

YMCA Camp Orkila

Counselor In Training Program (CIT)

Entering Grades 11-12 in fall 2017,
Co-ed

The Counselor in Training (CIT) program is an intensive, one-month program designed to develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills in a vibrant camp setting. Together in a small group, CITs will embark on a life-changing experience comprised of the following four weeks:



Satellite Island Week: CITs will pack their bags for a week of outdoor living on this camp-owned island. Participants will spend the week building relationships with their peers, and engaging in workshop-oriented trainings to prepare them for the responsibilities of being a camp counselor. Trainings will range from developing leadership skills to working well with youth.

In-Unit Week: Participants will apply their newly-acquired skills by spending one week as an assistant counselor assigned to a unit of campers. Like a counselor, CITs will work alongside staff to create a positive camp experience for a cabin of campers. The responsibilities of the CITs will be comparable to that of staff, giving them a rich perspective on the ins and outs of camp. From facilitating games and mentoring youth, to being part of a team of staff members, CITs truly get a “behind-the-scenes” look at what being a counselor is truly like!

Project Week: Like Satellite Island, CITs will spend a week together continuing to learn and grow as leaders. They will have more opportunities to work with campers of diverse age groups, lead parts of camp such as line-up and campfires, and participate in workshops focused on leadership development.

Family Fun Week: In the final part of the program, CITs will end their month reflecting on what they have learned and experienced, with loads of camp fun! In many ways, this week is the final time for CITs to feel like campers and experience the magic of camp. CITs will go on a camping trip, participate in camp recreational activities, and enjoy their final days together after a life-changing month. Families also have the opportunity to visit for Family Day.

INTERVIEW PROCESS

All applicants who live in the Greater Seattle Area should expect to spend ONE half day participating in a combination of individual interviews and group activities. For applicants who live outside of the Seattle area, a phone interview will be scheduled. It is preferred that the applicant is present for the interview process, all of which will take place at the Downtown Seattle YMCA (909 4th Ave).

The Counselor in Training (CIT) selection process will be comprised of both a group component and an individual interview. Upon arriving, the group will be given a task or a project that they will need to work together in order to accomplish. This project will give us a chance to see how you work in a group. After the group process, candidates will adjourn to a comfortable waiting room prior to their individual interview. The interview will be conducted in a traditional question and answer format.

For many of you this may be your first interview; here are some tips on how to be successful during the process.

Be yourself. Laugh, breathe, and consider your thoughts. We understand that you are a person, and not a tape recording of "the perfect answer." You will be able to answer more naturally and feel more comfortable if you can relax and be yourself.

Be prepared. Practice with the sample questions provided below. We will ask you questions of a similar nature, so try answering these with your parents or teachers and ask them for feedback on your responses. We cannot stress enough how much this will help, both for content and delivery.

- What experience have you had in the past that makes you confident in your ability to be a strong mentor for children?
- Tell me about a situation from your past that has shaped your values.
- In what ways do you want to grow and/or challenge yourself this summer? Why?
- What do you feel has been one of your greatest accomplishments? Why?

During the interview we may ask situational and follow-up questions based on your answers. Please practice with these, but don't be surprised if and when we ask additional questions.

Applications open for 2017 on August 1st, 2016 and close at 11:59pm (PST) on November 1st.
You can apply online at www.camporkila.org.

By November 4th, 2016 you will hear if you were selected for an interview.