



The Monroe Family YMCA Camp Gonnahavefun Leader in Training Application 2018

March 2018

Dear LIT Applicant and Parent,

Thank you for your interest in The Monroe Family YMCA Camp Gonnahavefun Leader in Training (LIT) program. The purpose of this letter is to help both the applicant and the parent understand more about the program and our expectations of the LITs.

Eligibility

In order to be considered, applicants must be entering grades 9-12. It is helpful, although not required, that applicants have previous experience working with children.

LIT Program Schedule

The LIT program takes place throughout the summer coinciding with regular camper sessions.

Are you ready to be a LIT? Applicants should ask themselves the following questions:

- Do I have a sincere desire to work with children?
- Would I like the opportunity to develop and improve my leadership ability?
- Do I enjoy learning in a hands-on environment?
- Is an out-of-doors work experience right for me?
- Am I ready to become a role model for younger children?
- Can I handle the responsibility of being a camp counselor?
- Am I ready to put campers' needs ahead of my own?
- Am I ready to create camp magic?
- Do I have the ability to work well with others in a variety of situations?

If the applicant answered yes to the above questions, then the LIT program may be an opportunity to gain valuable experience in a fun-filled environment.

LIT Program Information

The LIT Program offers countless opportunities to interact with children, lead activities and participate in camp programs. LITs fulfill many different roles at Camp Gonnahavefun. LITs must have a sincere desire to work with children, a wish to give back to the camp community, a strong work ethic, lots of energy and creativity, a positive attitude and the ability to put children's needs ahead of their own.

Training

The objective of the LIT program is to better prepare the participants for future work with children, in or out of the camp setting. This is done through hands-on experiences, guidance from staff members and, of course, precamp training and on-site workshops. Training and workshops will cover ice breakers and games, child abuse awareness and prevention, positive discipline techniques, child development stages, the mission and philosophy of Camp Gonnahavefun, camp operation, and much more.

Working at Camp

LIT's will be not be assigned to the same camp each day, it can vary. The LIT's assisting Camp Respecters will rotate. LIT's may also rotate through Sports and Specialty camps based on interest. The LIT will be an apprentice to the staff assigned to each Camp, learning how to care for campers in every aspect of the counselor experience, from planning and implementing activities, to gathering supplies, and camper and

parent interaction. LITs will have multiple opportunities throughout the summer to learn how to run the activities and teach a variety of skills to campers.

Field Trips

On Field Trip days if you plan on going, you are expected to help out the group and counselor you are assigned to for that day.

Challenges of the LIT Program

The LIT program is challenging for young people on many levels. First, it takes a large amount of energy to complete all of the daily tasks and responsibilities of a LIT and maintain a positive attitude. Second, it is a transition time. Participants are no longer campers and must be willing to be a constant role model, placing the campers' needs in front of their own. Finally the LIT program participants often become future staff members. We want every participant to have a positive experience at Camp Gonnahavefun; therefore, we challenge each LIT to push him or herself to achieve personal goals in their work with children.

Application Process

Step One: Complete the attached application. LIT applications must be returned to the camp director no later than May 7th. In order to ensure an application will be considered, the applicant needs to provide a minimum of one (1) letter of recommendation to The Monroe Family YMCA no later than the above deadline. Teachers, coaches, mentors, religious leaders and employers are all excellent choices for letters of recommendation. We do not recommend letters of recommendation from family members.

Step Two: Applicant interviews will be conducted starting May 9, 2018 at The Monroe Family YMCA. You will be contacted by the camp director to set up an interview time.

Step Three: Placement decisions will be based on the application, interviews, and reference forms.

Placement decisions will be made the week of May 21, 2018 and placement notification by phone will be made. Please be aware space is limited and not everyone who applies will be accepted into the LIT program.

Serving in the Leader in Training program does not guarantee a future position at Camp Gonnahavefun. Communication regarding the application process and the program should be between the applicant and the camp director. Parents should feel free to help in certain ways, like guiding the applicant in selecting references and helping them learn to professionally apply and interview. At the same time, please remember we seek candidates who are independent, mature and self-motivated. It is our hope that parents help cultivate these traits by allowing their teens to take full responsibility for their LIT application. Our goals are that all applicants to the Leader-In-Training program gain valuable experience in the job application and interview process and that all of our LITs gain skills that are applicable not only to being a camp counselor but to other aspects of their lives.

To the applicant: Thank you for applying to be a Leader in Training, and please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Lizzy McCloud
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YMCA Camp Gonnahavefun
Leader-In-Training Application
(Print clearly)

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone No. _____ E-mail address _____

Summers at The Monroe Family YCMA Summer Day Camp _____

In order to apply for the LIT program at Camp Gonnahavefun, please complete the following application and provide documentation of proficiencies earned by either photocopying award cards or taking a photograph of awards received if applicable.

Please answer the questions on both sides of this application fully. Attach an extra sheet if necessary.

1. Why do you want to be an LIT?

2. Are you willing to commit a minimum of three days each week to the LIT program?

3. The LIT program requires you to be involved in helping camp with physical tasks that need to be completed, to learn how to be responsible for your own and others well – being, and to work within a diverse group of people. How are you going to prepare yourself mentally for the demands of the program?

4. What program areas do you have enough knowledge to lead? The program areas you list may include programs you are not yet proficient in. Please elaborate why you believe you would be able to lead the program area if not proficient.

5. Why do you want to work with children?

6. Why do you want to be a LIT at Camp Gonnahavefun and not at another camp?

7. What contributions can you make to Camp Gonnahavefun while being a LIT?

8. Please list five adjectives that best describe you and why.

9. Please include any other helpful information that will help the Camp Director understand your willingness to become a LIT at Camp Gonnahavefun, and thank you for your application.