



## **2018 VINS Nature Camps Leader-in-Training Application**

### **ABOUT VINS NATURE CAMP**

VINS Nature Camp operates on a weekly basis for nine weeks in the summer beginning at the end of June and finishing towards the end of August. Our daily hours of operation for camp are approximately 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00am to 3:30pm on Fridays. Our camp offerings are broken into 4 main age groups: “Peeps” (Pre-K-Kindergarten), “Fledglings” (grades 1-3), “Falcons” (grades 4-6), and “Eagles” (grades 6-8). Please visit website at [www.vinsweb.org/nature-camps](http://www.vinsweb.org/nature-camps) for a full listing of camp descriptions by week and the camp schedule.

### **VOLUNTEER LEADERS-in-TRAINING (L-I-T) PROGRAM**

VINS’ Leaders-in-Training program involves teens in our camp program by offering the opportunity to work closely with children, peers, and adults in a fun, recreational setting while providing experiences for participants to develop their leadership skills. Whether or not participants have attended VINS Nature Camp, our L-I-T program offers a fun summer option for teens who love the camp experience or who want to gain experience leading groups in the outdoors. This specialized volunteer program is offered to individuals who are ages 14 (as of June 18, 2018) through 17 and who will be entering or returning to high school in the fall of 2018.

Throughout their summer, L-I-T volunteers will be paired with VINS Nature Camp Instructors who will mentor the L-I-Ts during their week(s) of camp. L-I-T responsibilities are assigned by the VINS Nature Camp Instructors they are working with and may include leading group games, assisting specific campers, or helping to prepare lessons/activities for the week. We believe that the L-I-T program is a valuable learning experience for all and hope that many of our L-I-Ts will eventually return as VINS Nature Camp Instructors.

### **LOCATION & FACILITIES**

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Nature Center is located in Quechee, Vermont. We have other branch locations for our Nature Camps such as: Storrs Pond Recreation Area. Check our website at <http://www.vinsweb.org/nature-camp> for a full listing of our locations and descriptions for our summer camps. L-I-T volunteer options are available at: VINS Nature Center, Quechee, VT and Storrs Pond Recreation Area, Hanover, NH.

### **BASIC REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2018, at least 14 years of age, and younger than 18 years of age can be considered a L-I-T volunteer.

- Must have successfully completed at least one season as an L-I-T volunteer, be entering 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2018, and at least 16 years of age to be considered as an L-I-T volunteer for our overnight camps.
- L-I-T volunteers are required to volunteer for **at least** one full week of camp at one of the specified locations but may volunteer for as many weeks as they are able.
- L-I-Ts must attend a training day (selected dates TBD) regarding general camp policies, safety procedures, and an introduction to leadership skills before their scheduled week to volunteer.
- L-I-Ts will receive official acknowledgement of their volunteer hours at the end of their service.

Please follow these instructions to submit your completed application.

1. Make sure pages 3-5 are completely filled out, including your and a parent/guardian's signatures on the Acknowledgement page. Mail to the address listed below.
2. Have two different trusted adults fill out the reference forms (pages 6-7 & 8-9) and ask them to send it to VINS by May 20, 2018. These references can be teachers, school counselors, previous/current employer, or other community members that know of your work ethic and ability. Please, no family members or close personal friends for this part. *Hint: It is nice to give them a VINS addressed envelope with postage along with the form to make the process easy for them.*

**Please send completed application by May 20, 2018 to:**

Attn: VINS Nature Camp  
Vermont Institute of Natural Science  
PO Box 1281  
Quechee, VT 05059-1281

**For questions or comments, please call or email Lead, Nature Camp:**

802-359-5000 x245      [camps@vinsweb.org](mailto:camps@vinsweb.org)

# VINS Nature Camp LEADER-in-TRAINING (L-I-T) APPLICATION 2018

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering in Fall 2018: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Style: Men's Women's

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle the camp age group(s) you are interested in volunteering with** (*you may circle more than one*):

Peeps (Pre-K & K)      Fledglings (grades 1-3)      Falcons (grades 4-6)      Eagles (grades 6-8)

