



## Camp Thorpe Counselor in Training Program 2019

*Camp Thorpe is a residential summer camp in Goshen, Vermont. Since 1927, Camp Thorpe has had a proud tradition of serving campers from all over New England who come to us with a wide variety of physical and mental challenges. We work with campers over the age of 10, up until they are no longer able to participate in camp. We have had 80-year-olds at summer camp, and their families report that it is their favorite time of the year!*



Camp Thorpe is not a medical facility, but we do have 24-hour, licensed nursing care. We have criteria that each camper needs to meet to attend camp. These criteria include the ability to function in a group in a summer camp setting, and the campers must have manageable physical and mental challenges. Campers cannot display violent or overly aggressive or sexualized behavior, and some serious medical disabilities are above our ability to accommodate. Some campers who wish to come to camp, but who are right on the edge of our acceptance criteria, will often attend with a one-on-one professional to ensure that their medical or behavioral needs are met.



Our staff-to-camper ratio is 1:3, and sometimes it is smaller based on session attendance. Each of our staff members attends a mandatory, 5-day orientation at the beginning of the summer. During this session, staff members receive CPR and basic first aid training and learn how to perform personal care services for campers in a safe and respectful way. We also learn skills to redirect challenging behaviors, games and songs that campers love, and work with returning counselors who provide advice and guidance about what Camp Thorpe means to them.

**The Camp Thorpe Counselor in Training experience began as a new program in 2018. The requirements for the program are:**

1. CIT's should have some experience or interest in working with disabled, elderly, young, or camp populations.
2. CIT's can choose to attend the program for one, two, three or four 2-week session PLUS the mandatory orientation week. It is strongly encouraged that CIT's attend at least two sessions to feel comfortable with practices at camp, get to know both staff and campers, and learn all of the skills necessary to return as a counselor.
3. CIT's must be turning 17 or 18 in the year 2019. Counselors at Camp Thorpe must be 18 and up, and the CIT program allows counselors to become more comfortable with the camp setting before making a summer-long commitment.
4. CIT's must provide at least 2 references, prior to coming to camp, and be willing to have a background check processed if they are 18 years of age or over.
5. CIT's who are under 18 years of age must have their parent or guardian's permission to attend the program.
6. CIT's will need to complete regular workplace paperwork in order to receive their stipend.



**Things you should be aware of as a CIT:**

1. A CIT will never have a cabin group by themselves for an entire day or night; CIT's will be housed in camping cabins with a trained counselor and campers.
2. A CIT, once trained, will be asked to cover breaks for regular counseling staff, or to watch the cabin they are assigned to for a short time after lights out. Other staff will be available for questions, concerns, or emergencies during this time.
3. CIT's will be under the direct supervision of the Assistant Director for Program and Staff and the Assistant Director for Camper Support. Both Assistant Directors will provide additional training, coaching, and counseling to CITs throughout their sessions. This should not be considered remedial or disciplinary, as the CIT role is a learning one.
4. CIT's will be engaged to assist campers in one-on-one activities and programs as needed.
5. CIT's will be asked to participate in evening and special programs.
6. CIT's will be added into the regular break rotation schedule, allowing for 60-90 minutes off per day, 6 hours off on an "off-week", and a Friday-Sunday weekend on a registration weekend if they are remaining at camp.
7. CIT's are required to follow the same rules at camp that staff are required to follow.
8. CIT's are invited to all staff activities and appreciation events.
9. CIT's who successfully complete their program and receive a positive review may be asked to return to Camp Thorpe as an official staff member during the following summer. The goal of our program is to bring back as many enthusiastic, trained, comfortable staff members each year that we can!



## Summer 2019 Dates and Info:

Arrival:	June 17
Orientation:	June 18-22
Session 1:	June 23-July 5 (Sunday-Friday)
Weekend off:	July 5-July 7
Session 2:	July 8-July 19
Weekend off:	July 19-July 21
Session 3:	July 21-August 3
Weekend off:	August 2-August 4
Session 4a:	August 5- August 9
Day Off:	August 10
Session 4b:	August 11- August 16-August 17
Clean Up Day:	August 17
Staff Dinner:	August 17
Leave Camp:	August 18



## **FAQ's:**

### **Can I be a CIT and Commute from home?**

Not really. In order to get the learning experience of being a counselor, you really need to live at camp. You will be in a cabin with 3 campers and one other counselor.

### **Is this a paying job?**

Great question! The answer is yes, sort of! There is a stipend for CIT's at camp. We pay each CIT \$375.00 per session. Payday is the Friday at the end of each camp session, and you can be paid by check or by Direct Deposit. In addition, you can ask your school if you can receive either community service or school credit for our CIT program. Several of our senior staff members are qualified to sign off on curriculum that can be considered as independent study or that would qualify as mandated community service for many schools.

In addition, Camp Thorpe offers you room and board during each of your CIT sessions. We have an amazing summer chef, and he provides 3 meals and two snacks each day, plus we provide nighttime snacks to counselors and pizza when we regroup each Sunday. We have WiFi available during your breaks, although cell phone usage is not permitted while you are with campers.

### **What do I need to bring?**

We have a great list that we provide to everyone who accepts the job. We have twin beds with mattresses, so most people choose sheets, blankets and pillows. We are near Killington, so the weather can get chilly at night, and we recommend dressing for typical Vermont mountain summers- temperamental chance of rain, possible heat, bugs, and some cold nights and mornings.

### **Is this a fun job?**

Yes! We have several people who return year after year. Sometimes young special education teachers come during their summers, often college students return for 4-5 years, and we have nurses who we can't keep away. There is something incredibly special about Camp Thorpe that brings out the best in all of us!



### **I've worked at camps before. Why do I have to be 18, and what is so different about this camp?**

Camp Thorpe LOVES to hire people who have been counselors at other camps. It means you come with catalog of great games, songs, and ideas to share with us! What is different about us is that we work with a wide variety of ages of people who come with all kinds of mental and physical challenges. Most camps work with only children or only adults, and then focus on one or two disabilities.

Camp Thorpe is truly unique in our campers and our staff. Because we provide modified activities, personal care, focused attention, skilled nursing care, and behavior modification, our counselors need to be trained and comfortable in working with our campers in a respectful and appropriate way. This is how we can ensure you will love camp as much as we do!

**Come join us in 2019- we can't wait to show you our camp!**