

2019 Eco-Discovery Camp Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program

Our newly established Eco-Discovery Camp CIT program is an exciting leadership training opportunity for rising 9th-12th graders (14-17 years old) who enjoy spending their days outdoors and are interested in working with children. Functioning as junior members of the camp staff, CITs will gain valuable work experience while strengthening their leadership skills in a fun camp setting. They can also apply their hours at Great Hollow towards their high school's community service requirements.

About the Camp

Great Hollow's Eco-Discovery Camp is an outdoor, science-based environmental education day camp serving children ages 5-12. Heading into its third summer, our state-licensed camp offers children the opportunity to forge lasting connections to the natural world on our 825-acre nature preserve. Our days will be spent outdoors, exploring Great Hollow's creeks, forests, meadows, and trails, learning about the critters that make this special place their home. Each weekly session includes science-based environmental education activities, live animal presentations, games, hikes, and daily time for unstructured outdoor play. Camp has two age groups—Knee-High Naturalists (5-8 years old) and Eco-Explorers (9-12 years old)—that alternate every other week, with typical weekly enrollment between 10 and 15 children.

About the Program

Each session two CITs will work alongside the Camp Director and Camp Instructor to provide a week of fun and educational outdoor programming for our campers. CITs, supervised by the Camp Director and mentored by both the Director and Instructor, will have the opportunity to explore their interests in environmental education while gaining valuable experience working with children outdoors. As comfort and skills grow, CITs will be given opportunities to lead or help lead a variety of camp activities. Interested CITs may also be offered the chance to be trained in handling and presenting our education program reptiles. CITs will be provided with staff t-shirts, a Great Hollow baseball hat, and written record of their community service hours.

Responsibilities:

- Work with Director, Instructor, and another CIT to run daily camp activities. Work hours are 8:00 am -4:00 pm, Mon.-Fri. each session (except July 4th). Typical tasks include:

- participating in all games and activities
 - reinforcing camp expectations
 - assisting with snack and lunch times
 - accompanying campers to the restroom (all campers are toilet trained)
 - interacting with campers during down-time (camper drop-off/pick-up, snack and lunch breaks, hiking on the trails, etc.)
 - activity prep and clean-up
- Help Director and Instructor supervise children in an outdoor setting that includes forests, streams, and wetlands, with travel both on and off trail. We will be outside in all weather conditions except thunderstorms.

Who Can Apply?

Students entering 9th-12th grades (min. of 14 years old). CITs are required to work a minimum of two weekly sessions (they do not need to be consecutive), with preference given to applicants who can work four or more weekly sessions. CITs must also attend a short orientation session prior to their first week volunteering. **Daily transportation to and from Great Hollow is the responsibility of the CIT.**

Qualifications:

- Interests in outdoor and environmental education; wildlife and habitat conservation; New England natural history; ecology; wilderness living skills; nature-based arts and crafts; teaching and mentoring children.
- Highly motivated and able to handle responsibility
- Outgoing and engaging personality; ability to relate well to children
- Excellent communication skills; ability to follow directions and receive feedback
- Ability to work long days outdoors, often in hot weather
- Previous experience working with children is a strong plus, but not required

To apply:

Complete the following application and email it to the address below or drop it off in person at Great Hollow. Have an adult (**not a family member or friend**), such as a teacher, who can speak to your suitability for the CIT position to fill out a reference form and directly submit to Great Hollow.

Applications are due by 4/15/19 and will be reviewed in the order in which they are received.

Qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview. Please contact Camp Director, Sena Rasun-Mahendra at sena@greathollow.org or (203) 546-7789 with any questions or concerns.

2019 Eco-Discovery Camp CIT Program Application

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Parent or Guardian Name: _____

Address (if different from above): _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Please check the weekly sessions you are available to work:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6/24-6/28: ages 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/15-7/19: ages 9-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8/5-8/9: ages 9-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/1-7/5*: ages 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/22-7/26: ages 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8/12-8/16: ages 9-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7/8-7/12: ages 9-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7/29-8/2: ages 5-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8/19-8/23: ages 5-8 |

*No camp on Thurs., July 4

Please answer the following questions. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Why do you want to be an Eco-Discovery Camp CIT?

Describe any skills or past experiences that you think will help you be a successful CIT.

Describe your experience working with children, if applicable.

Use this space if you'd like to tell us anything else about yourself relevant to this position.

Acknowledgement:

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if accepted into the program I am making a commitment of working at least **two** week-long sessions during the camp season. I am aware that misrepresentation or omission of facts may result in immediate dismissal from the CIT program.

Applicant's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

As the parent/guardian of the applicant, I understand the above statements and give my child permission to participate in this program. As this is a leadership program, I understand that my child will contact the Camp Director themselves with any questions or concerns.

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

2019 Eco-Discovery Camp CIT Program Reference Form

Applicant:

I certify that this reference is someone who knows me in a professional manner and **not** a friend or relative. I waive the right to view this form after it is completed.

Applicant's signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant's printed name: _____

Reference:

The above applicant is being considered for a Counselor in Training (CIT) position at Great Hollow's Eco-Discovery Camp, an outdoor science-based environmental education day camp serving children ages 5-12. This position entails working closely with children in a recreational setting, as part of a four-person staff team comprised of the Camp Director, Camp Instructor, and a fellow CIT. We want to fill these positions with the best candidates possible and appreciate your honest appraisal of the applicant's character and abilities. All information provided will be kept confidential. Thanks for your insight.

Please circle the number you feel best describes the applicant:

	1=Excellent	2=Good	3=Average	4=Below Average	5=Poor	
General attitude	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Common sense	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Patience	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Sense of humor	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Flexibility	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to relate to children	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to manage emotions	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Sense of responsibility	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to work with others	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Willingness to work hard	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Punctuality	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Leadership ability	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to work under pressure	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Capacity to work independently	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Acceptance of supervision	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Receptiveness to feedback	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

Please describe the applicant's strengths.

Please describe the applicant's areas for improvement.

How does the applicant respond to feedback and which delivery method works best?

Would you hire the applicant to work with your own child? _____

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please submit this form no later than 4/15/19 to:

Sena Rasun-Mahendra
Great Hollow Nature Preserve & Ecological Research Center
225 State Route 37
New Fairfield, CT 06812
sena@greathollow.org