulting from those risks and participant’s participation in the activities, including participant’s own negligence or other misconduct.**

RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

**Please read carefully. This Release and Indemnity Agreement contains a surrender of certain legal rights. I (adult participant, or parent for themselves and for and on behalf of their participating minor child), agree:**

1) **to release and agree not to sue Thorne**, with respect to any and all claims, liabilities, suits or expenses (including attorneys’ fees and costs) (hereafter collectively “claim” or “claim/s”) for any injury, damage, death, disability or other loss in any way connected with my/my child’s enrollment or participation in these activities, including use of any equipment, facilities or premises. I agree here to waive all claim/s I or my child may have against Thorne, bind my/my child’s estate and any family member/heir/other party bringing claim/s, and agree that neither I, my child nor anyone acting on my or my child's behalf, will make a claim or file a lawsuit against Thorne as a result of any injury, damage, death or other loss suffered by me or my child; and

2) **to defend and indemnify** (“indemnify” meaning protect by reimbursement or payment) **Thorne** with respect to any and all claim/s brought by or on behalf of me, my participating child, spouse or other family member/s, my/my child’s heir/s or estate, a co-participant or any other person for any injury, damage, death, disability or other loss to the extent caused by my/my child’s conduct in the course of participating in these activities, including use of any equipment, facilities or premises.

**This Release and Indemnity Agreement includes claim/s of or resulting from Thorne’s negligence (but not its willful and wanton misconduct), and includes claim/s for personal injury, disability or wrongful death (including claim/s related to emergency, medical, drug and/or health issues, response, assessment or treatment), property damage, loss of consortium, breach of contract or any other claim.**

OTHER PROVISIONS

I (participant and/or a minor participant’s parent) agree that Colorado substantive law (without regard to its conflict of laws rules) governs this Document, any dispute I have with Thorne and all other aspects of my relationship with Thorne, and agree that any mediation, suit or other proceeding must be filed or entered into only in Boulder County, Colorado. I will attempt to settle any dispute (not settled by discussion) through mediation before a mutually acceptable Colorado mediator.

I authorize Thorne staff, volunteers or other medical personnel to obtain or provide medical care for participant, to transport participant to a medical facility, and to provide treatment they consider necessary for participant’s health. I agree to pay all costs associated with that care and transportation.

I authorize Thorne to take my or my child’s photo, statement and/or audio or video recording (collectively, “recording”) and use it for sale or reproduction for any promotional or other purpose, in any media of any kind throughout the world in perpetuity without notice, consent or payment of any kind. I (on behalf of myself and my child) agree not to make any claim against Thorne as a result of the use of any such recording.

This Document is intended to be interpreted and enforced to the fullest extent allowed by law. If any portion of this Document is deemed unlawful or unenforceable, it shall not affect the remaining provisions, and those remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

**Participant and/or a minor participant’s parent agree:** **I have carefully read, understand and voluntarily sign this Document and acknowledge that it shall be effective and legally binding upon me, my spouse, participating minor child and other children, and parent’s/participant’s other family members, heirs, executors, representatives, subrogors and estate. I acknowledge that this Document is given to me in exchange for good and valuable consideration and I (or my child) have been offered the opportunity not to participate in the activities if I do not wish to execute this Document. I declare that I have not been influenced to any extent whatsoever in making this release by any representations or statements regarding the activities or any other matters, made by Thorne and understand that I am giving up, on behalf of myself (and if applicable, my child), substantial rights by signing it. My signature affirms my intent, on behalf of myself (and if applicable, my child), for this Document to be a complete and unconditional waiver and release of all liability to the greatest extent permitted by law.** An adult participant or a parent of a minor participant (those under 18 yrs. of age) must sign below.

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***Participant Signature (18 or older) Date Birthdate Print Participant Name***

PARENTAL CONSENT

**IF THE PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, THE FOLLOWING MUST BE CONSENTED TO AND APPROVED BY SUCH INDIVIDUAL’S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:**

**I am the parent or legal guardian of the participant named below, and by my approval and consent to this Document, I hereby consent to, join in and approve this Document, will ensure that my child honors his/her obligations hereunder, and will indemnify and hold Thorne harmless from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, causes of action, liability, losses, damages, costs, expenses and reasonable attorneys’ fees arising out of or in any way related to this Document or the rights granted herein, my child’s attendance at or participation in any of the activities, any breach of the above representations, warranties and agreements, or any attempt to rescind, limit or disaffirm the foregoing. I hereby expressly approve of my child’s attendance at or participation in any or all of the activities.**

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

***Parent Signature Date Print Parent Name***

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**Thank you for your interest in Thorne Nature Experience.**

**We rely on help from volunteers like you to achieve our mission of Connecting Kids to Nature!**

**We hope to be working with you soon.**