

Campers In Leadership Training

(Completed Sophomore or Junior Year of High School)

Who is eligible for the CILT program?

The camper should have completed his or her sophomore year of high school. CILT participants should be people who desire to learn and to serve others...not individuals who signed up for the program simply because it was the only way to return for a camp experience. **If you are not interested in possibly serving as a counselor someday, then this is not the program for you.**



What is the purpose of the CILT program?

1. We help young people figure out what good leaders do and say.
2. We help young people figure out what good counselors do and say.
3. We give them lots of opportunities to practice doing and saying these things.
4. We make it fun!

The program serves as a “stepping stone” in the transition from camper to counselor. It is unlike a “typical” camp experience. For instance, it involves putting forth the effort to stay focused during discussions and lectures. It also requires that you commit to give of yourself, specifically by planning and leading activities with the younger campers. While having fun is an

important reason for coming to camp, we especially expect the CILT participants to be role models in their words and deeds.

How long does the program last?

Each CILT session goes for two weeks. We have a total of three sessions for the Summer of 2003.

What happens during each week?

The CILT's will be housed as a cabin groups, with the guys in one cabin and the girls in another, along with their counselors. This housing arrangement will help strengthen the bonds of friendship and togetherness that develop among the CILT's. The CILT's will also have a meeting room that is designed primarily for their use.

The first week is when the CILT's are equipped with the “tools” they need in order to be successful someday as leaders in their schools and communities as well as counselors. This is accomplished through presentations and lectures on leadership techniques, the YMCA mission, qualities of an ideal counselor, child abuse prevention, leading games and songs—just to name a few! The CILT's are encouraged to take notes during these sessions.

The stayover weekend is an important part of the CILT experience as well. In addition to taking the time for reflection and evaluation, the CILT's prepare the chapel presentation for Sunday morning.

The second week of training gives the CILT's the opportunity to put into practice what they've been learning. For example, each CILT works with a cabin group of Bucks (8- to 9- year-olds) or Braves (10-to 12- year-olds) or Warriors (12 – 13 year olds) during his or her stay. During the second week, the CILT's will lead a cabin activity and devotion with a cabin group. Also, the CILT's will observe clinics in resident camp, then they will prepare a “mini-clinic” to teach the rest of the CILT's. The CILT's will also



Many of these staff are former CILT's!

observe a group of Day Camp counselors and their campers in action. The CILT's will also have the opportunity to serve in the community near camp through a service project. It may be helping with improvements to someone's home (painting, yard work, etc.) who can't do it themselves, or some other community project.

Are the CILT's evaluated?

Yes. Throughout the training, each CILT will be evaluated on his or her performance, attitude, and maturity. The evaluations are done by the CILT counselors and will incorporate feedback from cabin counselors who have had direct observation opportunities, and through one-on-one discussions with each CILT.

One of the tools to do this is called a "Leadership Skills Map". The skills include things such as Teamwork, Responsibility, Respect, Motivation, Listening, Planning, Creativity, Presenting, Problem-Solving, Group Leadership, Enthusiasm, just to name a few! This information will be included in a journal that each CILT will have as a resource/tool during the CILT session.

Many eyes are upon you during your two-week experience...from the younger campers who admire you, to the counselors who realize you may be walking in their shoes someday as fellow staff.

Is there time for "fun stuff" at camp?

Even though being a CILT involves working hard and staying focused, we realize that it is important to make time for having fun, too! Opening and Closing Campfires, World Service events, unit activities with the cabin group, a float trip, and cookout/overnight—these are just some of the fun things the CILT's will get to do!



What about future opportunities at Camp?

Our first goal is to develop leadership skills that can be used in a variety of settings (i.e. school clubs, organizations, youth groups, work place, etc.). All of these skills can be learned!

Our secondary goal is to also help each individual to understand what good counseling skills look like. Participation in the CILT program **does not guarantee one a counselor position in the future**, but it is an advantage if one does well. Following the summer as a CILT or after the junior year of high school, the individual may apply for a position as a Day Camp Counselor at Day Camp, which is a paid staff position. One may call or write

for an application in January. Based on the CILT evaluation, references, and an interview, applicants are chosen for a position on the Day Camp staff. We usually receive more applications for Day Camp staff than there are positions to be filled, so an outstanding CILT evaluation is most helpful.

To register, or if you have any further questions, contact Camp Tecumseh YMCA at 765-564-2898 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM) or print a registration form from www.camptecumseh.org.

Camp Tecumseh YMCA
12635 W. Tecumseh Bend Rd.
Brookston, IN 47923
info@camptecumseh.org

Camp Tecumseh YMCA, where God is First, Others are Second, and I Am Third.