

Fall/Winter 2015-16

Dear Former Camper,

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 9th year of the formal Mentor (formerly CIT) program at Camp St. Charles. As you may be aware, many more campers are interested in the program than we are able to accommodate. It is very important that each applicant complete and return their application package quickly in order to be considered.

I want to make it very clear that our Mentors are still campers. However, we are asking Mentors to assume a different role than most campers.

Each mentor will be assigned to a middle or minor team. The Mentor's role with the team will be to help the counselors at meals, assist any homesick children in the group, encourage participation in all activities and to help make sure that all campers have a great time with us. Mentors can and should encourage positive behavior and are not responsible for correcting unfavorable behaviors. While mentors will be participating in the activities with their teams, mentors will not be in a supervisory role under any circumstances. Mentors will also help out at the dinner meal to serve meals and some cleaning tasks at dinner time.

Please consider all of the expectations of the mentor program carefully before you apply.

- A. Mentors are campers and will pay tuition and complete registration and medical paperwork as other campers would.
- B. Only 16 Mentors will be present for each session.
- C. **Mentors may not register for more than one session (until after May 1st.)**
- D. Mentors will be held to a higher standard of conduct than the average camper. Poor behavior would result in dismissal from the mentor program and camp.
- E. Mentors will not have days off or access to the staff lounge.
- F. Mentors will live in cabins with other campers. Mentors are needed in all cabins and with all teams. Requests will be honored when possible but not guaranteed.
- G. Mentors will meet as a group several times during the session for training, problem solving and planning.
- H. Mentors will receive extra privileges and opportunities at camp. (for example, use of the staff showers)
- I. Mentors will not (generally) be placed on teams or in cabins with siblings. If there are special circumstances, please discuss with the director.
- J. Mentors will receive a mentor shirt upon arrive. They will wear these shirts on the first day and during visiting day, so that they may assist parents and campers during those days. Camp staff will launder the Mentor shirts prior to visiting Sunday.

To apply to the Mentor program, you will need to do the following:

1. Complete all application materials enclosed.
2. Enclose a recent photo with your application.

3. Submit 2 or 3 personal references using the forms enclosed. Each reference form should be in a sealed, signed envelope as indicated on the form.
4. Mail all the application materials and references (in one mailing) to camp by March 1st. Late applications will not be considered. You are encouraged to complete the application before Jan 1.
5. Try to attend the **Mentor meeting to be held on SATURDAY April 9, 2016 at 11am** at camp. The meeting is not required but strongly encouraged.

Once your references and application have been received and reviewed, you will receive a letter indicating your status. **You must also register for camp in order to secure your place in the program.** If you enroll prior to acceptance in the Mentor program, your enrollment will be “pending” the processing of your Mentor application. (enroll online, by mail or by fax)

At the meeting, we will discuss the expectations for Mentors and provide time for questions to be answered. **Attending the meeting is strongly encouraged but not required. A parent/guardian is expected to attend the meeting with each new Mentor candidate.** The meeting general lasts a little over 1 hour and lunch is served.

I look forward to hearing from you. If you or your parents have questions about the Mentor program, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Laura Hall, Camp Director
director@campstcharles.org

(301) 934-8799