Dear Prospective CIT Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Camp Elachee’s Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program!!! Camp Elachee is always on the lookout for energetic students looking to become a part of the larger Nature Center community. For over 40 years, Camp Elachee has been a place where boys and girls hike in the 1,440-acre Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve, splash around and look for critters in our many creeks, make crafts, enjoy live-animal demonstrations, sing camp songs and explore nature while forging lasting friendships with fellow campers. We are excited about the upcoming summer and hope you are too!

The CIT program focuses on teaching CITs real-world work, leadership and teaching skills. CITs will be placed with counselor-led groups, where they will assist the counselors with managing groups of up to 12 campers during the camp day. The CITs will also meet regularly with the CIT Supervisor to learn specific skills such as working with and leading peers, learning about the plants and animals of the Chicopee Woods, teaching a craft to young children or assisting counselors with group management. Under the supervision of the counselors and the CIT Supervisor, CITs will soon put their teaching and leading skills to the test during the camp day.

An important part of this leadership program is learning to take responsibility. All CITs are responsible for their own communications with the CIT Supervisor. CITs will need to be able to communicate through both email and by telephone. Please remember it is always okay to ask questions to obtain a better grasp of what you are applying for.

The hours spent in our CIT program are logged as volunteer hours for each CIT. At the end of the program the CIT will receive a formal letter documenting the number of volunteer hours completed during the summer.

I look forward to receiving your application for the Camp Elachee CIT Program and will contact you soon after to schedule an interview. Please don’t hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,

Wes Hatch
CIT Supervisor
Wes@elachee.org
(770) 535-1976
Frequently Asked Questions

What are CITs?
Camp Elachee CITs are rising 9th – 12th graders who are looking for a fun and challenging summer experience that will build leadership skills, encourage responsibility and give them the opportunity to work with children. All prospective CITs must participate in an application and interview process in order to be accepted into the CIT program. They must also make a 2-week minimum commitment to the camp program. You will receive more information about the CIT position during your interview with CIT Supervisor.

What does the CIT interview process entail?
In order to become a CIT, all applicants must submit an application to Camp Elachee. The CIT Supervisor will then arrange a personal interview with each candidate where they will learn more about the CIT position, discuss their own qualifications and identify what they would hope to gain from the experience.

*Space for the CIT program is limited, so be sure to apply early.*

How does the CIT Program work?
The CIT program is comprised of two parts. First, CITs will be trained to assist the Camp Counselors with managing groups of PreK – 6th Grade campers during the camp week. Those responsibilities may include a variety of tasks and duties that the CIT Supervisor will discuss with candidates during their interviews. The second part of the program focuses on teaching CITs some of the instructional, social and leadership skills that will enable them to successfully interact with campers, peers and supervisors alike.

What is the time commitment of the CIT program?
The CIT program requires a 2-week commitment. Participants can also request additional weeks. CITs will be expected to attend camp from 8 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday during their camp sessions.

Do CITs get paid?
CIT’s do not get paid for their work in the CIT program, but they do earn volunteer hours. Many high schools require a certain number of service hours to be completed before graduation. The CIT program is a fun, quick and rewarding way to receive these hours. The average CIT will complete approximately 80 service hours as a result of their 2-week commitment to Camp Elachee in addition to gaining valuable leadership and life skills.

What do CITs gain from this program?
In addition to gaining volunteer service hours, CITs gain valuable experience working with and instructing children, making responsible decisions daily and developing conflict resolution and other important social skills. After completing this program, many CITs have the confidence and skills to lead not only a group of children but also lead their peers. Some CITs have become counselors at Camp Elachee! The CIT experience is also a great addition to college and job applications.

Is there training for the CIT program?
Yes, one mandatory training date will take place at Elachee Nature Science Center. The time and date will be provided upon acceptance to the program.
Camp Elachee Counselors-In-Training (CIT) Application

Camp Elachee’s CIT Program is ideal for rising high school students interested in working with children and peers in a natural setting. Please complete and submit the entire application. You will then be contacted by the CIT Supervisor who will arrange an interview at Elachee Nature Science Center.

Name: ___________________________________________ Age: ______

DOB: _____/_____/______ T-Shirt Size (t-shirt must fit appropriately): ____________________

E-mail Address: ________________________________ Cell Phone #: _______________________
(This is how I will usually contact you, so make sure it’s an email address you check often)

School: _________________________________________ Current Grade (2020-2021): __________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________________ State: ______________ Zip Code: __________

Does your family have an Elachee membership? Y or N

How did you hear about the program? _________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Dietary Needs or Restrictions:
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Camp is a rigorous program that is physically demanding. Please list any special needs or concerns. __________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

Please place a X next to the camp weeks (2-week minimum) you are interested in attending (not a guarantee):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Mad Science Mayhem</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Creature Feature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Habitat Haven</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Sense of Wonder/Wilderness Survival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Space Week</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Wet &amp; wild</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Nature Escape</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Camp Rewind/Creature Care</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Water Week</td>
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Are there any days off that you need off during the weeks you have selected? ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Please answer the following questions about yourself. This portion is to only be completed by the CIT applicant. Please print legibly.

1. Please describe any previous volunteer experience you may have. Include where, for how long and what kind of work you performed. _____________________________________________

2. Describe any experience you have teaching or working with children. _____________________________________________

3. What other training courses have you taken if any? Please include when, where and how long. ______________

4. What are you passionate about (hobbies, sports, special interests etc.)? _____________________________________________

5. What would make you an asset to the CIT program? _____________________________________________

6. Describe yourself in three words. What makes you describe yourself this way? ________________________________

7. What do you like to learn about? _____________________________________________

8. Please tell us why you want to be a Camp Elachee CIT. _____________________________________________

Signature of Applicant ___________________________ Date ___________________

Parent/Guardian Signature ___________________________ Parent Name Printed: ___________________________

To Apply: Please submit this form no later than May 1, 2020 to Wes Hatch, CIT Supervisor, at wes@elachee.org. The CIT Supervisor will inform applicants on the next registration steps once the application is received. *All applicants must participate in an interview with the CIT Supervisor.*

Camp Elachee meets the standards for ‘exemption status’ from licensing through Bright from the Start.