

Junior Counselor Program: Training

One of the most important parts of the Camp in the Community (CITC) is our Junior Counselor Program. As a host church, we ask you to find 4-8 young people (rising freshman and above) to volunteer during your week of camp, and participate in our training.

Having junior counselors benefits the campers, your church, and the junior counselors themselves. Here are the top four reasons having junior counselors is great and important:

1. **LONG-LASTING IMPACT** – God uses CITC to make a difference in the lives of campers, but our mission is to have an impact long after the week of camp. We recognize that for that change to be long-lasting there is a need for continued relationships and discipleship after camp ends. Your junior counselors likely attend your church, they make real relationships with their campers, and then they continue to be there in the community as campers become involved in your church.
2. **ROLE MODELS** – Children who attend camp need youth they can look up to, someone they can aspire to be like, and someone who will continue to love them and draw them to the church. Like our campers, youth also need people who are slightly older than them to see as examples of people who live out their faith - and partnering with our highly trained staff is the perfect way to accomplish this.
3. **LEADERSHIP SKILLS** – Youth need training plus an opportunity to allow their leadership skills to really flourish. As a junior counselor, your youth will have both of those, plus the chance to grow personally in their faith, and in leading others to grow in faith. Having that experience increases the likelihood that they will stay involved with church into their college years.
4. **ITS FUN!** – We know that learning childcare techniques, policies and leadership skills is important; we just don't think it needs to be boring! Youth have a blast at this training, and go home with so many skills that are useful for their week of camp, and beyond. Several participants mentioned it gave them the confidence to begin leading in other ways in their church, for example, by teaching Sunday school.

NEW TRAINING OPTIONS

Every church and community is different, and we want junior counselor training to be accessible to all. So, this year we have 4 training options. Let us make it clear though, that option one and two are the most effective and beneficial for everyone and if at all possible, we ask that you choose one of those.

- 1) **Junior Counselor Retreat** – *Camp Bays Mountain, Kingsport, TN*
Spend a weekend in nature at a retreat designed for youth who want to grow as leaders, and who commit to volunteering for at least one week of CITC Summer Camp. We will study the Word together, learn more about who we are as individuals, learn both leadership and childcare skills, as well as activities they will help lead during camp. The retreat will begin on Friday at 7 pm and end on Sunday at 11 am. The retreat will be hosted at Camp Bays Mountain and will be one of the first retreats hosted in their new facilities.
DATES: April 13-15 or May 4-6



Junior Counselor Application

Full Name: _____ Gender: _____

Date of Birth: _____ School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Current Church: _____ Pastor's Name: _____

Youth Pastor's Name: _____

CITC Host Site (where you plan to serve): _____

Reference (one pastor, one other adult)

Name _____ Email: _____

Name _____ Email: _____

Indicate time(s) you are available for phone or in person interview:

Please list all of your experiences in working with children and or youth.

What type of summer camp experience, if any, have you had? If you've never experienced summer camp, describe a situation you've been in that has prepared you for the intense working conditions of a small group Christian camp.

What organizations do you belong to?

What do you do when you are not in class/work?

Please describe how God has been working in your life through the past year, and how faith and prayer plays into your everyday life.

Why do you want to be a part of this ministry?

What does being a 'Servant Leader' mean to you?

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date Signed: _____

Junior Counselor Permission/Health Form
Camp in the Community

Junior Counselor Name: _____

Registering Parent/Guardian/Contacts

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ Day (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Second Parent/Guardian/Contacts

Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ Day (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Health Information:

List any physical, emotional, behavioral, or mental health concerns: _____

All immunizations required for participant to attend school are up to date: ___ Yes ___ No

Date of last tetanus shot: _____

List any food or medication allergies: _____

Is camper allergic to bee stings? _____ Has camper ever been stung by a bee? _____

List any medications the child will be given while at Camp in the Community:

Medication	Dosage or Amount	Times/Meals taken
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Authorization

In signing this authorization, I acknowledge that I have read and agreed to allow my child to participate Camp in the Community's Junior Counselor Training and Summer Camp Program, and am aware that the activities associated with this event entail certain inherent risks including damage to property, personal injury, and even death. I understand that my child will be held accountable for their actions and behaviors at Camp in the Community. In consideration for being permitted to participate in this event, I agree to assume all such risks and hereby release and discharge Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries, Inc., its affiliated camps, officers, sponsors, trustees, employees, agents and other aids and/or volunteers from any and all liability for any and all damage, loss, injury, or death of every kind and nature whatsoever which in any way arises out of my participation in this event.

I hereby give permission to the camp to provide routine health care, administer prescription drugs, and seek emergency medical treatment including ordering X-rays and/or routine tests. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp to hospitalize, secure proper treatment, and to order injection and/or anesthesia and/or surgery for me/or my child as named above.

The person herein described has permission to engage in all camp activities except as noted. I give permission for me/my child to be transported in a private vehicle if necessary. I give permission for photographs taken of me/or my child to be used for camp publicity, printed or electronic.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

2) Junior Counselor Area Trainings

We will cover the same curriculum as is covered at the retreat, though in a shorter time frame. There are two dates and locations for these training, all of which will happen on Friday evenings from 6:30pm-9pm, and Saturday from 9am-9pm.

DATES & LOCATIONS:

- April 20-21 at the Holston Conference Office in Alcoa, TN
- April 27-28 in Chattanooga Area – Location TBA

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS IF NEITHER OF THE FIRST TWO OPTIONS IS POSSIBLE.

3) Junior Counselor Video Training

We have created an abbreviated training that can be accomplished by watching a series of videos and completing the associated activities. Topics covered follow the curriculum from both the retreats and area training, though by nature this training is less interactive and less effective because of that and the lack of relationships built.

*This training should take between 6-8 hours, and can be completed individually or as a youth group. The video series should be online and **available by March 15.**

4) Junior Counselor Host Week Training

Our staff can provide an abbreviated training hosted at your host church during the week of camp. Sessions begin on Sunday evening when we arrive at the church, at approximately 6pm (time depends on the distance from Alcoa). The Sunday session is 2-3 hours, and each day the Junior Counselors stay for an hour of training (Monday through Thursday) in order to expound upon their skills.

*This training overall takes 6-8 hours to complete. **The deadline to select this training option is May 1.**

RETREAT CHAPERONES

We will have teaching staff at the retreat that will help us meet our chaperone to student ratio of 1:7. You are not required to bring a chaperone to your group. If you plan to do so, please bring no more than 1 chaperone for the group. We want to offer this training to as many youths as possible, and our bed space is limited.

TRANSPORTATION

If you or your youth are unable to attend due to transportation issues, please let me know. If you are planning to transport your youth and would be willing to help alleviate the transportation issues of other youth in your area, please indicate that as well. We will work hard to match those with needs with solutions.

Please complete this form as soon as possible: Jr Counselor Training Options Form

Junior Counselors will need to complete the attached application and release form.