

## **GUIDE PROFESSIONALISM presented by Julie Munger CEO Sierra Rescue International**

### **Introduction:**

Any guide that is attending the GTS, is doing so because they are a true professional that wants to learn more about the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. Being a professional guide is an opportunity to work in an exceptional environment with an outstanding opportunity to share a love of the river with the public. In order to preserve this career path, protect the public, and ourselves; it is critical that we understand what makes us professionals, and agree on certain standards of professionalism that guides who we are; and who we strive to be as river guides.

### **Body:**

Why am I here today? Brief introduction of my dedication to professionalism in guiding.

Professionalism includes:

- Connecting ourselves and people to both the river and the environment around us.  
-Why you are all here today: “interp”
- Providing a safe and enjoyable experience for those that trust us to do so; aka guests  
-Being a great navigator  
-Paying attention to safety on and off the river  
-Comfort allows people to connect
- Professional appearance and maintenance of self.  
-Gear, clothes, car, plan for the future
- River Rescue and Wilderness First Aid training  
-How good are you at the actual skills?
- Ability to say no; and pass good information along to other guides through stories
- Ultimately, it is our responsibility; but must come from the “top” down.  
- Outfitters set the bar!

### **Conclusion:**

We all must be passionate about what we do; as guides, outfitters, and educators. We need to support each other and the guide community in striving for the highest levels of professionalism. In our Sierra Rescue courses, we have a code of ethics that we require any guide to sign before we certify them in our Professional River Rescue certification. Let’s continue to network together to set the highest standards, and expect the most out of ourselves and each other.

Please contact me at anytime with ideas, input, feedback. Thank you!

## RIVER RUNNER CODE OF ETHICS

1. I will do everything I can to keep my passengers in my raft, and take pride in keeping them in the boat.
2. I will always act as a river professional, on and off the river.
3. I will maintain an adequate level of first aid and rescue training for the rivers I run.
4. I will take responsible action based on my experience and training.
5. I will know my own limitations and work within them.
6. I will carry and maintain my own personal river gear and rescue equipment.
7. I will maintain a professional appearance.
8. I will always use alcohol responsibly.
9. I will encourage others to act in a responsible and safe way, and will never hesitate to speak up if I feel something is not safe.
10. I will be considerate of other boaters on the river, and maintain a leave no trace attitude.
11. I have an understanding of the Incident Command System and will work with other groups and agencies in a professional manner.
12. I will always help folks who desire my assistance, and pledge to be a good river Samaritan.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

