

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT) PROGRAM

Branford Parks & Recreation Applicant Information Summer 2026

Our Counselor in Training (CIT) Program is designed to offer qualified young teens an opportunity to volunteer at one of our Summer Camp Programs to prepare them for a future position as a summer camp counselor or even an after school recreation leader. Emphasis is placed upon developing leadership skills, learning to become a role model, and be an impactful individual to younger campers. A hands-on approach of teambuilding, role playing, and self-confidence-building will highlight a summer of fun and personal growth that teens will need to become successful leaders. A high level of maturity is a must for applicants. Successful applicants will be required to attend a short Meet & Greet with Department Staff and attend the Camp Staff Training Day (date TBD but held in late June) to meet their counselors (more details on that TBA).

Eligibility/ Requirements:

- Open to Branford boys and girls between the ages of 14 to 15 years old as of June 1st.
- Applicants must possess a genuine interest with working with children ages 4 to 12 and be sensitive to their needs.
- Applicants must be willing to demonstrate enthusiastic & positive attitude and be willing to learn.
- Participants must commit to at least 4 weeks of camp.
- Participants will volunteer for our Summer Camp Programs (Little Explorers, Summer Playground Adventure, Branford Parks & Recreation Shoreline Theatre Co.) and will earn community Service Hours.
- Complete the attached CIT application and submit to the office via email or in-person. (Incomplete applications will not be considered.)
- Applicants are required to attend a short Meet & Greet with Department Staff and attend the Camp Staff Training day to meet their camp counselors.

SELCTION PROCESS:

Applications will be reviewed by a staff member and applicants will be granted a Meet & Greet in May.

PROGRAM FEES:

The cost to participate in the Counselor in Training Program is \$325. This fee, with an option for a minimum deposit, was applied at the time of registering. All balances are due by May 1st.

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES & LOCATIONS:

Little Explorers:

*Ages 4-5
June 29th - Aug. 7th
Joseph Trapasso Community House
8:30a-1:30p*

Summer Playground Camp:

*Ages 5-12
July 1st - Aug. 7th
Hammer Field, Foote Park,
Veteran's Memorial Park
8:30a-4:00p*

Shoreline Theatre Co:

*Grades 3rd - 9th
June 29th - July 31st
Walsh Intermediate School
8:30a-4:00p*

Short Answer Questions:

Please answer each of the questions below. Please be thorough with your responses the best you can. You may attach additional pages if necessary.

- 1) Tell us why you want to be a Counselor-In-Training and what you feel you will add to this program?

- 2) What are your strengths and challenges?
 - Strengths (at least 2)

 - Challenges (at least 2)

- 3) What does leadership mean to you? Briefly describe a time when you served as a leader.

- 4) Briefly describe a time when you have had to work with a team.

- 5) What camp activities would you like to learn to lead or teach?

- 6) What certificates do you currently hold, if any? List dates completed? (i.e. first aid, CPR, lifeguard, etc.)

7) If you have been a CIT prior, can you share an experience with us that you are proud of and why you would like to come back?

If chosen as a CIT, I will commit to understanding the requirements and responsibilities of being a good CIT. I will commit to attending trainings, attending camp, being respectful to the campers and taking direction from the Counselors who will be training and supervising me. I understand that if I do not meet the standards of a responsible CIT, I will be dismissed from the program.

Applicants' Signature:

Date:

Parent Permission:

By applying to the Counselor-In-Training Program, your child is making a commitment to take part in a service-learning program. This form is to verify that you understand that the CIT program requires your child to attend trainings prior to start of camp and that they will be volunteering for the Branford Parks and Recreation Department Summer Camp Program for a minimum of 4 weeks. You agree to assure that he/she meets all the program and attendance requirements & I will, to the best of my ability, provide support and encouragement to my child to uphold their commitment to the CIT program.

All applications are reviewed in confidence and applicants will be notified of a meet & greet date. I have read and understand the Counselor-In-Training Program requirements, including the fees, attendance and expectations. My son/daughter has my support and permission to participate in the 2026 Counselor-In-Training Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

***PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION IN-PERSON AT OUR OFFICE
(46 CHURCH STREET) OR EMAIL RECREATION@BRANFORD-CT.GOV***