

Summer 2010

Dear Camper,

Hello from South Mountain YMCA! We have enclosed some information for you about our Counselor In Training Program at Camp Conrad Weiser. This program is designed specifically for teens who wish to strengthen their leadership skills and have a true love for camp. We are always looking for qualified, caring, enthusiastic and responsible individuals to join us. The CIT program offers campers a chance to make memories, build friendships and develop skills that last a lifetime.

A Counselor In Training is at least 16 years of age and going from 10th-11th grade. An exception may be made for long term campers who are 15 and half years old and going into the 10th grade. The four week training begins on June 21st or July 19th. The program consists of a four week stay at camp. Due to the large volume of teen applicants, we will not make any exceptions to these dates.

The CIT program is a selective program and we have high expectations of the campers involved. In order to give you a better idea of the program please consider the following:

We have reserved these slots for campers who truly show leadership potential and have a desire to excel in the camp setting.

The expectations for CIT behavior are high as younger children will look up to you. We ask that you enter this program with the understanding that you are role models.

We ask that you are willing to participate fully in all the camp programs and activities and be a positive influence on the camp community.

We expect that you work cooperatively with the Camp Staff to provide the best possible environment for you, your fellow CIT's and other campers.

You agree to follow all the rules of camp to ensure safe place for children and staff alike to learn and grow.

We have enclosed a copy of the CIT agreement that we will ask you to sign once admitted into this program. Also enclosed is a copy of the evaluation form that we use throughout the four weeks. This evaluation is filled out after the first two weeks and at the end of the program by the following people: the CIT Directors, your cabin counselor and by you the camper. Your score is then a combined score and not just one person's opinion. In order to continue in the program, we ask that you achieve a minimum of 70 points out of 100.

The Leadership program at South Mountain YMCA is a special opportunity. We recognize that you are still campers but we want to encourage you to demonstrate your leadership potential in a safe environment with the guidance of our camp staff. Just as some campers sign up for specialty camps or for horseback riding, you are signing up for a leadership program. Your typical camp day will be very similar to other campers with a few exceptions. You will spend your morning with the CIT Directors. Throughout the four weeks you will spend time on our Adventure Course working together as a team. This may include the low ropes course, the high ropes course, and the climbing tower. Most of the classes are very hands-on and consist of engaging activities for you and your peers.

The curriculum is designed to develop the CIT's as a solid team, much like the summer camp staff. In the afternoon, you will choose your classes just as the younger campers do. We will ask you to participate fully in the evening programs within your Village and also for the entire camp. On many occasions we will ask for you to assist the staff in the set up for major events like the carnival and the Olympics. These opportunities will be based upon your level of enthusiasm and demonstrated ability to serve as a role model for younger children.

The second two weeks is designed to focus more on the individual camper. You will be assigned to help out in different program areas throughout camp, learning from our veteran camp staff. These assignments will be based on the needs and enrollment of camp. We have also scheduled several off site trips where you will have an opportunity to spend considerable time with your peers and enjoy the social aspects of camp while still in the camper role.

Please know that participation in the CIT program does not guarantee a camper a future position on camp staff. However, many children do grow and develop in the program, apply for staff positions and become some of our strongest leaders in the camp setting. We strongly encourage campers that excel in this program to apply for staff positions in the future. Please share this information with your family so they are aware of our expectations and together we can help you to have a wonderful summer at South Mountain YMCA Camp Conrad Weiser.

If you are interested in applying for one of the Leadership positions, please fill out this application along with three references and a deposit for \$200 and return to my attention. As soon as we receive all of your paperwork, we will set up a phone interview. Thank you again for your interest in Camp! We hope to hear from you soon and hope to share our summer with you! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call met at (610) 670-2267 or e-mail at swilliams@smymca.org.

Sincerely,

Sue Williams, Camp Director
South Mountain YMCA
swilliams@smymca.org

Camp Conrad Weiser CIT Program Application

Name: _____

Date _____

Address: _____

Age as of June 20th, 2010 _____

Date of Birth _____

Grade in September: _____

Parent/Guardian Name:

Home Phone () _____

Parent's Day Phone: () _____

Home e-mail: _____

Have you attended South Mountain YMCA in the past? _____ How many years? _____

Campers must be 16 or older going into 11th grade next school year. An exception may be long term campers who are 15 and 6 months by July 20th, 2010 and going into 10th grade.

Please check one of the following:

___ June 20th through July 17th CIT Session One.

___ July 18th through August 14th CIT Session Two.

___ Either Session One or Two is OK with me.

Please make sure to fill out a Registration Form. (Hard copy or online at www.smymca.org)

Please answer the following question.

NAME _____

1. What do you hope to gain from being part of the CIT program?

2. Please list your experiences with camp programs. (What did you love to do at camp)?

3. What was your most memorable moment at camp?

4. Who are your role models and why?

NAME _____

5. What do you believe are some characteristics of a good role model for children?

6. What do you believe are some characteristics of a strong leader?

7. What are some of your hobbies or extracurricular activities?

8. What qualities do you possess that will help you be a good Counselor in Training?

9. How will being a Counselor in Training help you reach your future goals?

10. What do you think are the 3 most important things a successful Counselor in Training must be able to do

1.

2.

3.

Reference for _____

Completed by _____

Phone Number _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The above named applicant has applied for the Counselor In training program at the South Mountain YMCA. It is imperative that they be a person of character and integrity, that they possess the ability to be a positive role model for youth.

How do you know the applicant?

How long have you known them for?

What positive qualities would you say the applicant possesses?

What do you see as the greatest challenge the applicant would face in this position?

Would you entrust your child's health and well being to this person (if you had one)?

If you were a previous employer, would you rehire this person?

What are the lessons for children that you believe this applicant has to offer?

Signature _____ Date _____

Please Mail to: South Mountain YMCA, PO Box 147, Wernersville, PA 19565
Attn: CIT Application