

Volunteer Outside

THIS SUMMER



OUTDOOR RECREATION LEADER IN TRAINING PROGRAM

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3228 Indian Village Rd. Columbus, OH 43221



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

RECREATION AND PARKS
DEPARTMENT

2024 OUTDOOR RECREATION LIT INFORMATION

Overview

Columbus Recreation and Parks Department's Outdoor Recreation program is seeking volunteers, ages 13-17 for the Leader in Training (LIT) program. LITs work alongside day camp counselors to teach campers, play games, hike, fish, canoe and more. The LIT program is a great way to build confidence and gain experience leadership skills. Teens must be motivated, enthusiastic, creative and willing to work with children in the outdoors.

The LIT program runs during the summer at Indian Village Day Camp & Camp Terra. LITs have the opportunity to choose at least 3 weeks to volunteer with us.

A \$30 participation fee will be due by the first date of attendance.

Summary of Responsibilities

Assist the camp director and counselors in organizing outdoor recreational activities for youth ages 6-12. Assist youth in arts and crafts, games and outdoor activities. Help ensure the safety of program participants at all times. Assist in maintaining organization of site by completing assigned tasks. Follow instructions effectively and efficiently, requiring minimal guidance. Take the initiative to assist site staff in daily duties. Maintain a thorough knowledge of all policies and procedures and follow them at all times. Assist in the supervision of youth while on excursions. Maintain a positive environment for program participants. Strive to be a role model for program participants. Perform other duties as assigned. LITs work primarily in a park facility, both indoors and outdoors, in weather conditions.

Required Skills

LITs must have a desire to work with youth and to interact in a positive manner with all ages and backgrounds of children. This position requires a desire to develop leadership skills, problem-solving abilities and decision-making skills. LITs must have the ability to motivate self, peers and youth in an enthusiastic manner. LITs must be reliable, honest, creative and willing to follow through on all assigned tasks.

Education, Experience and Qualifications

Must be between 13-17 years of age (Discover Boating 16 & 17 years of age). Experience working with youth in areas such as babysitting, scouts, church groups, sports or any other volunteer work is preferred. Qualified applicants must possess a clean and professional appearance and attitude and be comfortable working with the public.

Application & Interviews

Applications can be found online at <https://bit.ly/LIT24> and must be completed by **March 29, 2024**.

All new LITs are required to interview; applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview time. Returning LITs (those formerly in the CIT prior to 2024) in good standing do not need to interview. Interviews will take place April 9th, 10th and 11th. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance into the program by the end of April. Schedules will be available in May.

Orientation

All LITs are asked to attend ONE orientation session either May 21 or 22 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Additional information will be available closer to the date.

Questions?

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CIT AND AN LIT?

CITs

- Available through the APPs Job Readiness Program in CRPD.
- Focus on advanced leadership skills, specifically with leading youth and peers in a camp setting.
- Will be prepared and trained for future employment as a camp counselor.
- Between 16 - 17 years old.
- Paid employees of the city.
- Submit an application and go through an interview process.
- Required to work 11 weeks, 20 hours per week.
- Can work at Indian Village or Camp Terra.
- Lead and assist LITs and lead camp activities.
- Assist with animal care (Indian Village Day Camp).
- Log hours using a timesheet.

LITs

- Will gain general leadership skills.
- Between 13 - 17 years old.
- Volunteers for the city.
- Will submit an application.
- First year applicants will go through an interview process.
- Volunteer for at least 3 weeks, 40 hours per week.
- Can volunteer at Indian Village, Camp Terra and Reservoir Quest.
- Provide general support for camp activities.
- Assist with set-up and clean-up.
- Assist camp counselors with daily activities.
- Log hours using a paper sign-in sheet.
- Complete a weekly compass card.

FAQS

- **What do I do with my old CIT shirt if I'm now considered an LIT?**
 - Keep it! Since we are still transitioning to this new layout, it's alright if you still wear an old CIT shirt for Summer 2024.
- **How do I apply to be a CIT?**
 - For more information visit <https://columbusrecreparks.com/youth-success/apps/>.
- **What if I apply to be a CIT but I want to spend more than 20 hours a week at camp?**
 - You are welcome to volunteer for 20 hours a week as well. All that we ask is that you change out of your employee shirt and into a volunteer shirt at that time, and that you sign a volunteer and schedule agreement.
- **Is the new LIT program different from the previous CIT program?**
 - No :) The name is the only portion that is changing. The format, training, duties, and program will remain the same.
- **What if I'm 16 or 17 and do not want to/ am not able to commit to 11 weeks and just want to volunteer?**
 - That's great! You can still apply/remains a volunteer. You would just fill out the LIT application.
- **What hours I am expected to volunteer as an LIT?**
 - We ask that all LITs are at summer camp from 9 AM - 4 PM each day. You are welcome to arrive any time during before care and leave any time during after care.

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