



Lattof YMCA
300 E Northwest Hwy
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-296-3376

Dear Prospective Leaders-In-Training and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Leaders-In-Training (LIT) and Counselors-In-Training (CIT) program. I hope that you are truly excited about this opportunity and are ready for a summer of fun, friendship and growth. This program is not for everyone as it will be a camp experience that you likely have never had before. This packet is designed to help you determine whether this program is right for you.

The LIT program is an amazing course that has grown and changed throughout the years in the YMCA. It is designed to build leadership and job related skills, teaching fun ways to serve the community, have fun, and also learn what it takes to be a great employee. This is not a guarantee for a job in the future, but is meant to train and help you learn what it means to be a leader anywhere.

I should make it clear from the beginning that if you are interested in the LIT program only because it is the next progression in camp and it provides more “freedom” throughout the summer, you may be disappointed. Yes, the LIT program is considered the next jump up from traditional camp, and yes LITs have more independence than traditional campers, but the goal of the LIT program is to challenge the camper to grow as a leader and as a person. It is my goal that by the end of the summer, LITs will have made some lifelong friends and developed skills that will last well past the end of summer.

Some of the highlights of the LIT program this year include:

- LITs will be paired with a counselor every week. They will help the counselor plan and lead activities as well as build relationships with the campers in that group. LITs will be placed with younger aged campers to ensure an adequate age gap.
- LITs will have their own time every non-fieldtrip day. Activities will be led by the LIT Unit Leader and will focus on team building, growth and development. LITs are expected to participate in every unit activity.
- LITs will have various speakers and service opportunities throughout the summer. There will be learning sessions, service projects and fun activities planned just for LITs
- LITs will take an active role in planning and implementing All Camp Activities every Friday during camp.

Attached you will find the requirements to apply for the Leaders-In-Training program, as well as an application and FAQs. Thank you for taking the time to consider the Leaders-In-Training program. If you have any questions as you go through this process, please contact me. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at our LIT information session, March 14th at 6:30.

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

**Lattof YMCA
LEADERS-IN-TRAINING
Information Sheet**

Requirements:

- Must be 13-15 years old
- Must complete a separate LIT application, to be turned in March 14th or later.
- Must have a letter of recommendation from a coach, teacher, minister, etc (not a Camp person) prior to setting up an interview.
- Must attend LIT informational session March 14th, 2008 6:30pm.
- Must attend a minimum of three weeks of camp throughout the summer.
- Must meet with camp director or LIT director prior to camp to discuss expectations and goals.

Expectations:

- Always try your best
- Take responsibility for your actions—you control what you do or don't do
- Learn from your mistakes
- Learn from your success
- Learn from others
- Be honest
- Show you care.
- Respect everyone and everything
- Be a role model—for campers, for family, for friends
- Participate in activities
- Communicate—with each other, with the Unit Leader, with your supervising counselor, with the camp director. LITs/CITs have more freedom to move around without direct supervision, but this freedom must be earned and communication must take place.
- LITs will lead camp activities each week and participate in community service activities.

LIT Applications will be accepted no earlier than March 14th, following the informational session at 6:30pm.

All interested returning and new LIT's must attend the March 14th session.



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Lattof YMCA
LEADERS-IN-TRAINING
Frequently Asked Questions

Why must LITs apply for this program?

The application process allows the applicant to find out more about the program and determine whether it suits his/her needs. It also allows the director to inform both the parent and LIT of the expectations.

I was an LIT last year, do I still need to apply?

Yes. LITs need to apply every year. This allows the director to reinforce expectations and also to see where the applicant has grown in the last year and what areas may need more attention throughout the summer.

I was a CIT last year, do I start this summer as a CIT?

No. All those accepted into the program will start as a LIT. Those who were CITs before may reapply to be CITs after two weeks of camp.

How do I become a CIT?

LITs who exhibit the four character values of the YMCA (Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility) daily are eligible to apply to be a CIT. For first-time CITs, it is recommended that you remain an LIT for at least four weeks before applying for CIT. This allows the staff to get to know the young leader and for the applicant to get to know the program better. CIT applicants must get two recommendations from camp staff (director, counselor, unit leader, etc) as well as one recommendation from a non-camp YMCA staff (ie. Other program director, Operations Director, Executive Director, etc).

Can I pick which group I am with?

We will certainly take into account special requests, but we cannot guarantee certain placement. Ultimately the Unit Leader and Camp Director will make the final decision as to placement.

Can LITs sign themselves in and out?

No. LITs are still campers and therefore the Lattof YMCA is still responsible for their safety. We need to know who is at camp on a given day and at a given time and the sign in/out process gives us these checks.

Are all applicants accepted into the program?

While we make every effort to provide a program for every applicant, we cannot guarantee a spot in the program due to limitations in the number of supervisory staff we can provide.



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This Application will be accepted beginning March 14th, 2008
Lattof YMCA
LEADERS-IN-TRAINING
Application
(To be completed by the teen, not the parent)

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ Birthday: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ School: _____

Circle: Male Female LIT Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Number of years at Lattof YMCA Camp: _____ Other camp experience: _____

Why do you want to be an LIT?

What do you enjoy most about the Lattof YMCA Day Camp?

What does it mean to you to be a good role model?

What do you hope to learn as an LIT?

Why do you feel it is important to be a leader?

In what areas do you feel that you need to grow?

What do you think are your talents?

What attribute do you bring to a team?

If this is your second year as an LIT, what would you do differently this year?

List one person who will be providing your letter of recommendation.

Must be someone different than last year if this is your second year.

Reference: _____

Relationship: _____ **Phone:** _____

Return this application along with a reference from a coach, teacher, pastor, etc. to:
Camp Director
Lattof YMCA
300 E Northwest Hwy
Des Plaines, IL 60016

