**CONSENT FORM**

**Texas State University-San Marcos**

**School of Social Work**

**Sponsored by Dr. Christine Norton, PhD, LCSW**

**601 S. University Dr.**

**Health Professions Bldg. Room 275**

**San Marcos, TX 78666**

**Project Title:** New Heights: Adventure-based Group Work in Social Work Education

**1. Invitation to Participate and Description of the Project.** You are being invited to participate in the GOAL Program as a part of your social work education. Your participation will provide you with a hands-on experience with adventure-based group work. Your participation in the program is voluntary. Before agreeing to be part of this experience, please read and/or listen to the following information carefully. Feel free to ask questions if you do not understand something.

**2. Description of Procedure.** We will carpool out the University Camp where we will break into three groups (2 MSW groups; 1 BSW group). We will participate in low-ropes elements and high-ropes elements as a means for improving group cohesion, problem-solving skills, communication skills, and other goals that are set individually and as a group. For more information, see <http://www.campusrecreation.txstate.edu/programs/outdoor/g-o-a-l-program.html>. Before and after the GOAL program, you will be asked to complete an online survey to gain information on the impact of the GOAL program on you as an individual, the group, as well as your learning in this area. Your identity in this project will be kept confidential, but the answers you provide on this survey may be used in scholarly paper or at a conference presentation. Here is a sample question from the survey:

“What did you gain from your participation in the GOAL program?”

**3. Risks and Inconveniences. The GOAL program staff are all trained facilitators and will manage the physical and emotional safety of participants during the program.** There is a possibility that your participation in the program may make you feel uncomfortable. If you do feel uncomfortable, you can do any of the following: you can choose not to participate, you can take a break and continue later, you can choose not to participate in the pre- and post-survey. Dr. Norton will also be available to debrief the experience and help participants feel supported.

**4. Benefits.**  Your participation in the GOAL program may facilitate greater self-understanding, as well as more group cohesiveness. Likewise, you will walk away with direct knowledge of the application of this type of modality with social work clients. In addition, what we learn from the survey may help us to better understand the impact of adventure-based experiences on groups.

**5. Financial (or other) considerations:** The cost is $7 per participant, plus carpooling to the facility. You will be given 10 extra credit points for participating. An alternative extra credit assignment will be given for those who choose not to participate.

**6. Confidentiality.** Any and all information obtained from you during the program and the survey will be confidential. Your privacy will be protected at all times. You will not be identified individually in any way as a result of your participation in this program. The data collected however, may be used as part of publications and papers related to the use of adventure-based techniques with groups. The same limits of confidentiality apply as in a clinical setting.

**7. Voluntary Participation.** Your participation in this program is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate in this program. Such refusal will not have any negative consequences for you. If you begin to participate in the program, you may at any time, for any reason, discontinue your participation without any negative consequences.

**8. Other considerations and questions.** Please feel free to ask any questions about anything that seems unclear to you and to consider this research and consent form carefully before you sign.

**Authorization:** I have read or listened to the above information and I have decided that I will participate in the project described above. Dr. Norton has explained the study to me and answered my questions. I know what will be asked of me. I understand that the purpose of the study. If I don't participate, there will be no penalty or loss of rights. Ican stop participating at any time, even after I have started.

**I agree to participate in this program and complete the pre- and post- survey. My signature below also indicates that I have received a copy of this consent form.**

Participant’s signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to have my picture taken during the GOAL program for the purposes of sharing them on the SSW website or including them in a power point presentation for a conference presentation on the impact of the GOAL Program.**

Participant’s signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you have further questions about this project, please contact Dr. Norton at 512-0245-4562 or [cn19@txstate.edu](mailto:cn19@txstate.edu) or the Director of the School of Social Work, Dr. Noble at 512-545-2582 or [dn12@txstate.edu](mailto:dn12@txstate.edu). Should you have any complaints or concerns regarding this project, please contact Dr. Jon Lasser, Chair, Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects, at 512-245-3412 or by email at [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu). You may also contact Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist at 512-245-2102.

The participant will be given one copy of this consent form. One copy of this form is to be kept by the sponsoring faculty member.