



2019 VINS Nature Camp Leader-in-Training Application

ABOUT VINS NATURE CAMP

VINS Nature Camp operates on a weekly basis for ten weeks in the summer beginning in June and finishing in August. Our daily hours of operation for our day camps are 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 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, 2019) through 17 and who will be entering or returning to high school in the fall of 2019.

Throughout their summer, L-I-T volunteers will be paired with VINS Nature Camp Instructors who 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.

At the end of the summer, all L-I-Ts will receive official acknowledgement of their volunteer hours.

LOCATION & FACILITIES

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Nature Center is located in Quechee, Vermont. Additionally we run VINS Nature Camp at off-site locations at Storrs Pond Recreation Area in Hanover, NH, ArtisTree Community Arts Center in South Pomfret, VT and overnight camps at VINS’ Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve in Washington, VT. L-I-T volunteer opportunities are available at all of our camp locations.

REQUIREMENTS

- To volunteer for day camps, must be entering 9th grade in the fall of 2019, at least 14 years of age, and younger than 18 years of age.

- To volunteer for overnight camps, must have successfully completed at least one season as an L-I-T volunteer and be at least 16 years of age.
- L-I-T volunteers are required to volunteer for at least one **full** week of camp 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.

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.
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 24, 2019. 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.*

VINS Nature Camp LEADER-in-TRAINING (L-I-T) APPLICATION 2019

TODAY'S DATE: _____

(PLEASE PRINT. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY.)

Name: _____ Grade entering in Fall 2019: _____

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, Quechee, VT ArtisTree Community Arts Center, S. Pomfret, VT
Storrs Pond Recreation Area, Hanover, NH

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

June 17 – 21	July 8 – 12	August 5 – 9
June 24 – June 28	July 16 – 20	August 12 – 16
July 1 – 3	July 22 – 26	August 19 - 21
	July 29 – August 2	

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?

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

Please list any hobbies and/or special interests:

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

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

Do you have any limitations which may affect your ability to perform the volunteer position you are applying for? If YES, please explain:

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?

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

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 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: _____

Please send completed application by May 24, 2019 to:

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

FAX: 802-359-5001 EMAIL: camps@vinsweb.org

For questions, please contact Julie Kozak, Nature Camp Assistant:

jkozak@vinsweb.org

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

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 Camp, 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 accepting L-I-Ts 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	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
Receptiveness to feedback	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

How long and in what capacity have you known this applicant?

What are the strengths of this applicant?

What areas need improvement?

How does this applicant respond to feedback and in what form do they best receive this information (eg. written, verbal)?

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

Additional Comments:

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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