



It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men.
- Frederick Douglass
If we do not initiate the boys,
they will burn down the village.
- African Proverb

Parents or Guardians,

Enclosed are the application forms for the August 20-22, 2010, Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW). The weekend will begin at 7:00 P.M. on Friday, August 20, and will end Sunday, August 22, after lunch. Food and lodging will be provided.

Please make sure that all information is complete, and forms are properly signed by you and **the boy attending.** Mail them with your tuition payment to the address provided below. Once your boy's application has been approved, we will mail you an enrollment packet, which includes required medical information, liability release forms, program evaluation questionnaire, and directions to the area where you will drop off and pick up your boy.

After completing the RPAW, your boy will have the opportunity to attend our ongoing mentoring program at no extra charge.* For more information about our mentoring program or if you have any questions about the RPAW, please contact our RPAW Coordinator:

Threshold Passages, Inc.
RPAW Coordinator
(303) 889-2801
R_P_A_W_@thresholdpassages.org

*We ask parents to pay facilities' entry fees for activities such as indoor climbing or laser tag, but TPI does not charge an additional fee for the mentoring program. Sponsorship and payment plans are available. **No boy is turned away due to a lack of funds.**

Application documents:

Mail forms and payment to: Threshold Passages, Inc. ~P.O. Box 270895 ~ Littleton, CO 80127
For faster service, FAX forms to: Threshold Passages, Inc. 303.889.2811

Page 1: This Welcome Letter – **KEEP – Do not send back.**

Page 2: Registration Form. **Please complete, sign, and send back.**

Page 3: Youth Pre-Participation Questionnaire.
These questions are asked of your boy before the weekend to prepare him for the adventure.
Please allow your boy to fill out this form and have him seal it for his own privacy and mail separately to the same address as above.

Page 4: Tuition Information. **Please complete, sign, and send back. Signatures of parent(s) and the boy attending are required.**

Page 5: Overview of the Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend for Parents – **KEEP – Do not send back.**



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REGISTRATION FORM

Threshold Passages, Inc. Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) August 20-22, 2010

Boy's Name _____

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

Boy's Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone/Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Street Address (if different): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Person or Event who referred you to this program:

The Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) is a physically and emotionally demanding experience that will be both fun and enlightening. Participants will spend this weekend in the company of 20-30 teenage boys and 40-50 or more adult staff. All adult staff have passed a state and nationwide criminal background check.

I hereby give my permission for _____ to participate in Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend. I agree to and accept the conditions of event participation as stated in the registration packet.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date



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Pre-participation Questionnaire

NAME _____ DATE _____

Answer the following questions as honestly as possible. There are no wrong answers. Ask if you need a question clarified. Be specific. *If you need more room for answers, use the back of this sheet.*

1. What do you like most about your life? _____
2. What do you like least about your life? _____
3. What do you think makes a man a man? _____
4. What do you hope to get from this adventure? _____
5. Who do you trust? Why? _____
6. What is your biggest fear? _____
7. What makes you happiest? _____
8. What makes you sad? _____
9. What makes you maddest? _____
10. Do you ever get overwhelmed or out of control? If yes, what happens and how do you feel about it? _____

11. What do you want us to do if you get angry? _____
12. Do you ever feel bad about yourself? Give an example of what brings this on. _____

13. What is the hardest thing you've ever done or been a part of? _____

14. What is the greatest thing you've ever done or been a part of? _____

15. What do you do to help your self-esteem? _____
16. What do you do to reward yourself? _____

Threshold Passages, Inc.
P.O. Box 270895
Littleton, CO 80127
303.889.2800 Main
303.889.2811 Fax
I_N_F_O_@ThresholdPassages.org
ThresholdPassages.ORG



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TUITION

Threshold Passages, Inc. Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) August 20 – 22, 2010

Threshold Passages, Inc is a 501c3 registered non-profit. We are not doing this for the money. However, we do need money to put on these weekends and run the program. We must charge a nominal fee.

TUITION: \$295.00 covers the complete weekend, including room and board.

~ No boy is turned away because of an inability to pay. ~

If you are unable to pay the full amount now, please request an application for a sponsorship/payment plan (separate form) by emailing the RPAW Coordinator at R_P_A_W_@thresholdpassages.org or calling 303-889-2801.

