

To be considered for the CIT program, teens will need to complete an application and go through an interview process. Applications are due by February 16. Please ask your references to submit their reference forms by February 16 as well. Interviews will be scheduled in Feb/Mar, and we will let you know our decisions by mid-March. CITs must commit to three full weeks, and we will be running two sessions: Session 1 will run from July 1–19 and Session 2 will run from July 22–August 9. If you are accepted as a CIT, the program fees are \$75 for members and \$100 for non-members. This fee will be waived for returning CITs.

Dear Counselor in Training Applicant,

At the Morris Arboretum & Gardens Nature Explorers Camp we take our Counselor in Training program seriously. We want everyone to have a great camp experience, and we will train you and give you the tools to be a good leader and a camp counselor. Whether you have been a camper before, or if this is your first experience with us, we believe that everyone who comes to our camp can contribute and have a positive experience.

Please understand that if you are accepted into the CIT program you are no longer a camper or merely a “volunteer.” You will have responsibilities regarding children’s activities, safety, and enjoyment at our camp. This means that from the moment you accept this position you will need to be a positive role model at camp, at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens and in public (including social media). When you become a CIT, you also become a representative of the Nature Explorers Camp and the Morris.

At camp you will work with fellow CITs as well as counselors and staff on planning and implementing activities for younger children. Please read over the application and the CIT handbook and make sure that you are prepared mentally and ready to be an active part of the camp community. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Ilana Grubin

Camp Director
215-247-5777 x 127 (office)
igrubin@upenn.edu

Jude Thachet

CIT Mentor
215.247.5777 x 132 (office)
jthachet@upenn.edu

Survey: Please take a minute to read the questions below. Answer with a mental yes or no. While you might not answer yes to EVERY question, please be honest with yourself; this survey is designed for you to determine if being a CIT is appropriate for you.

- Do I have a sincere desire to work with children?
- Do I feel comfortable speaking in front of a large group of people?
- Am I friendly and outgoing?
- Can I smile even on a bad day?
- Do I love being outside?
- Am I concerned about the general safety and well-being of others?
- Am I self-motivated?
- Do I have enough self-discipline to do the right thing all the time?
- Do I want to make a positive impact on a child's life?
- Am I ready to become a role model for younger children?
- Am I ready to put campers' needs ahead of my own?
- Can I handle the responsibility of taking care of younger children?
- Can I take positive and negative feedback from counselors and other staff?
- Will my personal background be an asset to the camp community?
- Will I be able to work as a team player with a group of other counselors?
- Do I recognize the positive and negative results of the choices I make?
- Do I have plenty of energy?
- Would I like the opportunity to develop and improve my leadership skills?
- Am I ready to dedicate my time to working?

I have read and answered the questions above and feel that my participation as a CIT at camp will enhance the program for campers, staff and fellow CIT's.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

MORRIS CIT APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: ____

School: _____ Current Grade: _____

Residential Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Morris Arboretum Members: Yes ___ No ___

Parent/guardian name: _____ phone number: _____

Parent/guardian email: _____

CITs must commit to three full weeks, and we will be running two sessions: Please check your session preference below:

Session 1 (July 1–19)

Session 2 (July 22–August 9)

Getting to know you:

If you need more space to answer these questions, please attach an additional sheet of paper.

How did you hear about our summer camp? _____

Why have you chosen to apply for the CIT Program?

What do you think a parent of a camper will expect from you as a CIT and how will you meet these expectations?

What do you think the Lead Counselors and Camp Supervisors will expect from you?

We have a limited number of spots available in our program. Why are you a great candidate?

Please list any clubs, groups, organizations, jobs, or activities that you have participated in:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

In the groups/activities that you listed above, did you exhibit leadership abilities in any of these positions? Please list and describe each leadership position.

Have you participated in our camp or had any other camp experiences? What did you enjoy the most?

Do you have any special skills or hobbies (i.e., ability to speak another language, music, theater, sports, etc)?

Describe your experience dealing with younger children:

Will you be using this experience for community service hours? Yes___ No___

I certify that the above information is true. I understand that selection into the CIT program is based on this information as well as an interview and references. Each applicant must provide 2 letters of reference. For more information, contact Ilana Grubin, the Camp Director, at igrubin@upenn.edu

Applicant's Signature _____ Date: _____

*Do NOT collect the forms from your references. References should send them directly to the camp director: igrubin@upenn.edu

Name of 1st reference _____ email: _____

Name of 2nd reference _____ email: _____

C.I.T. (Counselor-In-Training)

REFERENCE FORM

To the Person Completing this Form:

The applicant below wishes to be a C.I.T (Counselor-In-Training) at Morris Arboretum & Gardens, Nature Explorers Camp, and asks that you help us by filling out this reference form. All information will be kept confidential, and your prompt and helpful response is appreciated. Thank you!

APPLICANT NAME: _____

1. What is your relationship to the applicant and how long have you known them?

2. If you were a parent or guardian, would you be happy to have this person as your Child's caregiver?

Is the applicant: (Rate 1-5; 5 being the highest)

| Please rate the following questions: | N/A | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. An Excellent role-model for kids to emulate? | | | | | | |
| 2. Reliable and trustworthy. | | | | | | |
| 3. Exhibits strong teamwork skills. | | | | | | |
| 4. Able to handle responsibility. | | | | | | |
| 5. Friendly and personable. | | | | | | |
| 6. Able to complete assigned tasks. | | | | | | |
| 7. Communicates well with others. | | | | | | |
| 8. Able to receive and apply feedback. | | | | | | |
| 9. Takes pride in their work? | | | | | | |
| 10. Exhibits caring and empathy towards others. | | | | | | |

Nature Explorers Camp staff greatly appreciates your time and effort. Selecting a truly good role model for children is no easy task! Your assistance in our program will make our difficult selection process easier, enabling us to choose the best candidates for the program. Thank you! Please do not give the form back to the applicant - **return this form directly to Ilana Grubin** at igrubin@upenn.edu or mail to 9414 Meadowbrook Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Phone: _____

Organization/Company: _____ Title: _____

Email address: _____