



## Guest Responsibility

**Be prepared and understand the risks.** White water rafting and other activities included in our rafting packages are adventure sports all of which include inherent risks to participants. We make every effort to provide an enjoyable experience, but the charm and excitement of adventure sports is due in part to the unpredictable nature of the activity. We therefore cannot be responsible for personal injury and/or lost or damaged items. We require that each participant takes the time to complete our “Assumption of Risk, Release of Liability and Indemnification Agreement”. [You may view a draft of the document here.](#) Please do not complete the draft document! An email with a link will be mailed to you once your reservation is finalized. Minors (ages 18 and younger) are required to have a parent or legal guardian complete and e-sign their release form. The release form must be completed prior to your raft trip.

**Prior to reserving your raft trip**, it is incumbent upon you to determine if you and every member of your party is physically and mentally capable of participating in the chosen activities. Select a trip appropriate for the most hesitant member of your party. Peer pressure or hoping the strong paddlers will make up for the weak paddlers is not an appropriate way to determine which trip is best for the group. We will assist in selecting a proper raft trip for you, but you must provide us with accurate information so we can make informed recommendations. It is important you share with us all pertinent medical and physical conditions including but not limited to heart conditions, lung conditions, pregnancy, diabetes, recent surgeries, age and food and environmental allergies. You must inform us if members of your party have other conditions such as mental and physical challenges, excessive body weight and mobility challenges. Recommended ages change depending on river flows; your honesty when disclosing ages is important to the safety of all guests involved. Although swimming is not a requirement for rafting, we encourage you to be honest with yourself when determining which section is appropriate, and understand that an adventure-class raft trip could certainly include you falling out of the raft resulting in an adventure-class swim. **Rafting is not for everyone, and we reserve the right to refuse service if we feel your safety or the safety of others will be compromised.**

### High water trips and changing itineraries

Like you, Echo Canyon River Expeditions, is concerned first and foremost with the well-being of your entire party. For this reason we are happy to adjust your trip to a different section of river based on the needs and desires of you and all members of your party. Be advised that water level has a significant impact on the caliber or whitewater we see on any section, and we strongly encourage you to ask this of us upon check-in. Since Mother Nature is dynamic, we do not know actual flows of the river until the day of your trip - especially during our high water season. If you or the team at Echo Canyon feels you and/or members of your party should be on a different experience we will make those arrangements even while you are on-site. Opportunities may exist for us to move some, but not necessarily all, members of your party if that is the desired outcome. If refunds are due to you or members of your party we are happy to oblige as your well-being is our shared objective.

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**Prior to each raft trip you will receive a safety orientation** detailing some of the possible scenarios (i.e. falling out of the raft) and your personal responsibilities if you find yourself in those situations. If after listening to this orientation you feel unprepared for the raft trip, please understand you are under no obligation to participate in the trip. In the event the safety orientation is provided en route to the river or at the put-in location and you do not wish to participate we will provide you transportation back to our rafting office.

### **River/Rapids class rating system**

This is strictly a subjective scale, and the class of a rapid or section of river can change due to increasing or decreasing water levels. Some of the factors taken into consideration when classifying a rapid include difficulty of navigating the rapid, difficulty of rescue, water temperature, air temperature, and remoteness of the rapid/river section. All members of your party should be aware that a swim in any class of water is possible and that being in the river itself is an unpredictable environment.

Class I – Easy. Small riffles. No significant waves or obstacles.

Class II – Novice. Moderate rapids with regular waves, small drops, clear passages and wide channels. Occasional maneuvering may be required.

Class III – Intermediate. Moderately difficult rapids with larger irregular waves, often narrow channels. Complex maneuvering required to avoid obstacles.

Class IV – Advanced. Intense, powerful rapids requiring precise maneuvering in fast, turbulent water. Complex maneuvering with many significant obstacles to be avoided.

Class V – Expert. Extremely long violent or obstructed rapids, often following each other almost without interruption. Drops may have large, unavoidable waves and holes or steep, congested chutes with difficult routes. Steep gradient.

Class VI – Unrunnable.

### **What happens if I fall out of the raft or if I go “swimming”?**

Swimming in any river is inherently dangerous and should always be avoided. When accidents happen on the river they often result in an unintended swim which subjects you to forces such as powerful water, impact with rocks and possible extreme temperatures all of which can result in a variety of injuries. You should know that no outfitter can guarantee your safety or that you will not go for an unintended swim. Although you are provided with a life jacket (personal floatation device) they are not infallible.

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### **Outfitter observations**

We feel it is worthwhile to share an observation with our guests that you will not normally hear from an outfitter. "We are only as good as the information we get". On a regular basis guests either withhold or "massage" information when making a reservation. Failing to disclose information, assuming that "it can never happen to me" and outright manipulations of the truth in order to gain a desired result is commonplace and the results of this can be unfortunate for all involved. In short it is possible to be too heavy, old, young, intimidated, inebriated or unprepared to raft and your outfitter cannot be the judge of all these things. We need "you" to exercise common sense and be a responsible guest using our knowledge and experience to facilitate a memorable and enjoyable experience on any one of Colorado's amazing rivers.

### **Call us with questions**

Thanks for doing your part to ensure you have a memorable and fun experience with us. If you still are not sure if rafting is for your group or if you aren't sure which trip is best for your group just give us a call at 800-690-3246. We are here to help!

