

Counselor in Training Program

Application Packet



JC PARKS

Program Description:

The Counselor in Training (CIT) program is an opportunity for area youth entering the eighth grade (7th graders may apply but may not be accepted the first year) through eleventh grade learn leadership skills and have hands on experience working with a day camp program. You will be able to cultivate your skills and knowledge in a day camp setting. The CIT volunteer's role will be to work directly with the children in the day camp program and help the paid staff (mostly college students and adults) by assisting with supervising the campers, setting up and implementing activities and games, helping with crafts, sports, supervising swim and ice-skating time, and much more.

The CIT program will be a fun experience but for different reasons than being a camper. It is about discovering what you are capable of and finding your inner leader. You will learn leadership skills, working with others, responsibility, communication and other skills which will begin preparing you for the possibility becoming paid staff at our camp program as well as the rest of your working career. Our CITs will be held to high expectations. You will be a role model to the children in the program as you fill a position of leadership in the camp. As with any job, you are not guaranteed a position, and if your performance does not meet expectations, you may be dismissed from the program.

Participation Requirements:

Participation in the Counselor in Training program is open to any youth in Jefferson City and the surrounding area. Youth must meet the age requirements and must register and be accepted into the program to participate. Participants receive no financial compensation to volunteer in the program. Transportation is not provided and participants are required to make their own transportation arrangements. Tobacco, alcohol and any non-prescribed medication or drugs are prohibited for participants to use while on duty. All rules for employees stated in the City of Jefferson's Personnel Policy Manual and the JC Parks' Part Time Employee and Camp Staff Manuals are enforced.

Age Requirements:

CIT volunteers entering seventh grade and up will help staff oversee campers at Binder Adventure Camp Level 1 and 2, Camp Wokka Wokka, Camp Green Berry, Camp Frost, Aqua Adventure Camp, Camp Unite, Camp Oakley, and Camp Out N About.

Scheduling Requirements:

CITs sign up for one-week sessions. You are expected to volunteer a minimum of two one-week sessions and can volunteer as many as six one-week sessions. You may request placement at certain camps provided you meet the age requirements and there are sufficient openings for you. We cannot guarantee that you will get the camp placement that you wish.

Registration Requirements:

To be considered for the CIT Program, you must submit a complete program registration and pay the \$240 registration fee at the Parks and Recreation office, 1299 Lafayette St, in Jefferson City. You will also need to complete and submit the Counselor in Training Application Form (on-line) and required written references (1st year applicants).

Along with the application and reference letters, we will be conducting interviews with each prospective CIT

throughout the month of April. This application and interview process will give you invaluable training and experience for future employment. If you are not chosen to participate, a full refund of the registration fee will be made.

The application period begins on February 1 and closes on March 15. Everyone who applies will be interviewed by mid-April and will either be offered a position or not no later than the end of April.

Training Requirements:

All CIT Participants are expected to complete all training prior to the start of camp to be assigned a position. Failure to complete training will result in dismissal without refund. All trainings will be recorded and loaded to the CIT website for those that miss due to school/vacation.

The staff training will take place May 21 – 24, 2024. Attendance at these group trainings are CRITICAL – virtual options are offered as back-ups if you absolutely cannot attend the in-person training.

Work Requirements:

Camps will meet on the dates listed below and you will choose at least two to work. Camp hours vary depending upon the camp and if you will supervise the bus or the swimming activity. Camp hours begin no earlier than 7:15 am and go no later than 5:30 pm. Please check camp program information for exact hours of each individual camp.

Safety is our primary concern. We expect participants to be extremely safety conscious both for physical and emotional well-being of campers and co-workers. Participants must display a positive attitude and the ability to work independently as well as a team member. Self-motivation, self-control and self-learning are a must. Problem solving skills and dealing with a diverse population of children is critical. You will be required to assist in planning and executing activities. Your attendance and punctuality is of utmost importance as your way of fulfilling your obligation to the commitment you make to be in the program. You are required to work all the days and hours you agree to. Absenteeism is only permitted under the most extreme circumstances. Working outside in a camp program can be hot and physically taxing, and you will need to be able to work in all kinds of weather. You are expected to participate in all aspects of camp as well as supervising on the bus and the swim programs.

While we have the highest expectation for participants in the CIT Program, you will be taught the skills necessary to perform up to the expectations. You will be mentored and assisted throughout the program to help you be the best you can be! Our goal is to foster a successful experience in our Counselor in Training participants.

We welcome you to our Counselor in Training Program and look forward to working with you during the summer. If you have any problems or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Parks & Recreation office. I can be reached by email at atoebben@jeffersoncitymo.gov or by phone at (573) 634-6491.



Angie Toebben
Program Manager