DEPOSIT: \$100 reserves a boy's space. Deposit is nonrefundable after Friday, July 16, 2010

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Threshold Passages, Inc. (write in the memo line TPI RPAW 8/10)

MAIL CHECK TO:

Threshold Passages, Inc.
RPAW Coordinator
P.O. Box 270895
Littleton, CO 80127

Questions: Call (303) 889-2801

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

If you cancel your agreement to attend the Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) on or before July 16, 2010, your tuition will be refunded in full. After that date, the \$100 deposit will be deducted from your refund.

I agree to the above conditions.

Boy's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____



Overview of Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend for Parents

Background

Rites of passage have played an important role in many cultures for thousands of years. We believe that rites of passage must be relevant and appropriate for each culture, and therefore each culture's practices will be different. However, there are some universal threads that weave their way through the rites of passage of many cultures. We present some of these commonalities here.

Purpose

A primary function of any rite of passage is to allow children to choose a new adult identity in their community. Adults help facilitate this process, and help them gain the skills and understandings that they will need to fulfill their potential as members of the community. Rites of passage mark an important transition, and community members emphasize the importance of the event for both the individual and the community.

The specific processes used at rites of passage are kept confidential. That is so younger members of the community do not receive the adult information before they are ready, because rites of passage are considered sacred and personal and should not be treated casually, and because rites of passage rely on a degree of theater, surprise, and spontaneous response that would be lost if participants knew in advance what was going to happen. However, parents can be fully briefed about all the processes of the Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) upon request.

Staff Screening

All mentors and staff over the age of 18 years participating in a TPI RPAW have successfully passed state and nationwide background checks. Any man who has not completed this step will not be permitted to participate in the RPAW on any level.

Transition in a wild or primitive setting

The isolation of the natural setting removes participants from the routines and patterns of their lives so that they can "re-create" themselves. They have the opportunity to let go of old patterns that might no longer serve them. They start fresh, discover new, more mature qualities, and learn and adopt new responsibilities and roles.

The participant has an opportunity to reflect on his new status and to adjust to the enormous changes, which can be exciting, scary, challenging, and confusing all at once. The participant's time away gives the community time to adjust to the changes as well. When the participant returns, he is on his journey to become a man, and the community is also ready to accept him as a member of society in a new way.

Tests of endurance, courage, or competence

Primarily with young males, initiations incorporate physical or emotional tests. This helps the boy discover inner resources that they often don't know exist and gain new self-respect and confidence. It also helps ensure that the initiate is ready for the challenges and responsibilities of the path to adulthood. In this training, the tests are very individual. They are challenging and each boy has the opportunity to test himself in ways that build self-esteem and facilitate growth.



Teaching and learning

In most rites of passage, elders, leaders, teachers, parents, or others teach participants about important aspects of adulthood. The Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend (RPAW) helps boys learn their own lessons. Participants learn about accountability, integrity, personal responsibility, honest communication, connection to feeling, and about the importance of discovering a sense of mission in the world.

Physical Token of Changes

After the boys have faced their challenges at the RPAW, they are honored for having been initiated onto the path to manhood. They are presented with a talisman at a celebration. In addition, the young men are honored with a new status within the Mentoring community; they are now called “JourneyMen,” or “JMen” meaning that they are now on the journey to manhood. JourneyMen are offered emotional literacy development and leadership opportunities during the ongoing mentoring program that starts after the RPAW. JourneyMen are eligible to staff as leaders for subsequent Rites of Passage Adventure Weekends.

Some of the primary experiences and lessons a boy gets through the Rites of Passage Adventure Weekend, Mentoring and the Journeymen Groups

- Respect for the feminine: mother, women, and the feminine community.
- Respect for the masculine. Constructive and supportive ways of being with a community of men.
- Self respect: understanding of one’s own unique gifts and of one’s inherent worth.
- How to connect with and express feelings in healthy and appropriate ways.
- Encouragement to honor one’s own spiritual connection through personal rituals of renewal.
- Knowledge of one’s own flaws and limitations.
- Communication skills and emotional literacy.

For More Information Contact:

**Threshold Passages, Inc.
P.O. Box 270895
Littleton, CO 80127**

303.889.2801

R_P_A_W_@thresholdpassages.org

or visit us on the web at

www.thresholdpassages.org