



TIC SUMMER CAMP

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a technology & sports day camp accredited by the American Camp Association

THE TIC CIT PROGRAM:

An explanation of Counselor-In-Training Program at TIC Summer Camp

Many of TIC's best counselors have been former campers who came through our CIT program. Since 1994 we have offered two years of training. In the first CIT summer, a participant must be at least 14 and a rising tenth grader. The second year, following the tenth grade at school, some of these participants are chosen to be Staff Assistants, and work as volunteer staff members.

According to the standards of the American Camp Association (by which we are accredited), a Counselor-in-Training is a camper who receives, in addition to the normal benefits of the camp experience, specific training in leadership, which, if successfully completed, would qualify the CIT for future employment in our camp or another camp. Eight weeks of such training is required for resident camps, four weeks for day camps.

Our CITs pay regular tuition. (Some ACA camps charge an additional training fee; we do not.) They participate in technology instruction and athletic activities along with other senior campers. In addition, the CITs receive one hour of training daily in leadership and general counseling skills. The first of the two sessions they study the history of camping, child development and behavior, and are trained in observation and evaluation of teaching and coaching. The second of the two sessions they do the practical training, planning and doing a "practice teaching" session in either sports or technology. During both sessions, they participate actively in discussions. The CITs do not "work as," but rather "learn to be" counselors.

At the conclusion of the CIT program, each participant is evaluated and receives a certificate of achievement. There is no guarantee of future employment at TIC (mainly because our staff members are so highly specialized in either computers or athletics), but obviously one's chances are greatly enhanced by having successfully completed the CIT program. In addition, this training is recognized as a valuable credential in applying for other camp counseling or recreation aide positions. It invariably enhances general employability and social skills as well.

The CIT summer is a way to enjoy another season at TIC with new privileges and responsibilities. CITs get a chance to learn about their own capabilities and to enhance their future employability. First-year CITs (rising 10th graders) must enroll as campers for at least two sessions: Sessions 1&2 or Sessions 3&4). Each applicant must then present evidence of: (1) a desire for leadership training, (2) interest, and preferably experience, in working with children, (3) an above average academic record, (4) good physical and emotional health, and (5) good moral character. This is done by completing a CIT application and getting two references (from a teacher, someone from church or synagogue, a family friend — anyone who can evaluate your potential for camp counseling). This application process is the first stage of employability training. The deadline for CIT applications is April 15.

All campers who complete the application process are accepted in the first year of the program. The second year of the program is selective: only those who were deemed highly successful CITs are invited to be Staff Assistants.