



Nichols Day Camp

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Dear Prospective Counselor in Training (CIT) Applicants and Family,

Hi! You have received this letter because you are interested in Nichols Day Camp's CIT program.

The CIT Program is for boys and girls who are 15 years or older. It is a 4 week long program and is held twice each summer. Applicants apply and submit references. Six CITs are selected from the applicant pool each session and spend their session moving from a camper toward a Junior Counselor and then Counselor in future years. CITs may attend both sessions if they choose. Applicants who wish to be considered for the CIT program are expected to make a firm four week commitment. Those who are selected are eligible to travel to and from NDC on the camp buses. Application and reference forms are available on our website or you may request them from the office.

This year's program will be divided into two sessions: The first from June 26, 2017 to July 21, 2017 and the second from July 24, 2017 to August 18, 2017. The cost of this four-week training program is \$450.00 and financial aid is available to those who qualify.

This is a wonderful opportunity to take on new responsibilities. You will learn new teaching skills, practice emerging leadership skills in a safe and nurturing environment and have fun doing some daily activities developed just for your group that is separate from your training activities.

Each day, with your Head Counselor you will:

- *Spend time working towards certifications such as Community First Aid and CPR as well as Lifeguard Training or Basic Water Safety.

- *Take part in CIT workshops on child development, camp safety and the best practices in counseling, teaching and being role models to young campers.

- *Spend time in Nichols and/or Scamp Program activity periods observing (and later helping) counselors.

- *Meet with your fellow CIT members and Counselors to discuss your experiences: what you have learned, what good counseling looks like and how to emulate it when you return to practice your skills the next day.

- *Spend time every day with other CITs doing a fun, traditional camp activity or two just for you.

Being a CIT at Nichols Day Camp is a challenging and rewarding experience. Your days will be spent in a wide variety of activities. It is important to understand that being a CIT member is a responsibility. Be sure that you are willing and prepared to meet the challenges presented in this program before you apply.

Please remember a CIT member will:

- *Participate with enthusiasm! An important part of leadership when mentoring children is enthusiastic participation.

- *Come to camp prepared to learn new skills and practice them in a safe, encouraging environment.

- *Bring a positive attitude and a sense of fun as a role model.

- *Be held to higher behavioral standards than campers.

- *Show maturity in both actions and words.

- *Have opportunities every day for fun activities just for those in the CIT program.

If you and your Parents/Guardians think you are ready to take on the challenge, fill out the attached application and send it to Nichols Day Camp. Parents/Guardians will need to submit a regular camp registration form for their child once they are accepted into the program.

Applicants will also need one letter of recommendation from an unrelated adult who knows them well such as a teacher, coach, pastor or family friend. This Reference Form (on the website) should be sent directly to the camp office.

Upon acceptance into the CIT program, you will receive a welcome letter with more specific information about your schedule. If you do well in the program there will be an opportunity for you to apply for a staff position at Nichols Day Camp in future years.

Thank you again for your interest in the CIT program at Nichols Day Camp. We are preparing a great summer learning experience and we hope you will apply to join us.

All the Best,

Nichols Day Camp