

Greetings!

It's hard to believe that it has been almost six months since our world was changed forever. I know I am anxious, but excited, to be back in my classroom and resuming a sense of normalcy. I am sure this sentiment is shared by many of you, no matter what the upcoming year looks like. 2020 has seen many changes to our lives, and Camp Daggett has not been immune to the events of this year.

You are receiving this email because you were scheduled to be a Camp Aide at Camp Daggett this summer. While it was heartbreaking to not be able to welcome you, and all our campers to Walloon this summer, we can all take pride in our involvement in an organization that puts the safety of our Camp family above all else. However, we are looking towards the future, and how we can be preparing for the summer of 2021.

The staff and I have thought long and hard about how to best address our volunteer staff for 2021. All of you receiving this email have demonstrated a desire to be a staff member at Camp Daggett. Of course, figuring out how to best address our potential volunteers is not an easy task. While we wish that we could accommodate all who wish to serve on staff, we have a limited number of spaces available. For individuals that will be 16 in the summer of 2021, we are offering the option to apply to be a counselor in training (CIT).

As a Counselor-in-Training, volunteers will live in cabins with counselors and campers. They will learn what it takes to be a great counselor, including camper management strategies, games to play with kids, and have the opportunity to be a role model for campers in their cabin. They will also work in an area of camp under the direction of an area director. During the four weeks, CITs will gain valuable life skills and give back to Daggett and all campers. As this is most likely one of the first job applications you will complete, please have your parents assist as needed, but it is recommended that you complete this application and make contact with the directors if questions or concerns arise.

To begin your application, please visit bit.ly/DaggettCITApp (this link is also available on our website). On this application, you will be required to answer a few questions including:

- Contact information for you and a parent/guardian
- Selection of date(s) that you would be available. Note, you will be asked to rank sessions in order of preference as well as indicate any you could not work. If either session would work for you, please select "1st Choice" for both.
- Information on up to three prior work, volunteer, or leadership experiences.
- A no more than 1 page long personal statement that answers the following prompt: "Tell us about why you want to be a Counselor in Training at Camp Daggett. Think about what "Camp" means to you and what you would like to get out of your experience as a volunteer staff member at camp.
- The email address of THREE references. These references will receive a link to an online reference form after you submit your application, so please make sure their email addresses are accurate. These references should not be related to you, but can be past employers, coaches, teachers, supervisors etc.

This application will need to be completed by October 31st, 2020 at 5:00pm Eastern. After receiving applications, myself and other members of the staff will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Timeliness of application received
- Completeness of applications
- Contents of personal statement
- Work, leadership, or volunteer service history
- Completion of references
- Session availability

We hope to have decisions, contracts, and some additional paperwork, sent out by the end of November. Please note, we anticipate a larger number of applicants than in previous years, so please be patient as you wait to hear from us. Additionally, since space is limited, flexibility in session choice is appreciated.

Finally, we understand that this year has caused many changes in plans for everyone. If being a CIT next summer is not something you see in your plans, please understand that that is okay. Many see being a CIT as a requirement for being a counselor, however, that is not true. We hire many counselors each year, some of which were CITs, yet many were not. Often, we will see applicants for counseling positions from individuals who were campers and never even came back to be volunteers. The ultimate goal of the CIT program is to help you grow and develop leadership skills, which will serve you in many aspects of your life. Additionally, we often hire 16- and 17- year olds to work in our kitchen for part of the summer as a paid employee. While the responsibilities are different, there are still many great experiences and memories built as a member of the Camp Daggett staff. If that is an option you would like to explore, please shoot me an email sometime and we can chat.

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