Program Overview

Are you interested in learning how to effectively educate and inspire young minds? Do you want to spread what you know about farming? The Farm Institute’s CIT program offers those entering grades 9-12 (ages 14-17) an opportunity to further their understanding of farming while developing important skills working with children in an agricultural education setting.

CITs assist counselors with all camp activities, actively lead games and activities, and create a welcoming atmosphere for all campers. To gain the most from their experience, CITs will complete a guided activity with campers from planning and development to implementation. The activity will be evaluated by the Camp Director who will provide constructive, insightful feedback.

This a volunteer program that fosters a positive experience for campers, counselors, and CITs alike.

More about TFI Farm Camp can be found by clicking here or at www.thetrustees.org/camp. If you have questions, please contact the Camp Director at TFIcamp@thetrustees.org.

Program Logistics

The CIT program is available throughout our camp sessions at The FARM Institute running June 22 – August 21, 2020. CITs must be at least three years older than the campers in session and must be between 14-17 years of age. CITs are required to participate in a minimum of two consecutive camp sessions. Maximum sessions will be determined based on demand. CITs are required to work from 8:30AM to 3:30PM, Monday through Friday. CITs complete a required orientation training.

The following structure was designed to encourage CITs to progress through the program and become camp educators: CITs pay $200/week for their first year, CITs pay nothing their second year, and CITs get paid a weekly $200 stipend their third year, and if under 18 for their fourth year, they will receive a weekly stipend of $225. We take the CIT’s responsibility very seriously and reserve the right to deny an applicant or remove a CIT from the program if they are not behaving up to FARM Institute standards.

Program Objectives

Our goal is to help counselors-in-training grow personally, socially, and professionally. Through being open to all camp experiences and to constructive feedback, CITs will build skills in leadership, agriculture, education, and working with children in an agricultural setting.

CITs will:

• Actively participate in all camp activities, engage campers, and ensure camper safety.
• Learn from camp staff’s direction, communication, and positive coaching.
• Learn accessible and adaptable activities under the guidance of camp counselors.
• Demonstrate the ability to plan and implement an activity with campers
• Participate in an evaluation, assessment, and feedback with peers, supervisors, and self.
• Complete an end-of-training evaluation with lead counselor that includes formal evaluation of an activity conducted with campers.
COUNSELOR IN TRAINING APPLICATION
FARM CAMP AT THE FARM INSTITUTE
The FARM Institute

If you are interested in becoming a CIT in summer 2020, Please complete the application and email it to TFlcamp@thetrustees.org or mail it to Farm Camp, The Farm Institute, PO Box 1868, Edgartown, MA 02539.

Applicant Name: ___________________________________ Birth date: ________________________________

School: __________________________________________ Grade in fall 2020 (9th-12th): ____________________

Parent/Guardian Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Current Street Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________________ State: ________ Zip: __________

Home Phone: _____________________________ Applicant Cell Phone: _____________________________

Applicant Email: ________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Email: _____________________________ _________________________________

Please circle all of the camp sessions you are available to be a CIT - two consecutive weeks minimum:

Week 1: June 22-26           Week 2: June 29-July 3       Week 3: July 6-10
Week 4: July 13-17           Week 5: July 20-24       Week 6: July 27-31
Week 7: August 3-7           Week 8: August 10-14      Week 9: August 17-21

Please circle a specific age group you would like to work with. (We will do our best to match your preference):

• Sprouts: Age 4
• Growers: Age 5-6
• Harvesters: Age 7-9
• No preference
Tell us a little about yourself:

Hobbies, sports, clubs, special interests:

What interests you about farming and/or nature?

Experience:

Have you ever been to camp?  YES  NO  What did you like and/or disliked about your experience?

Have you ever held a job or volunteer position?  YES  NO  If yes, please describe your responsibilities.

Have you ever worked with children?  YES  NO  If yes, please describe your experience and responsibilities.

Please give an example of a challenging group situation and how you handled it.

Expectations:

What do you hope to learn or accomplish as a CIT at camp this summer?

What do you want the children you lead to learn from you this summer?

*Feel free to use more space to answer any of the questions above.*
References:

Please list two references who can speak to your ability to work well with others. They may be coaches, job or volunteer supervisors, teachers, etc. but may not be related to you.

Name 1:__________________________________ Relationship: ________________________________

School/Organization/Business Name:_____________________________________________________

Email:_________________________________________ Phone:______________________________

Name 2:__________________________________ Relationship: ________________________________

School/Organization/Business Name:_____________________________________________________

Email:_________________________________________ Phone:______________________________