

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



MRESC Aquatics & Fitness Center
Cheesequake Road, Parlin NJ 08859
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What ages are the campers in the Counselor in Training (CIT) Program?

This program is specifically designed for campers entering grades nine thru eleven (high school).

What is the counselor to camper ratio for this program?

We assign one full time senior counselor and one floating senior counselor to this group depending on the activities for the day and the number of C.I.T.s enrolled for each week.

What are the hours for the CIT program?

Standard camp hours are 9am to 4.30pm. CITs are able to come for Before Care and/or stay for After Care depending on their personal transportation schedule. If that is the case, they will work with the counselors to create games and oversee campers. This program is treated as a volunteer program so we ask that they show up on time and prepared for the day.

What activities will my child be doing in the CIT program?

CITs will go through training over the course of the summer, learning skills and tools to become a camp counselor, not only at Camp GATORS but the intention is that they are prepared to be a counselor at any summer camp. They will be placed in camp groups to shadow counselors and interact with campers in a leadership role, as well as receive similar (but not the exact same) training as our paid staff does prior to the start of camp. Additionally, we do integrate team building, independent, and cooperative projects within the CIT program as well as in conjunction with the LIT (Leaders in Training) program.

Can CITs use the pool?

Yes, they may use the pool during their break and/or free time if they choose. However, if they are scheduled to shadow a camper group who is utilizing the pool during that period, they may be asked to participate in the pool activities with the campers as to learn that part of summer camp. As such, CITs should be prepared to go in the pool each day.

Who provides lunch for my child?

Parents are responsible for providing CITs with a lunch and snack that are peanut and seafood free to avoid conflicts with allergies. Lunch for CITs is scheduled for 11.30am. CITs who accidentally bring lunches and/or snacks containing peanuts and/or seafood will be separated from the rest of the group to have their lunch and wash their hands before returning.

LEADER IN TRAINING PROGRAM

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Do the CITs go on field trips? What if I don't want my child to go on the field trip?

Yes! The LITs and CITs will both attend a separate field trip with a focus on team building, communication, conflict resolution, and the other topics that will be covered by both groups throughout the course of the summer. These field trips will be on either Wednesdays (Friday the week of July 4th). The cost of each field trip is \$30. School buses are provided through the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Transportation Department. Signed permission slips are required for all campers going on each trip. Additional waivers may be required depending on each individual venue. All field trips are optional, however due to the staffing ratio of this group, if your child does not choose to attend the field trip, he/she will be placed in the 5th & 6th grade group and follow their activities for the day of the trip.

Who will help in the event of a medical emergency?

All camp staff hold current American Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer certifications. In addition, we have lifeguards on site during all times camp is going on. These staff members will be the first point of contact for medical emergencies. During the Commission's ESY program, the school nurse is also available if, and only if, immediate care is needed prior to the arrival of EMTs. If your child has an Epi-Pen, nebulizer, or any other treatment that may need to be given during camp hours, this should be noted in the medical section of the registration packet. Please know that state law prevents us from dispensing some types of medications to campers.

Can my child bring his/her cell phone to camp?

Yes, CITs are permitted to bring their cell phones to camp, as are our paid counselors. However, CITs, like our paid counselors, are only permitted to use their cell phones during their break/free time period and not in the presence of campers. Cell phones being used outside of designated times will be confiscated and be subject to parent pick up at the end of the day, just like they would be for a general camper. Camp GATORS, the ESCNJ Aquatics & Fitness Center, and the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

What do I need to do to register my child for the CIT program?

Registration forms are available at the Aquatics & Fitness Center Welcome Center or on our website: www.TheAquaticsCenter.com/summer-camp. To register, parents should bring completed registration forms and a copy of each child's immunization records to the Welcome Center, as well as a completed CIT Application (to be completed by the child, not the parent). CITs must register for at least two weeks, not including Color Wars (Week 5), to keep consistency within the program. CITs registered during the week of camp they will be attending are subject to a \$5 late registration fee.

How much does the CIT program cost?

This is a volunteer based program. We do not charge CITs for enrollment in the program so long as they take it seriously and understand that if they wish to work with us at Camp GATORS in the future that this is a part of their interview process. CITs may be removed from the program for behavior, unprofessionalism, and lack of attendance, etc. Please feel free to contact Kate (KDauphinee@escnj.k12.nj.us) with questions.