



Full Value Contract

The purpose of Rugged Adventurers is to help you learn how to make good choices, learn how to be effective leaders, learn how to continue improving, and have a fun adventure which makes you feel proud. You will learn specific skills which you can use throughout your lives to develop worthy goals and lead others toward them. Rugged Adventurers is an experiential program. You will learn by doing: You will lead activities, make choices, develop shared values, and discuss your successes and areas for improvement along the way.

An essential element of this program is the full-value contract, which all adventurers must sign. This contract sets goals and guidelines for the week so that you can know what staff and your peers expect from you. And you know what you can expect from them. Every week, participants will have an opportunity to develop their own contract, but it will most likely resemble this one. Following are some examples from past contracts.

I will do my best. When we say best, we don't mean perfect. Nobody is perfect and mistakes are an important part of learning. The most important expectation in Rugged Adventurers is that you will always try your hardest. If you forget to do this, we will probably ask you, "Is this your best work?" And, your peers will ask you that question as well.

I will be proud. Not everyone can be a Rugged Adventurer. This program is for the dedicated ones, the people willing to paddle, canoe, bike, and dive more than anyone else, and the people who want to develop their leadership and decision-making skills. We hope that you will feel honored to be a rugged adventurer. We will ask you, "Are you proud of the choices you made today?"

I will strive to learn. We expect that you will ask questions. If you see someone doing an excellent job, ask, "Why is he leading the group so well? What is he doing that I can also do?" We will often ask you, "What do leaders do? What are specific actions that they take?" We will ask you to observe your behavior and your crewmates carefully, so you can discuss the positive decisions and actions which you are making. Ask yourself, "Could I have made a different choice? Was that decision true to my values? What can I do differently next time?"

I will respect myself and others. Respect in Rugged Adventurers means many different things: It means that we do not tolerate put-downs or teasing of any kind. We can disagree with each other, but we cannot call each other names, use negative labels, or be disrespectful. Respect also means that we will have consideration for the other members of the group and we will not keep them waiting when activities are supposed to begin. In other words, punctuality is important in Rugged Adventurers because it shows consideration by not making people wait. Respect also means helping those adventurers who are struggling with patience and kindness. We also ask for a POSITIVE attitude because complaints and whining can bring down the entire group, which disrespects their experience. In our experience, we find that most adventurers impress us beyond belief with their efforts to carry out the full value contract and develop as leaders and crewmates.

In the rare instance that we have a participant who chooses not to follow this contract, we give him a warning. Most adventurers never need another warning. Rarely, however, we see participants who continue to violate the contract. In these instances, we will give a second warning to the participant and we will also call his parents to discuss his behavior. If there is a third problem, then we will send the person home. We will call the parents to inform them that they need to make arrangements to bring their child home from San Pedro terminal early. You will make your own contract and sign it at camp. We ask, however, that you read this one now so that you, your parents, and your unit leader can be familiar with our expectations. We look forward to a summer with adventurers accomplishing terrific feats!