



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please check off EACH item prior to submitting your application.

STEP ONE

Read the SHT Backpacking Trip Info Document.

Both pages of the application are complete (Parent and Participant Sections). Please print as clearly as possible or submit a typed version of the questions and answers.

TWO (2) Letters of Recommendation submitted. Letters of Recommendation should be signed and need to be enclosed with this application to complete the process. Letters can come from anyone that can best speak to your character and ability to successfully complete the program, and should have known you for at least one year. *Teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, coach, mentor, neighbor, etc work great. One relative or close personal reference may be used.*

STEP TWO

1. Place both the application and two letters of reference in a single envelope/ package or email to margret@campolson.org
2. Can be mailed to:

Camp Olson YMCA
Margret Raasch
4160 Little Boy Rd NE
Longville, MN 56655



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CAMP OLSON YMCA COUNSELOR IN TRAINING

Greetings from Camp!

Before you begin completing your application be sure to read this letter.

Thank you for your interest in the Camp Olson YMCA's Counselor-In-Training Program. Due to the extreme popularity of this program, we register participants via a lottery system. This helps us to ensure all spots are filled as well as identify if we have a need to open an additional session. Due to the length and nature of the program, we are also requiring a brief application and two letters of recommendation to help us in screening if this program is right for your camper. Please see the accompanying SHT Backpacking Trip Document for more info and participant requirements.

- The CIT Program is a four-week long experience where your camper will (1) have fun at program areas while also spending time learning leadership and preparing for a week-long venture on trail; (2) spend 8-days backpacking as a functioning team; (3) spend time in each program area and participating in counseling 101 sessions; and (4) spend their last week in assigned cabins working with campers and learning from experienced counselors.

CITS who are 17+ years old may be eligible for employment later on in the summer season and are welcome to apply to be on staff after successful completion of their CIT program.

Camp Olson YMCA works hard to ensure that each trip leader has experience in wilderness travel, youth development and risk management. For the success of the group, it is imperative that each participant has a positive attitude, makes conservative risk management decisions, works well with others, and has a willingness to challenge themselves.

Because the program is so competitive and spaces are limited, there is a deadline for applications of **October 2nd, 2023** to be included in the lottery. Any applications received after the deadline will still be reviewed, however availability and/or likelihood of acceptance may be significantly reduced. Please keep in mind that participating in the lottery does NOT guarantee you a space in the program. CIT Participation also does NOT guarantee that you will be hired in the future.

Applicants will be screened and once accepted, will be entered into the lottery. All accepted names will then be selected at random. Limiting your availability greatly reduces the chances your child will be selected. Once your child's name has been drawn you will be contacted via email stating if you have been selected for a session and which session you have a spot saved in. At this time your spot will be saved but you will still need to register. You will be notified of lottery results by October 6th. Registration will open on October 17th. If you do not register your camper by October 22nd, 2023, your space will be released.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Camp Olson YMCA Counselor-in-Training. Please call or email if you have any questions!



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CIT PARENT APPLICATION

CIT Name:			
CIT Email:			DOB:
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Parent Phone:		Parent Email:	
Please rank your session preference (1- Most Desirable to 3- Least Desirable. Mark an X if you are unable to attend a session):			
	CIT1234, June 9-July 6		CIT4567, June 30-July 27
	CIT5678, July 7-August 3		
Friend Request if Applicable (select only one):			
If selected for the program, would you like your camper to participate in an American Red Cross CPR/AED and First Aid course for an additional \$75? Upon successful completion, your camper would gain a certification and valuable lifesaving knowledge.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Already Certified

Please answer the questions below to the best of our ability. You may enclose additional pages as needed.

Why would you like your child to participate in this program? Whose idea was it to apply?

What is the biggest obstacles you think your child might face? What will be the most difficult part of the program for your child? _____

Is there anything we should know about the mental or physical health of your child? Please explain. _____



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CIT CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Are you ready to be a CIT? Ask yourself...

- Do I have a sincere desire to work with children?
- Would I like the opportunity to develop and improve my leadership ability?
- Do I enjoy a hands-on, outdoor work environment?
- Am I ready to become a role model for children?
- Am I ready to sing camp songs and show camp spirit?
- Do I have the ability to work well with others in a variety of situations?
- Can I hike 6-12 miles per day with a heavy pack (30-60 pounds)?
- Do I have age-appropriate social skills and ability to make safe decisions?
- Does my mind feel healthy and prepared to be challenged?

Why do you want to be a CIT and what skills would you like to gain? _____

What qualities, strengths, or talents do you have that would make you an asset to the CIT program?

Please explain any previous camping, hiking, or adventure experience you have: _____

What do you expect to find most challenging as a CIT and how will you handle that challenge? _____

How do you think being a CIT is different from being a camper? _____

Share about a time when you needed to overcome a challenge when working with a group or on a team.

Are there any reasons you may have difficulty performing of the tasks, activities as a CIT? Any worries you have? If yes, please explain. _____

I have read and answered the questions above truthfully and feel that my participation as a CIT will enhance the program for campers, staff and fellow CITs.

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents Signature: _____ Date: _____