

**Winding Trails Summer Day Camp
50 Winding Trails Drive
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 677-8458 ext. 12
camp@windingtrails.org**

Navajo / Potential Counselor In Training Meeting

Welcome, Thank you for coming. We are all here to provide information on the process for applying, interviewing and hopefully becoming a First Year Counselor In Training at Winding Trails Summer Day Camp.

The C.I.T. program is a 2- or 3-year program. The goal is to develop your skills to become a stellar Counselor. As much as we would like to hire everyone, we cannot guarantee that every C.I.T. gets to be a counselor. Statistically we offer 12-14 spots for first year counselors each year with approx. 30-32 C.I.T.'s finishing the program.

First, let's discuss the timeframe involved in the hiring process. You will begin to apply this fall through the winter (any time after camp ends). The application and all details will be on the website by the time camp ends for the season.

The Deadline to apply is February 28th and the interviews will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2021. We will then determine based on the application, reference forms, essay and interview who is accepted into the C.I.T. program. Once accepted into the program, first year C.I.T.s chose either the first half (sessions one and two) or the second half (sessions three and four) of the summer. Second Year C.I.T.s can do ANY 2, 3 or 4 sessions.

It is the job of the applicant to complete the application and write the essay himself or herself. The application should be written with ONE pen, not pencil. You should also deliver the reference forms to THREE appropriate people. These people can include teachers, coaches, people you have babysat for, music instructors and religious leaders. We are looking to hear from people who have knowledge of your character, experience and abilities. They SHOULD NOT include ANY relatives or neighbors who know you in strictly a social environments or coworkers of your parents. Friends are also not acceptable references. Please Note: Your Winding Trails counselor (or any WT staff member) cannot complete a reference form for you. The reference form should be delivered to the person completing it with an addressed envelope to Winding Trails. That person will mail or email it to us directly. Do not ask for the reference form to be returned to you.

The essay can be typed or hand written (in pen) and should address the following, "Please attach an essay explaining why you want to be in the Counselor In Training program at Winding Trails Summer Day Camp and what you hope to gain by being a Counselor In Training." This should take more than three paragraphs to fully answer. Please feel free to expand and tell your story.

As far as the interview goes, it will be in the Main Office, just past the gate house. Please be on time and dress appropriately. Be Neat, no sweatpants, no t-shirts, no hats, no gum. An example of what we would like to see is Khakis and a nice shirt. Please know that we understand that this will be your first interview, try hard not to be nervous and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Practice with your parents: the more you talk the better. Let us get to know you!

We cannot stress enough that this is a selective program. There are 101 of you here this year as Navajos not to mention the applicants we get from outside the Winding Trails family and we only have room for 30 of you. Please take a moment to decide if this is the program for you, it is NOT an extension of your Camper experience. This is the time for the camper to begin to communicate with us directly, and time for the parent to allow this to happen. Please let your child do the communicating. While we understand that parents will have questions, we must begin to let the campers grow and the C.I.T. program is a wonderful place to start!

Questions? Please call Renee Felter at (860) 677-8458 ext. 12 or email renee@windingtrails.org.