



ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH ASSESSMENT OF THE JR. ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK RITES OF PASSAGE PROGRAM

Key Information

The proposed research will assess the primary purpose of the Jr. Order of Melchizedek (JOM) Rites of Passage Program, i.e. to improve the participant's well-being through value-based decision making. The results of the assessment will be presented at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies in 2024.

The purpose of this study is to determine if the moral and cultural values taught during the program have a positive effect on the well-being of the participants. You may participate in this research study if you are an American resident. You will be asked to participate two online surveys and a focus-group. The surveys will take about 30 minutes and the focus group will last one hour. There is minimal psychological risk involved with the study; discomfort may result from sensitive questions. There is no more risk than everyday life. The research is confidential and the data cannot be traced back to the participants. The knowledge gained from this study will contribute to a body of knowledge regarding student success. There is no payment for participation and you may withdraw from the study at any time without consequences and may refuse to answer any questions and still remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so. You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study.

INTRODUCTION

You are being asked to participate in a research study conducted by Richard Rose, from the Religion and Philosophy Department of the University of La Verne. You may participate in this research study if you are an American resident between the ages of 12 -15 years old.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to determine if the moral and cultural values taught during the program have a positive effect on the well-being of the participants.

CALENDAR 2023

One Eight-week Section

1. Fall Term: November 2023 – January 2023 (exact dates TBA)



PROCEDURES

If you decide to participate in this study, the researcher(s) will ask you to do the following things: 1. Prior to the first session of the program the participants will be asked to answer questions on an online survey. The online survey will take about 30 minutes. Following the final session of the program the students will retake that same online survey. 2. There will also be a one-hour focus group sessions by Zoom. The focus group will allow the participants to share in their own words how they were affected by the program's curriculum. The Zoom session has four areas of focus: (A) Do the values covered in this section make a difference in your daily life (B) Does the practice of this set of character traits help to improve your sense of well-being? (C) Can those character traits be helpful for a values-based approach to career choices? (D) How does contemplating the values of the program inform your decision-making process? 4. The data will be collected by online survey and through an audio recording of the Zoom focus group.

ZOOM RECORDING

A recording of the Zoom session (audio only) Focus Group will be used during the final phase of the assessment.

Please initial next to your selection:

☐ I consent to be recorded.

☐ I do not give my consent to be recorded.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS

There is minimal psychological risk involved with the study; discomfort may result from sensitive questions. There is no more risk than everyday life. The research is confidential and the data cannot be traced back to you. All data will be stored in a password protected drive and locked in a University of La Verne office filing cabinet.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS AND/OR TO SOCIETY

Expected value to population well-being:

Students: The character traits of honesty, integrity, non-violence and faith are used to prepare students for the careers of tomorrow. Once JOM has been completed, the concepts are woven into the fabric of the student's life as a part of their life-long learning.

Community: The communities in which the participants live will benefit from the conscientious students that will reside in their common space. The students will bring the values to society which make for the Beloved Community.

University of La Verne: The Program allows the University to be engaged in a value-based community project and also recruit youth and potential college students to La Verne academic programs.

National: JOM Curriculum Assessment findings to be presented at ECBCS 50th Anniversary Celebration 2024 as a model for similar communities.

PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION

There is no payment for participation and you may withdraw from the study at any time without consequences and may refuse to answer any questions and still remain in the study.



UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law, court order, and/or subpoena. Confidentiality will be maintained by means of A password-protected drive or similar storage device locked in a University of La Verne filing cabinet, also locked in a University of La Verne office. Data and consents will be stored for three years after completion of data collection and confidentially shredded or fully deleted. Numbers will be used to protect the identify of individuals in the Focus Groups. Recorded material will be transcribed by the PI and the recording erased upon transcription

PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL

You can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you decide not to participate in this study, there will be no penalty or loss of benefits you are otherwise entitled to receive. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of benefits you are otherwise entitled to receive. You may also refuse to answer any questions you do not want to answer and still remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATORS AND CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Richard Rose: *Principal Investigator*, phone: 909 261-2907 or email: rrose@laverne.edu

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty. You are not waiving any legal claims, rights or remedies because of your participation in this research study. If you have questions regarding your rights as a research participant, or if you are injured while participating in the study, please contact the IRB Office at 909-448-4564 (irb@laverne.edu), University of La Verne, Institutional Review Board, 1950 Third St, La Verne CA 91750.

SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

I understand the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form and my parent/guardian has consented.

Printed Name of Participant

Signature of Participant

Date



SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR

In my judgement the participant is voluntarily and knowingly giving informed assent and possesses the legal capacity to give informed assent to participate in this research study.

Signature of INVESTIGATOR

Date