

2026

Counselor in Training Program

Application and Information



What Is a Counselor in Training (CIT)?

The Counselor in Training (CIT) program is designed for students entering 8th, 9th, and 10th grade who are interested in developing leadership skills while gaining hands-on experience in a camp setting. CITs are a vital part of the YMCA's summer camp program and play an important role in supporting staff and campers throughout the day.

As a CIT, your responsibilities include assisting YMCA staff with group games, activities, meals, crafts, and general camp organization and cleanup. CITs help support multiple camp groups and must be dependable, hardworking, and willing to assist staff in supervising campers—all while having fun and working as part of a team.

The CIT program focuses on teaching valuable leadership skills that will benefit you now and in the future. Participants will build character values such as respect, responsibility, caring, and honesty. CITs are leaders within Camp Clarke and are expected to serve as positive role models for campers and peers alike. In addition, CITs will have opportunities to participate in community service projects alongside fellow CITs.

To ensure a positive and successful experience, all prospective CITs must complete an application and participate in an interview. This process is designed to provide valuable preparation, training, and real-world experience that will support future employment and leadership opportunities.

Camp Clarke 2026 promises to be an exciting and rewarding summer, and it starts with committed, dependable leaders like you. CITs are a pivotal part of our camp community, and we hope you are ready and excited to take on the challenge!

Austin Radkovich
Camp Clarke CIT Director

Program Fees:

The CIT program is \$140.00 - \$165.00. We strongly encourage all CIT's to plan on attending a minimum of four weeks.

Counselor In Training
(Deadline to turn in completed application is June 5th)

Application Form

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Grade Completed 2025-2026 school year _____

School Attended _____

Related Childcare Experience

Special Interests, Hobbies or Talents

Please indicate any special medical information or condition that may be helpful to know in the event of an emergency

Parents Phone

Parents Phone _____

Parent Email _____

Swimming/Ropes Course/Field Trip Release: to be signed by parent/guardian

I give my child _____, permission to participate in recreational swimming, the ropes and adventure course at the Newport County YMCA and field trips/Community Service trips while participating at the Y Camp programs of 2026.

My child's swimming ability can be defined as:

NONE

LIMITED

ADVANCED

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, _____, agree to serve, if accepted, as a Counselor in Training with the Y Camp Summer Program during the following weeks:
*(Please mark the weeks that you **will be available** to work as a CIT).*

June 22 - 26	_____
June 29 - July 3	_____
July 6 - 10	_____
July 13 - 17	_____
July 20 - 24	_____
July 27 - July 31	_____
August 3 - 7	_____
August 10 - 14	_____
August 17 - 21	_____
August 24 - 28	_____

(Excessive absenteeism from weeks you have obligated to work may result in termination from the program unless prior approval received. *This will be at the parent's expense.*)

I understand the completion of the application for the Summer Counselor in Training program or acceptance in previous summers does NOT automatically assure me a position in this program for 2026.

_____ Date: _____

Counselor in Training Applicant

_____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian

FOR COUNSELOR IN TRAINING APPLICANT

Please answer the following questions completely and carefully. The answers you give will directly affect your acceptance and placement. You can use the back of this page or another piece of paper if needed.

1. What is your understanding of the responsibilities of a Counselor in Training?
2. What are three hardest parts of being a counselor? What are the three easiest?
3. Why do you want to be a CIT this summer at the YMCA?
4. What makes you a great candidate to be a CIT?
5. What is the coolest thing that you have ever done for someone else?
6. How will you take care of each camper who comes to the Y Camp this summer?
7. What do respect, caring, honesty, and responsibility mean in your life?
8. What are three of your best strengths and three things you need to work on?

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING *Do's and Don'ts*

Do These Things!

Remember to be respectful of parents, staff, campers and other YMCA members
Dress appropriately
Wear CIT shirt on field trips and Mondays and Fridays
Listen and follow directions given by the camp staff
Help with activities and interact with children
Help keep the campsite clean by helping with cleaning duties as needed
Read to Children when asked to
Run errands as needed
Stay with your camp assignment
Report any problems or concerns you are having to the CIT Director.
Bring anything to the staff's attention which you feel could be unsafe for the campers
HAVE FUN!!

Do Not Do These Things!

Do not gossip
Do not talk about issues in front of children that deal with your personal life
Do not horseplay with the campers
Do not go into the restrooms with the campers
Do not use slang words or any words that are inappropriate for campers
Do not talk about children or their parents in a negative way
Do not say negative things about camp
Do not tease or bully campers, staff or fellow CIT's
Do not administer medication
Do not deal with disciplinary issues

FOR COUNSELOR IN TRAINING APPLICANT

I have read the DO's and DON'TS of the CIT program and the overview of the program. I understand that if I am accepted to the CIT program I will perform the duties expected to the best of my ability. If my work performance or behavior is deemed unacceptable, I understand that my participation in the program can be terminated at any time at the cost of my parent/guardian.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

FOR PARENT/GUARDIAN

I have reviewed the CIT materials and understand what is expected of my child. I agree to all terms and conditions of the CIT program. I give child permission to participate in the CIT program at the Y for the summer of 2026. I understand that all CIT fees paid are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

LIABILITY RELEASE

I, the undersigned, request permission for _____ (child's name) to enter the Newport County YMCA (hereinafter the YMCA) school age programs and to participate in the YMCA activities associated with the program. I know and assume all risks related to the participation in such activities, where such risks arise on or off the YMCA premises. In consideration of the permission granted to enter the YMCA program premises, I release and discharge the owners, operators, and sponsors as well as all other person in any way related to the YMCA for claims, demands, damage actions and cause of action (present or future, whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated) for any and all personal damages to my property relating to my presence on the YMCA premises and/participation in any YMCA activity. I certify that I am 18 years of age and that my participation in the YMCA activities are voluntary.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please drop off all completed applications to the front desk at the Newport County YMCA or email them to Austin Radkovich at austinr@newportymca.org.

Once an application is received, you will hear from Austin, the Assistant Camp Director/CIT Program Director, to set up an interview for the CIT positions. If offered a CIT position, they will then be able to register for the selected weeks of summer.