



# Personal Health Information (PHI) Privacy Notice

Wilderness Integration Project dba Wild Society | Effective date: 5/5/2026 | Last updated: 5/5/2026

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## Definitions

- "Personal Health Information" (PHI) means any information that identifies or could be associated with a participant and relates to their past, present, or future physical or mental health, including conditions, diagnoses, treatments, medications, allergies, and health-related observations including consumer health data.
- "Participant" means any individual enrolled or participating in a Wild Society program.
- "Authorized Staff" means Wild Society staff members designated as having a legitimate need to access PHI, including Program Director, Guides, and key administrative and logistics staff.
- "Field Staff" means guides and instructors who accompany participants in the backcountry and hold wilderness medicine certifications (e.g., Wilderness First Responder, Wilderness EMT).

## Why We Collect Health Information

Wilderness Integration Project dba Wild Society runs backcountry wilderness trips for youth in remote locations — typically many hours from the nearest road or hospital. To keep your child safe, we need accurate, complete health information. Our guides hold wilderness medicine certifications and rely on this information to make good decisions in the field.

## What We Collect

We collect only what is reasonably necessary for your child's safety, including:

- Medical history, diagnoses, and conditions relevant to outdoor activity
- Allergies (food, environmental, insect, medications) and history of severe reactions
- Current medications, dosages, and administration instructions
- Mental and behavioral health information relevant to group/wilderness settings
- Physical fitness level and any activity limitations
- Emergency contacts information
- Health observations, SOAP notes, and incident records made during trips

## How We Use It

We use your child's health information only to:

- Evaluate whether a specific trip is appropriate for your child
- Brief field guides and staff on a need-to-know basis before and during trips
- Manage medications, dietary needs, and activity modifications in the field
- Respond to medical emergencies and coordinate evacuations
- Document health incidents and communicate with you during and after trips

**We do NOT use health information for any commercial purpose, discrimination, profiling, or any undisclosed purpose, and we will never sell it.**

## Who May See This Information

Access to a participant's PHI is granted to Wild Society staff, board members, contractors, and volunteers on a need-to-know basis. Anyone in our organization who handles PHI is trained in organizational policy and systems to maintain privacy. See below for who may see this info and why, including third-party entities with whom we partner.

Who	Why
Directors, Board Members, authorized staff	Full access for program oversight, enrollment decisions, & emergency coordination
Field Staff (wilderness medicine certified)	Full access for participants on their trip, for field health management and emergency response
Logistics/provisioning staff	Limited access re: allergy & dietary needs
On-call Staff, Contractors, Volunteers	Access for assigned on-call dates for emergency coordination
Emergency Medical Services, SAR	Relevant health information for emergencies & evacuations
Hospitals, ambulance providers	Transfer of care during evacuation
Land management agencies (NPS, USFS, etc.)	Incident reporting, SAR coordination, permit requirements
Your child's healthcare provider	Only with your written authorization
Law enforcement	Mandatory reporting, court orders, subpoenas
Legal proceedings	Valid subpoenas, court orders, defense of legal claims
Co-operating / partner organizations	Trips where another organization shares safety responsibility

**⚠ Backcountry Privacy Notice:** In remote settings, complete privacy cannot always be guaranteed. Medical care may happen in the presence of other participants, and health details may be communicated by radio or satellite — which may not be fully encrypted. Field staff are trained to share only what is necessary. In a life-threatening emergency, participant safety takes priority over information minimization.

## Parent/Guardian Rights

You have the right to: access your child's health records; request corrections; request deletion (subject to legal retention requirements); and withdraw consent at any time in writing. Note that withdrawing consent may affect your child's ability to participate. We respond to requests within 30 days. We retain PHI records for 7 years after the participant's last trip, or until the participant reaches age 23, whichever is later. Records are securely destroyed when no longer needed.

## Applicable Law

This policy is designed to comply with the Washington My Health My Data Act (RCW 19.373), the Washington Health Care Information Act (RCW 70.02), the Washington Data Breach Notification Law (RCW 19.255.010), COPPA, and HIPAA where applicable. We will notify you within 30 days in the event of a confirmed data breach.