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YMCA OF GREATER TULSA COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING APPLICATION PACKET

YMCATULSA.ORG/CAMPS

Letter from Camp Directors

Hello!

Calling all **Counselors-in-Training**—believe it or not, we're already getting ready for Summer 2018! We're excited and looking forward to our CIT Program, which is designed to teach leadership, community and counseling skills to adolescents 13-15 years old through team-building, learning, and service at camp. The CIT Program is defined by the following criteria: service to camp; detailed leadership training, including contents of the staff handbook dealing with behavior management; developmental characteristics of children and other counselor-specific topics; participation in creating/supporting/leading camp activities; and shadowing/assisting the counselors. A successful participant will have shown themselves to be enthusiastic, dedicated, hard-working and devoted to the camp's mission.

The CIT program is a rigorous program designed to take campers to the next level. Campers who have demonstrated a strong desire to work with children and have a love of camp will receive the training and skills that they need to be successful future leaders at camp and elsewhere.

Participants in the CIT program are held to high expectations—we expect you to lead activities for younger campers as well as for your peers, and we expect you to meet the responsibilities that are given to you as a CIT. The CIT program is a lot of fun, but is very different from being a traditional camper. It's about discovering what you are capable of and finding your inner leader!

Please fill out this application and return it to the camp of your choice—Westside YMCA or Owasso Day Camp—with your registration form. A few tips for finishing the application process: Please write clearly and make sure everything is legible and that each section is complete; also, please make sure to fill it out yourself! We want to hear your thoughts, reasons, and interest in joining us a Counselor in Training this summer. We look forward to a great summer—Happy Trails!

Westside YMCA Day Camp

Tomas Aponte, Camp Director

918.446.1424

taponte@ymcatulsa.org

Owasso Day Camp

Caity King, Camp Director

918.272.9622

cking@ymcatulsa.org

Counselor in Training Expectations

Thank you for your interest in the Counselor in Training program! It is the goal of the CIT program to create individuals who can flourish as staff members at YMCA of Greater Tulsa.

Becoming a CIT is an experience very different in what we expect from our CITs vs. what we expect from our traditional day campers. All accepted CITs are expected to:

- undergo a CIT Orientation with the goal of providing CITs the tools they need to work with campers
- present themselves as role models to staff and campers and exemplify the core values of the YMCA
- be willing to participate fully in all the camp programs and activities and be a positive influence on the camp community
- work cooperatively with the camp staff to provide the best possible environment for you, your fellow CITs and campers
- take part in an immersive camp experience and participate in special projects throughout the summer

Before filling out the application, please note the following:

- submission of an application does not indicate acceptance into the CIT program
- this is an application form and should not be confused with a registration form
- the registration form is only required upon acceptance to the CIT program
- please submit this application before submitting payment
- participating in the CIT program this summer does not guarantee employment during subsequent summers
- all communications and forms should be the work of the CIT applicant

If you and your guardian agree and understand these terms, please sign below:

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

CIT Application Questions

Thank you for your interest in YMCA of Greater Tulsa Counselor-in-Training program. Please note that CIT applicants must be 13-15 years old by the beginning of camp. In order to keep our program consistent, we do not make any exceptions. Spots in the CIT program are limited. CITs will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. **An application to the CIT program does not guarantee acceptance into the program.** A phone/in-person interview with the Camp Director & Asst. Camp Director will also be required. It is our hope to provide the camp environment and the campers with the strongest possible CIT participants!

Camper Name:

Gender:

Camper Phone Number:

Current Grade:

Camper Mailing Address:

Shirt Size:

Camper Email Address:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Number:

Part I – Please complete the following on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Describe any previous camping experience you have. (either attending or leading)
2. Describe any leadership experience (school groups, organizations, sports, etc.)
3. List any honors or awards (academics, sports, performance) you have received.
4. What does leadership mean to you? Who is your leadership role model and why?
5. What do you hope to gain from participating in the CIT program?
6. What is your biggest accomplishment so far? Why is it the biggest?
7. What is your biggest goal in life? Why? How would you motivate younger kids to accomplish their goals?
8. What do the YMCA's Four Core Values of Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility mean to you?
9. Lastly, why do you want to be a Counselor in Training?

CIT Application Questions

Part II—Short Essay

Please submit a one-page answer to the following question when you submit your application.

What struggles do kids face today and how does camp help with that problem?

CIT Application Questions

Part III—References (3 needed)

Please ask **two** of the following individuals to submit a reference letter with this application: minister, teacher, former camp counselor, family friend, or employer.

The **third** reference letter should be completed by a family member or guardian.

Ask them to comment on your leadership ability, ability to work with children, maturity, cooperation, character, dependability, response to supervision, responsibility, etc.

Part IV—Registration Forms

Please submit a registration form with the dates selected that you would like to enroll for summer of 2018. Registrations **will not be accepted** until everything is complete. A complete application includes questionnaire, essay question, 3 reference letters, and a registration form/payment. Once all of these forms are complete, please mail, email, or hand deliver to the front office of your designated camp and schedule an interview date with the camp director. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, email westside@ymcatulsa.org or call 918.446.1424. Thank you!