

Dear Counselor In Training Applicants,

Thank you for your interest in the Counselor in Training (CIT) Program. It is a great step for 8th, 9th, and 10th graders to learn what it takes to be a Camp Counselor.

The goal of the CIT Program is to find participants who have a true desire to work with children. It is our goal to teach you through hands-on experience the aspects of working with children at camp. This will include planning and implementing activities, organization of campers, discipline, and at times parent interaction. The program offers teenagers the opportunity to make a difference in our community while developing leadership skills and learning to become impactful counselors and role models to younger campers. To gain experience in all camps, and to learn how to work with different age groups, each C.I.T.

Our new CIT Program will begin in the summer of 2024. All CITs regardless of previous participation will be considered first-year CITs as this program is new! To participate in the program, you are required to commit to a two-week session for training which needs to be completed in the first four weeks of camp. Depending on your preference, you may choose 2 of weeks One, Two, Three, or Four. During the first four weeks of camp, first-year CITs will learn how to develop lesson plans for activities and what makes a CIT.

The CIT Coordinator and the Counselors with these assigned CITs will fill out evaluations throughout the week. 9:00 am-11:30 am will be spent with the CIT Coordinator reviewing what is required to be a CIT. You can expect to learn how to develop an activity for the children and incorporate it into the day's schedule, child care supervision, teamwork, and working in a fun, fast-paced, professional environment. After four weeks, the first-year CITs will put their new skills to work in their assigned camp groups. Counselors will be evaluating the CITs weekly and working closely with the CIT Coordinator. The CIT Coordinator will then use those evaluations to solicit future employment for the CIT.

Second Year CITs program will begin in 2025. C.I.T.s who have already completed one summer of our C.I.T. program will participate in our 2nd year program. This program features a training refresher with evaluations at the end of each session. In addition to assisting with everyday camp responsibilities and groups, second-year C.I.T.s enjoy hands-on experience working with camp leadership staff to plan and implement activities. This additional experience will enable the more seasoned C.I.T.s to practice their skills as future camp counselors.

New and Returning CITs must fill out the CIT Application and return it to John Novak and Ashley Maignan. Once applications are received, applicants will be contacted by the CIT Coordinator Ashley Maignan to set up a short interview beginning in May. You will then receive a Welcome Letter and payment information.

Attached is the application for the CIT program. Take your time filling it out. If at anytime in the application process you have any questions, please contact me at (203) 655-8228 ext. 1331 or by e-mail at jnovak@darien-ymca.org.

Sincerely yours,

John Novak

John Novak
Youth Development Director School Age Child Care,
Special Needs and Camp

DARIEN YMCA COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT) 2024 APPLICATION

Applicants must have completed 8th, 9th or 10th Grade in order to be eligible.

Applicants Name	Age	Current Grade
Address	City	Zip
Cell Phone	Home Phone	
Camper Email	Parent/Guardian Email	
School		
With the New Program, CITS will only work with School Age Camp		
School Age Camp (K – 5th Grade) Monday – Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm <i>A traditional camp with arts & crafts, games, sports, swim lessons, trips and more.</i>		

Sessions applying for (check all that apply):

- ☐ Week 1 - June 17 – June 21
- ☐ Week 2 - June 24 – June 28
- ☐ Week 3 - July 1 – July 5 (closed 4th of July)
- ☐ Week 4- July 8 – July 12
- ☐ Week 5- July 15 – July 19
- ☐ Week 6- July 22 – July 26
- ☐ Week 7- July 29 – August 2
- ☐ Week 8- August 5 – August 9

Fees:

Members: \$190 per weeks 1, 2, 4 – 8
 \$145 week 3

Non-Members: \$229 per weeks 1, 2, 4 – 8
 \$176 week 3

Members: \$1,408 all 8 weeks

Non-Members: \$1,689 all 8 weeks

1. Briefly tell us why you'd like to be a C.I.T. and what do you feel you will add to this program?
2. What do you hope to get out of the C.I.T. program
3. All C.I.T.'s are required to plan and implement a small activity throughout the week. This activity can be an art project, gym game, group game or song. Describe two activities that you would feel comfortable planning and implementing.
4. Tells us about any experience you have working/volunteering with ages 3 - 10
5. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

Please complete, then print sign and return the application.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return applications to:
Darien YMCA
2420 Post Road
Darien, CT. 06820
Attn: John Noval
or email to jnovak@darien-ymca.org