



Dear prospective CITs and Parents,

The intent of this letter is to provide both CITs and parents with a better understanding of the CITs role at Summer Stuff and Sprouts. We take tremendous pride in our staff, as we feel our dedicated staff separates us from other programs. Our CITs play a vital role in our program and we find it is best to be as candid as possible so that the experience is a happy and successful one for all the CITs, campers, and senior staff.

The CIT program (formerly the Intern program) was started many years ago to provide an opportunity for young people ages 11-14 to make a real-life contribution to others, to learn to be responsible for something meaningful outside the home, and to experience the good feelings that come with volunteering. We feel contributing to society is an important component of building self-esteem.

The young people who seem to enjoy and do best in our CIT program are those who are friendly, outgoing, talkative, somewhat self-directed, yet are able to take direction. A child who is unusually shy and quiet, and has difficulty in unstructured situations, might feel uncomfortable in the camp setting.

The primary responsibility of all staff is the safety and well-being of the campers. The teaching staff and counselors need to give the majority of their time and attention to providing the very best environment for our campers. Consequently, after the initial orientation, a CIT has to be able to follow directions as well as take some initiative on his/her own.

Each session has a **mandatory** orientation. At orientation, we will cover safety issues as well as the role and responsibilities of our CIT's. Such responsibilities include:

- Helping set up and/or put away equipment
- Making and serving the snack each day
- Escorting children to and from the building, holding doors, counting campers
- Assisting senior staff with preparing and presenting an activity
- Helping "connect" children to an activity or friend
- Engaging children in conversation regarding their play
- Assisting with general camp maintenance such as clean up, organizing art work, and replenishing materials
- Participating in all camp activities such as group singing, games, etc.
- Recognize and react to a variety of situations at camp
- Leading activities with a small group of campers
- Being active and involved at all times



Program Information

Summer Stuff is a program for kindergarten through second grade campers. SPROUTS is our preschool program for children ages 3-4.5 Our 2024 camp season runs from 9:00am-1:30pm Monday-Friday (Session 1) and Monday-Thursday (Session 2 & 3) . CITs are expected to arrive 30 minutes before the start of camp and will be dismissed 15 minutes after campers have been picked up. CIT hours are **8:30am-1:45pm**. CIT sessions are either two or three weeks in length and each session has a **mandatory orientation**. Returning CITs may sign up for more than one session. New CITs are eligible to participate in sessions 2 or 3 only. CITs will be placed in Summer Stuff or SPROUTS according to the needs of each program. While you may have a preference for one program, placement in that program cannot be guaranteed.

Session	Number of Weeks	Dates	Mandatory Orientation	Pricing
Session 1	3 weeks Monday- FRIDAY	June 17-July 5 <i>*No camp June 19th or July 4th*</i>	Fri., June 14, 10AM-12PM	\$300
Session 2	2 weeks Monday-Thursday	July 8-July 18	Wed., July 3, 10AM-12PM	\$200
Session 3	2 weeks Monday-Thursday	July 22-August 1	Wed., July 17, 10AM-12PM	\$200

At Summer Stuff, much of the responsibilities outlined above are covered in detail during the **mandatory orientation**, as well as in staff meetings that occur daily. During these morning meetings we discuss methods of interacting with children, activities, behavioral issues and developmental expectations. Prior to orientation, CITs and their parents will receive a contract to go over and sign, which details safety procedures, personal conduct, and behavioral expectations of Summer Stuff staff. CITs may attend any orientation prior to their session. If a prospective CIT is unable to attend orientation, they will not be allowed to participate in the program.

Attendance Policy

CITs must make a commitment to attend all days of their session(s). Due to the short time period of each session, no days off will be given. Please do not apply for a CIT position if you will need to miss days for any reason. In order for our camp to run smoothly a CIT must commit to full attendance.

If you are feeling unwell in any way, please do not come to camp. This will not impact your opportunity to participate as a CIT. Simply call camp and let us know that you are not well so we will know not to expect you and can plan accordingly. Anyone exhibiting signs of illness during the camp day will be sent home until cleared for return.



General Information

Being a CIT is a hard job. CITs are constantly on the go and expected to interact with the campers as well as participate in camp activities throughout the duration of the day. Most days at camp can be hot, but CITs are still expected to perform their responsibilities. We stress the importance of their role and have high expectations of them. CITs will most likely be tired at the end of the day.

On the positive side, this is a fun and fulfilling experience. If a CIT has a positive attitude, likes to work, enjoys young children and is interested in learning about them, they should have a great time. The campers often connect closely and develop special bonds with our CITs. This can be very rewarding. CITs also make new friends, both young and old. All staff at Summer Stuff is so thankful for the help of the CITs!

Questions

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Cavanaugh and Danielle Butts
(773) 970-2267
director@summerstuffday.com