

## **Camp Echo Summer 2018: CIT Program Information and Essay Questions**

### **What is the CIT Program?**

The Counselor-In-Training program has been updated to align as a sequence of Leadership opportunities for Echo high school aged participants. The Counselor-In-Training program is designed to follow the Leaders-In-Training (LIT) program as our youth begin the transition from campers to potential staff members. Participants live together in a cabin as they follow a dynamic curriculum designed to teach them about values, inclusion, relationships, communication, developing others, decision-making and emotional maturity through the lens of child development and behavior management. Participants are also paired with a cabin to shadow staff and learn skills to become effective cabin counselors. Participation in the LIT program is not required but is strongly recommended for CIT participants.

### **What are the recent updates to the CIT program?**

- ▽ Participants spend more time with the CIT program leaders at the beginning of the session (before being paired with a cabin to shadow) as well as daily in educational trainings.  
The group meets with the CIT program leaders to discuss challenges and successes, as well as continue developing new skills. Through this method of blended learning, our CITs learn comprehensive skills to use in real-time. When they feel ready, CITs are given opportunities to put these skills into practice.
- ▽ Participants live in a cabin with other CITs.  
This gives participants a chance to build community with their peers.
- ▽ CITs are expected to complete several essay questions as a pre-requisite to the program at camp.  
This is great practice for our participants as they prepare for the staff application experience. This additional step is also to ensure the participant understands the program expectations and responsibilities involved.

### **What are the requirements to be in the CIT Program?**

- ▽ Be 15 or 16 years old and entering the 11th grade in the fall of 2018.
- ▽ Have a desire to work with children in an outdoor resident camp setting.
- ▽ Have a strong desire to learn the fundamentals of camp counseling.
- ▽ Exhibit attitudes and behaviors that help build the self-esteem of self and others.
- ▽ Have the ability to take direction from peers and adults.

### **How do I "apply" to the CIT program?**

1. Parent/guardian complete online [camper application \(on CampInTouch\)](#) and submit deposit.
2. Within five weeks of their session at camp, the **CIT** will complete and submit the short essay questions in the Forms & Documents section of their parent/guardian's CampInTouch account.
  - ▽ Why do you want to participate in the CIT program?
  - ▽ What do you anticipate being the most challenging aspect of the CIT program?
  - ▽ What experience have you had in working with youth?
  - ▽ What is something that you've done that was challenging and that you are proud of? What did you learn from it?
  - ▽ Who is the best youth leader you've ever met and why? This could be a teacher, coach, camp counselor, etc.
  - ▽ What are your expectations for the CIT program?
3. Echo staff may follow up with a phone call prior to the session's start.

**Essay Questions:** must be completed in "CIT Essay Questions" form on [CampInTouch](#).

1. Why do you want to participate in the CIT program?
2. What do you anticipate being the most challenging aspect of the CIT program?
3. What experience have you had in working with youth?
4. What is something that you've done that was challenging and that you are proud of? What did you learn from it?
5. Who is the best youth leader you've ever met and why? This could be a teacher, coach, camp counselor, etc.
6. What are your expectations for the CIT program?