**Please circle the camp location(s) you are interested in volunteering at:** (*you may circle more than one*):

VINS Nature Center in Quechee, VT      Storrs Pond Recreation Area in Hanover, NH

Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve in Washington, VT (*this is where our overnight camp is held*)

**Please circle the camp week(s) you are available to volunteer:** (*you may circle more than one*):

June 18 – 22

July 9 – 13

July 30 – August 3

June 25 – June 29

July 16 – 20

August 6 – 10

July 2 – 6

July 23 – 27

August 13 – 17

August 20-22

**Please list the any/all dates that you would be available for orientation training:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL BACKGROUND** Please answer the following questions about you and your experiences as completely as possible (Use separate sheets if necessary.):

Why would you like to be a VINS L-I-T volunteer?

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Describe skills and/or past experience that you think will help you be successful as an L-I-T volunteer.

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Please list any hobbies and/or special interests:

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Please list any other extra-curricular activities you are involved in:

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Please list any current certifications you hold such as First Aid or CPR:

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Do you have any limitations, which may affect your ability to perform the job(s) you are applying for? If YES, please explain:

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Are you a previous VINS Camper? YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

If YES, what is your most memorable experience from camp? If NO, what is one of the most memorable experiences you've had in an outdoor setting? Why do you think this memory has stuck with you?

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How do you think an experience as a VINS L-I-T volunteer will help you with your future goals?

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** *Please read and sign*

I am aware that the statements I make on this volunteer application will be completely verified by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). I hereby authorize VINS to contact my references provided. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts called for is cause for immediate dismissal from the L-I-T program. I understand that, if I am accepted into the L-I-T program, I am making a commitment to at least one full week of camp Monday – Friday, during the allotted hours of the camp day.

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

As the parent/guardian for the above signed applicant, I understand the above statements and give my permission for the applicant's participation in the VINS Leaders-In-Training Program.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## VINS Nature Camp LEADER-in-TRAINING (L-I-T) APPLICATION Character and Reference Form

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### For Applicant:

I certify that this reference is someone who knows me in a professional manner, NOT a relative or friend. I authorize the release of information and I waive the right to examine this document once it has been given to the appropriate person of reference.

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

Applicant's Name (*Please Print*): \_\_\_\_\_

### For Person of Reference:

The above applicant is being considered for a volunteer position with VINS Nature Camps, a co-ed summer camp for youth ages 4-13. This position entails working closely with children in a recreational setting. The candidate must be conscientious, compassionate, responsible, nurturing, caring, and hard working. They must be committed to the care, safety, happiness, development, and well-being of our campers. We want to make the best decision possible in hiring our staff and we appreciate your thoughtful and candid comments about the applicant's character and abilities. All information on this form will be kept confidential.

In each category please circle the number which you feel best describes the applicant:

**1= Excellent      2= Good      3= Average      4= Below Average      5= Poor**

Common sense	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Even Tempered	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Patience	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Sense of humor	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Flexibility	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to relate to children	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to manage emotions	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Sense of responsibility	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Energy	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Willingness to work hard	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to work with others	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Adaptability to new situations/people	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Punctuality Initiative/resourcefulness	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Leadership ability	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Ability to work under pressure	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Capacity to work independently	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Acceptance of supervision	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Acceptance of criticism and suggestions	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

**How long, how closely, and in what capacity have you known this applicant?**

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**What are the strengths of this applicant? What areas need improvement?**

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**If the applicant was an employee, would you rehire him/her?**

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**Would you entrust your own child to this applicant's leadership?**

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**Additional Comments:**

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**Overall I \_\_\_\_\_ this applicant is:** *(Please circle one)*

Highly recommend    Recommend    Recommend with reservations    Do not recommended

Reference Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed form to VINS no later than May 20, 2018**

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PO Box 1281  
Quechee, VT 05059-1281

FAX: 802-359-5001    EMAIL: [camps@vinsweb.org](mailto:camps@vinsweb.org)

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**If the applicant was an employee, would you rehire him/her?**

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**Would you entrust your own child to this applicant's leadership?**

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**Additional Comments:**

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**Overall I \_\_\_\_\_ this applicant is:** *(Please circle one)*

Highly recommend    Recommend    Recommend with reservations    Do not recommended

Reference Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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