



Dear potential CIT Parent,

Thank you for your family's interest in the 2018 CIT program! This is a three week immersive program that allows campers to become more independent, build stronger relationships with their peers, and gain skills that will help them become stronger leaders at camp and in the larger community. I understand that you probably have questions about the program and have detailed some of the frequently asked questions below. I encourage you to share this information with your child.

This application process is an important one for our CITs to go through, and I'd ask that you allow your child to go through it as independently as possible. This process is designed to prepare them for a successful summer, provide them with an easier transition into their potential role as a staff member, and prepare them for the future college application process. Please encourage them to make the phone calls to the camp office with any questions they have, instead of you.

Important Dates:

October 1st, 2017: Applications available online

November 15th, 2017: All Application materials due

Nov 15 – Dec 30: Interviews scheduled in person or through Skyp/Facetime/phone

January 8th, 2017: CIT Program determinations sent to families

April 1st, 2018: Volunteer hours due

Session Dates:

Session 1: June 24 – July 14

Session 2: July 8 – July 28

Session 3: July 22 – August 11

While at Camp: CITs are required to attend all three sessions and the first weekend holdover of their program. They may be picked up between the final two sessions, but must adhere to a few time constraints. Because the goal in their CIT program is to ease the transition from camper to counselor, we require them to arrive at camp at the same time as a counselor. This means you may pick up your camper on Saturday at 11:30AM and that they must be back at camp ready for the next week no later than 12:00PM on Sunday.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What does the application process entail for me as a parent?

As a parent, I suggest that you allow your child to go through this process with very little assistance. A big piece of the CIT experience is gaining independence, especially through the application and interview process. They'll need to find three personal references who can speak strongly about their character, write a personal statement, and schedule an in-person interview. Please encourage them to do these things on their own; their independence will make the potential future internship or employment application process much easier for your child. If they have questions, please encourage them to make the phone call to the camp office (Patrick Foster: 585-263-4241).

On January 8th, you'll receive a determination that will share the program dates your child has been accepted for. Determinations are made based on application completeness, availability, potential group dynamics, and program space. Once you've received a determination, you should enroll your child in the CIT program through the Parent Dashboard. This change was made to avoid the 'first-come, first-served' model we've operated under in the past.

Where does my child stay?



CITs will spend one week in gender-specific cabins with their entire CIT cohort. Their other two weeks will be spent working directly with campers in cabin settings. They will work in Day Camp and Camp activities as well, learning to become strong candidates for counselor positions.

What does the Lifeguarding Course entail?

This is a Red Cross Waterfront Lifeguarding course with the following prerequisites: a 550 yard swim (front crawl and breaststroke), a timed swim out to retrieve a sunken brick, and treading water for 2 minutes without the use of hands. These prerequisites are usually tested on the first day of a class, but we allow CITs to work up to them over their 3 weeks of training. CITs may opt out of this program if they feel that swimming is not one of their strengths. They will participate in the CPR and First Aid courses during their first week though.

Those participating in Lifeguarding spend three hours a day going over material from the book, practicing in-water skills, and learning CPR/First Aid techniques. This course will require quite a bit of physical exertion as well as mental energy. In preparation, we suggest that CITs gain endurance by swimming laps at a pool and/or participate in weight lifting exercises. Certification in these courses is not guaranteed.

What if my child opts out of Lifeguarding? Will this hurt their chances of future employment?

No! We look for a robust staff with diverse strengths! If your child opts out of Lifeguarding, there is no penalty; in fact, they will develop teaching and facilitating skills that will rival those of current staff. They'll spend 3 hours each day working on developing Free Hour activities for Overnight Camp, Party Hours for Day Camp, and honing their facilitation skills as instructors in a variety of camp activities.

What is the role of a CIT when they move into cabin life?

CITs will act as a counselor in the cabin they are placed in, meaning that campers should see them as their counselor. They will not ever be left alone to act as the sole counselor in a cabin; they'll always be paired with an experienced counselor from whom they'll gain invaluable knowledge. This is the most important piece of a CIT's training, where they'll be presented with the skills to be a great cabin counselor and mentor to younger campers. Each week they'll be evaluated in some fashion and these evaluations will be given to the Leadership Director and may be used to consider their potential application to become an intern.

How does my child get an internship?

Camp Cory offers its CITs an opportunity to apply for an un-paid internship that begins after their CIT program has ended. Under the supervision of senior staff members, CITs will fill out a complete staff application and an interview will be conducted by the Leadership Director. The evaluations filled out during their time in cabins as a CIT will be considered, as well as their effort and performance in their CPR/First Aid and Lifeguarding classes or program areas. CPR and First Aid certifications are required to work at camp (and be an intern), although Lifeguarding is not. This is a very competitive position, but we encourage all CITs to go through the process, even if they don't intend to stay for the internship period.

What does my child do as an intern?

As an intern, those selected will act as counselors in a cabin or in our Day Camp program. Interns will always have a co-counselor from whom they'll continue to learn as they become more comfortable in a counselor role. Interns may work for one week following the end of their CIT program and into our post season weekends. Those working post-season weekend may have the option to be paid.

Can I contact my child while they are in the CIT program?

CITs are working toward becoming counselors and leaders, so immersion in the program is essential. It is for this reason that we do not allow CITs or campers to bring their cell phones. We encourage everyone to write letters home, but due to the busy nature of a CIT's day this is often difficult. You will receive calls if a CIT needs to check internship availability or to alert you to the status of their internship application. If there is an emergency or an immediate need to get in touch with your child, the Camp Director's office phone and cell phone numbers are readily available. Please don't hesitate to contact us during the summer.



Special Note on Cell Phones:

Technology (specifically cell phones) has become more and more present in teens' daily lives. At camp, we believe that the daily use of cell phones can hinder camper interactions and their ability to form new, impactful relationships. For this reason, we do not allow campers to have their cell phones. They're encouraged to give it to their parents before they leave, or to their counselor who will put it in the camp safe. CITs are still campers in this regard. We want them to form meaningful relationships with their peers and the campers they'll work with, and cell phones provide an unnecessary distraction. Similarly, Counselors and other staff members are required to keep their phones away and out of sight during camp days. This generally means that staff members only use their phones at nighttime away from any campers.

As a CIT, it is important to assimilate into this culture, especially if the hope is to become a staff member. We would appreciate your support of our 'no cell phones' policy and having this conversation with your CIT early on can help their transition into their new role. You'll still be able to contact your child in the event of an emergency and the Camp Director is always available to answer questions or address concerns during the camp sessions. We ask that you support our efforts to 'unplug and connect' as part of the Camp Cory culture, especially during the CIT program.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this information, I'm happy to help! If your CIT has any questions though about the application or interview process, please encourage them to reach out- either via phone or email. I'm excited to see your camper grow through our Leadership program this year!

Patrick Foster

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Director of Operations

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