

# Sokol Children's Camping

## **Counselor Expectations and Responsibilities**

Sokol Children's Camping is run entirely by volunteers. In order to provide the highest level of programming and safety for our Camp, we ask that each potential Counselor or Counselor in Training (CIT) complete an application that will be reviewed and approved for selection before the camping period. If you have an interest in volunteering as a Camp Counselor or CIT, please submit the required forms by the deadline to be considered for selection.

### **COUNSELOR EXPECTATIONS**

- Counselors will be at least 18 years of age, a Sokol Member in good standing, can pass a background check, SafeSport Certification, possess a high school diploma or GED, and have one year of experience supervising and working with children (explain in depth in your application).
  - Preferred by not Required Qualifications: Previous Sokol Camper, counseling or teaching experience, CPR certification, first aid skills, and training
  - Counselors in Training possess the minimum qualifications but lack the year of experience supervising and working with children.
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- ☐ Counselors in Training will work under the supervision of the Camp Director and Counselors. CITs are not to be alone with campers at any time.
  - ☐ Counselors will possess the ability and willingness to plan, prepare and lead activities as assigned
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will be available to assist other staff members in the execution of their activities
  - ☐ Counselors will supervise and mentor all Counselors in Training
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will set an example for campers and fellow staff members and provide an environment free from physical and verbal intimidation. The use of physical force is inadmissible except in extreme circumstances.
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs must be able to communicate with the wide age range and skill levels of all campers
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will be available to be on-site for the duration of the Camping period, beginning at 4:30 PM Sunday, and concluding at 10:30 AM the following Sunday, unless otherwise assigned
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will submit information for a background check through the Family Care Safety Registry
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will be awake and present before morning wake up call each day and will be available through the nightly staff meeting (10:30 PM)
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will be able to supervise and assist camper's daily responsibilities including but not limited to hygiene needs and camp chores
  - ☐ Counselors/CITs will supervise camper behavior and interactions and be aware of any potential safety or disciplinary issues and respond accordingly

- ☐ Counselors/CITs will be knowledgeable about and willing to enforce all Camp Rules and Regulations
- ☐ Counselors/CITs will work cooperatively with other staff members and volunteers
- ☐ Counselors/CITs will assist in the kitchen if Head Cook deems necessary
- ☐ Counselors/CITs will make every effort to attend any pre-camp meetings/calls
- ☐ Counselors/CITs who are related to campers will not give special preference, perks, or attention to their relatives during the camping period.
- ☐ The use of alcohol and drugs is prohibited at any time while Sokol Children's Camping is in session. Use of any kind will result in expulsion from Sokol Children's Camping.

Special Consideration if an Applicant wishes to counsel but does not meet all of the minimum requirements:

A Sokol Member in good standing must recommend the Applicant, Applicant must explain their qualifications in depth and provide any additional information that the Camping Director should consider if they lack any of the above indication requirements. Passing the background check and SafeSport Certification is non-negotiable.

**Please keep this page, complete and submit the following pages by April 10st for consideration. Applications will be reviewed and those accepted will be notified by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Submission of this application does not guarantee a position as a 2024 Counselor or CIT. Depending on the number of volunteers accepted, some part-time positions may be offered. In this event, you would be required to be present for the times assigned to you.**

# Sokol Children's Camping

## Counselor / Counselor in Training Application

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age on July 7, 2024** \_\_\_\_\_

**Residential Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

An average day at Sokol Camp may include any number of the following items as well as some not listed. As a Counselor/Counselor in Training, you will be expected to take part in or supervise camper activities including chores, sports, crafts, swimming, games, meals. If you feel that for any reason you may not be able perform any expectations, please speak to the Camp Director prior to submitting your application.

- Being on your feet all day
- Limited sleep time
- 24 hours / day responsibility
- Scheduled meal / sleep times
- Temperatures in excess of 90 degrees
- Exposure to Nature (bugs / bites, sun, grass / poison ivy, etc)
- Walking up/down the driveway to the gate up to 2 / day
- Limited phone access / minimal personal down time

Are you currently certified in (check all that apply, must be able to provide copy of license if asked)

- First Aid
- CPR
- Lifeguard
- First Responder
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you want to be a Sokol Camp Counselor?

Please list previous camp counseling experience (Sokol and non-Sokol)

Please list any other experience working with children that would be beneficial in a camp setting

Identify any special skills that make you uniquely qualified to be a counselor (play instrument, knowledge of a specific hobby/topic, tree/plant identification, etc.)

What do you think our campers should get out of attending Sokol Camp?

What are two things you would change about Sokol Camp (if you have been previously involved) and what steps would you take to make these changes happen?

Think of yourself in the role of a Camp Counselor/CIT. Identify Four Strengths that will benefit you as a Counselor and 4 areas that Need Improvement.

Strengths \_\_\_\_\_ Weaknesses \_\_\_\_\_

How will the Campers describe you to their parents when they get home from Camp?

All Camp Volunteers must pass a background check with the Family Care Safety Registry.

Scenarios - please read the following situations and answer how you would handle each instance.

A Camper is getting ready for bed and can't find her shampoo. What do you do?

You are with a group of 20 campers for an activity in the back field and notice that you are missing a camper and you did not give them permission to leave the activity. What do you do?

You disagree with how a fellow counselor is handling a situation and feel you could do a better job. How do you proceed?

When supervising upstairs cleanup, you notice that a Camper has a cell phone charging under their cot. What do you do?

How would you handle a child who is repeatedly misbehaving and refusing to follow instructions?

What do you do if you have a homesick camper who wants to go home?

By signing this agreement and pending selection of my application, I acknowledge and accept this volunteer position. I understand and agree that any action on my part that contradicts this agreement or the rules and regulations for the Camp will be grounds for termination of my volunteer position. If I accept this position and become unable to **fulfill** my responsibilities, I will notify the Camp Director immediately.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_