



## YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM GUIDE – SUMMER 2021

**Thank you for your interest in our CIT Program for Summer 2021! Before applying, please review all of the information in this program guide. The program overview will guide you in your decision whether or not to apply for our program, and it will make you aware of our expectations before ever arriving at camp.**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The counselor-in-training (CIT) program exists to rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders learn leadership skills and to prepare them to become counselors after graduation. CITs have a unique role at camp – they're no longer campers, but not yet staff. We want CITs to enjoy camp, the friendships, and the activities, but we're relying on them to be role models for our campers and helping hands for our staff.

CITs live in the cabin with 8-12 campers and two counselors. During the camp days, they'll help lead activities like arts & crafts, dance & games, land sports, archery, and more. They'll also work with homesick campers, help create excitement around camp, assist with basic cleaning and dishwashing, and more. The CIT program is dedicated to leadership development and teambuilding as well as child development and programming training.

### **PROGRAM READINESS**

CITs must be entering 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Before applying, ask yourself:

- Can I see myself being a part of the YMCA Camp Immokalee staff one day?
- Do I have a sincere desire to work with children and to share the YMCA Camp Immokalee experience with younger campers?
- If I've been a camper before, am I ready to make the transition from camper to camp leader?
- Do I enjoy learning in a hands-on environment?
- Am I ready to receive feedback that will help me be a better CIT/counselor? Am I willing to make changes as a result of that feedback?
- Do I fully understand the commitment of putting others before me, and am I ready to make that commitment?
- Am I someone that younger campers can look up to?
- Can I handle the responsibility that comes with being a camp leader?

## **PROGRAM BENEFITS**

- Gain a behind-the-scenes view of camp that can help with many areas of life.
- Establish job and character references.
- Earn 80 community service hours that help with school requirements, scholarships, college admissions, and more.
- Learn vital interpersonal and workplace skills that will enrich your life.
- Challenge yourself with personal growth and expanded self-esteem.
- Learn to work as a team.
- Learn to work with and properly communicate with a supervisor.
- Gain experience leading children in the camp environment.
- Make lifelong friendships, have fun, and create unforgettable memories.

## **PROGRAM COST**

Because CITs live and eat at camp and receive leadership training while with us, there is a fee association with the program. The CIT program lasts for two weeks and costs \$800. This also covers the mandatory CIT retreat (May 28-30).

## **PROGRAM CHALLENGES**

The CIT program is challenging for young people on many levels. First, it takes a large amount of energy to complete all of the daily tasks and responsibilities of a CIT and maintain a positive attitude. Second, it is a transition time. Participants are no longer campers and must be willing to be a constant role model, placing the campers' needs in front of their own.

**A mandatory CIT retreat will take place at camp Friday May 28 through Sunday May 30.**

**WHEN APPLYING, ONLY RETURN THE APPLICATION PORTION OF THIS PACKET. KEEP THE PROGRAM GUIDE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.**



# YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (CIT) APPLICATION – SUMMER 2021

Before applying, please make sure you have thoroughly read the CIT Program Guide.

**Additionally, communication regarding the application process and the program should be between the applicant and the camp director and assistant/program director.** The most successful applicants treat the application and hiring process just like any job application. Parents should feel free to help in certain ways, like guiding the applicant in selecting references and helping them learn to professionally apply and interview. At the same time, please remember we seek candidates who are independent, mature and self-motivated. It is our hope that parents help cultivate these traits by allowing their teens to take full responsibility for their CIT application. Our goals are that all applicants to the Counselor-In-Training program gain valuable experience in the job application and interview process and that all our CITs gain skills that are applicable not only to being a camp counselor but to other aspects of their lives.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ 20-21 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: AS AM AL XL XXL XXXL

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## SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

What school do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any extra-curricular school, team, or club activities you attend, lead, or volunteer with.

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**CAMP EXPERIENCE**

*If you do not have any camp experience, please leave this section blank.*

This will be my \_\_\_\_\_ year at YMCA Camp Immokalee.

I have/have not been a CIT before.

Other Camp Experience (Please list camp name and years attended.)

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**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Please list your most recent work experience. If you have not attended, please leave this section blank.

Job: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties:

Job: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties:

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**AWARDS AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Please list any awards or volunteer service activities.

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## **QUESTIONS**

**Why do you want to serve as a CIT this summer?**

**Tell us about a time you solved a problem on your own.**

**Tell us about a time you helped others find a compromise.**

**List three qualities you think a good CIT should have.**

**CITs often sacrifice things like rest period, camp store time, etc. to help us make camp run more smoothly. Tell us about a time you made a personal sacrifice to help someone else.**

**A large part of the CIT program is getting feedback and making changes accordingly. Tell us about a time you received feedback, how it felt, and what happened after.**

**What is the coolest thing you've ever done for someone else?**

**What else are you planning to do this summer?**

**RISING SENIORS ONLY: Do you plan to apply for YMCA Camp Immokalee staff for next summer? Keep in mind – this means committing to 10 weeks at camp. YES NO**

**If you have anything else you'd like us to know, please share below.**

**AVAILABILITY**

**Please rank your preference for CIT sessions. If you'd like to attend more than one session, please give more than one session a "1."**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>FEE</b>	<b>PREFERENCE</b>
Mini Session Combo	June 6-12	\$400	
CIT Session A**	June 13-26	\$800	
CIT Session B**	June 27 – July 10	\$800	
CIT Session C**	July 11-24	\$800	
CIT Session D**	July 25 – August 7	\$800	

**\*CITs who only attend a Mini Session will not be considered returning CITs for future applications.\***

**\*\*CITs are expected to stay at camp the duration of their two-week session. CITs cannot go home at the end of camper sessions.\*\***

## SELECTION PROCESS

Beginning April 1, CITs will be accepted on a rolling basis. Each session has a maximum number of CITs of each gender, and acceptance is competitive.

If you'd like to change the sessions you apply for after submitting your application, please email Allison Krabill at [aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@fcymca.org).

## STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

I understand that the CIT program is competitive and that some applicants will not be chosen to participate in the program. Applicants who do not participate in the CIT program are encouraged to reapply for other summer or off-season programs.

If selected to participate in the CIT program, I am aware that this is a service and leadership program and that the discounted rate reflects the work that I will be expected to complete. I understand that the participants in the CIT program must adhere to all YMCA Camp Immokalee rules and policies and cooperate with the Camp Director and Program Director in all matters. I am aware that failure to live up to the high standards of the CIT program may result in my dismissal from camp and that I will be seen as a role model to younger campers. I promise to do my best in reflecting the four core values of the YMCA: Caring, Honesty, Respect, And Responsibility.

I am aware that as a leader others are counting on my presence. I will at all times remember that being a CIT is a big responsibility and that I am attending camp not as a camper but as a role model for younger children. I will exhibit good character and responsibility at all times and fully participate in all camp activities. I recognize that my attitudes, words, and actions are critical to the success of camp. I will not assume adult responsibilities. This means that I cannot:

- Be alone with a camper (or two campers)
- Be counted as a staff in ratios
- Be on my own without staff supervision (first-year CITs only)

If I have any questions about the CIT program or its expectations, I will contact Allison Krabill. I understand that all professional communication should be by email ([aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@fcymca.org)) or office phone (352.473.4213) unless in case of emergency.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this application to Allison Krabill at [aeast@fcymca.org](mailto:aeast@fcymca.org).**

**Applicants who have never been a CIT during summer will need two letters of recommendation. Please send these with your application.**