

## DISAPPOINTING NEWS

We have a limited number of spaces for Campers-In-Training. This is based on a variety of factors such as group reservations for campsites, transportation availability, and Coniston adopt-a-cabin spaces.

Every teenager has great characteristics. Every applicant has wonderful supporters. However, like any highly selective job, college, or award there are limited available spaces.

If we could grade performance & applications on an academic scale, and everyone received an 'A,' we still could not take every applicant.



## FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

We highly encourage anybody who has been part of the camp community to apply for a position on staff once they turn 18. Being a CIT or LIT is not a requirement in order to have a whole and fulfilling camp experience. Below are examples of members of the Camp community who did not have what is widely considered to be a "conventional" camp journey.

## OTHER FAQs...

### CAN MY CHILD BE A CIT NEXT YEAR?

No. This program is designed for 16-year-olds. If your child applied but was too young, then he/she may be a camper again, and then yes, they may reapply next October.

### CAN MY CHILD BE ON STAFF WITHOUT BEING A CIT? Yes.

In a couple of years when your child is in college and over the age of 18, they can apply and interview. Current employment information will be on our website when that time comes. In the years between camper and staff member, its best if your child builds their experiences with employment that shows maturity and the ability to work with children.

**WHAT IS LIT?** Leader-In-Training is a 9-week summer staff position for 17-years-olds who have successfully completed the CIT program. LIT staff are given additional, structured, on the job transitional training for their first year as staff members. They work in all areas of Camp Coniston: kitchen, office, program and cabin staff. Only CITs from the prior year are eligible in this competitive process.

**Note:** Non US Citizens must be 18 or older to attain a work visa and can not be accepted for LIT as a minor.



**YMCA CAMP CONISTON, INC**

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILD APPLIED FOR THE CIT PROGRAM

Now that we have your campers CIT application, we want to prepare parents with the information they need to help support them as everyone waits for a notification in mid to late November.



## NERVOUSLY WAITING

Most of the campers applying for CIT have come for 3, 4, even 8 summers. They have made friends here, and found a place that encourages them to be themselves without judgment. Overnight Camp is a non-competitive environment where everyone succeeds and campers are rarely told "no." Now, when a Constonian's camping years are over at age 15, and they apply for the competitive CIT leadership programs, this teenager is facing the fear of not returning to camp. Your child's concern is valid as not every applicant can be a CIT.

Now that your child has ventured into the CIT process, we want to prepare parents with the information they need to help support their campers as everyone waits for notification in mid to late November.



## EXCITING NEWS

- CITs must be able to participate in all aspects of the program for all 4 weeks.
- CIT Directors will challenge your child to think about and frequently discuss camper safety issues, homesickness, boundaries, and counselor techniques.
- CITs have a lot of autonomy and responsibility to follow their individual schedule and manage their time accordingly.
- It is important to remember that CITs are not traditional campers anymore. Their daily routine in this co-ed program is much different than that of the other campers. They are in leadership roles alongside staff members and we have high expectations for their behavior.



## WHAT IS CIT?

**CIT is a special 4-week Conston leadership program focused on camp counselor mentoring and team building while working with and positively role modeling for youth.**

- Your child will shadow and teach in Conston program areas and adopt a cabin where they role model for current campers.
- Both West & East Coast programs include wilderness experiences and American Red Cross Lifeguard/CPR/First Aid Certification Training which require a certain amount of fitness and strength.
- West Coast CITs share time between being at Conston & flying west. While traveling in Utah/Arizona, one of the exciting excursions for this group is desert hiking in the Grand Canyon!
- East Coast CITs are based at Conston for 3-weeks with 1-week of hiking, adventure, and camping in the White Mountains. This group hikes Mt. Washington!
- We are developing and encouraging responsibility & independence, which is essential in our future staff members.