



2020 VINS Nature Camp **Returning Leader-in-Training** **Information & Application**

About VINS Nature Camp

The mission of VINS Nature Camp is to help young people develop the life skills necessary to be a positive force for their community and the environment. By exploring the diversity of nature's living creatures and habitats, VINS Nature Camp nurtures each child's curiosity and helps them to build respectful, caring relationships with themselves, others, and the natural world.

VINS Nature Camp operates weekly camp sessions throughout the summer. Day camps are offered at the VINS Nature Center in Quechee, Vermont as well as at Storrs Pond Recreation Area in Hanover, NH. Additionally, VINS Nature Camp runs two week-long sessions of overnight camp at VINS' Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve in Washington, VT. L-I-T volunteer opportunities are available at all of our camp locations.

VINS Nature Camp serves children ranging from 4-13. Campers are divided into four different age groups: *Peeps* (Pre-K-Kindergarten), *Fledglings* (grades 1-3), *Falcons* (grades 4-6), and *Eagles* (grades 6-8). Visit website at www.vinsweb.org/nature-camps for a full listing of camp descriptions by week and the camp schedule.

Leaders-in-Training (L-I-T) Program

VINS Nature Camp's Leaders-in-Training Program involves teens in our camp community 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 attended VINS Nature Camp as campers, 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.

L-I-Ts work closely with VINS Nature Camp staff who mentor them during their week(s) of volunteering at 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. VINS Nature Camp believes 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.

Upon successful completion, all L-I-Ts will receive official acknowledgement of their volunteer hours at the end of the summer as well as a year-long membership to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science.

L-I-T Requirements

- To volunteer for day camps, applicant must be entering or returning to high school in the fall of 2020, at least 14 years of age (as of June, 2020) and younger than 18 years of age.
- To volunteer for overnight camps, applicant must have successfully completed at least one season as an L-I-T volunteer and be at least 16 years of age (as of June, 2020).
- L-I-T volunteers are required to volunteer for at least **one** week of camp but may volunteer for as many weeks as they are able.
- All L-I-T applications must be submitted by **May 1, 2020**. Late applications will not be considered.
- All returning L-I-Ts must attend a mandatory training on **Saturday, June 6, 2020** from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM to review general VINS Nature Camp policies and procedures and for an introduction to the L-I-T program. Please contact Julie Kozak, Nature Camp Assistant at jkozak@vinsweb.org if you have a conflict with the L-I-T training date.

Application Process

Once you have submitted your application it will be reviewed and VINS Nature Camp staff will contact you to discuss your availability.

Acceptance into the L-I-T Program for another summer will be based on your application, availability and past performance as an L-I-T. We look forward to welcoming you back to VINS Nature Camp.

Application Instructions

- Please print clearly.
- **Application Deadline: May 1, 2020.**
- Make sure pages 3-5 are filled out completely, including your and a parent/guardian's signatures in the Acknowledgement section.
- Send completed application to:
MAIL: VINS Nature Camp
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
PO Box 1281
Quechee, VT 05059
EMAIL: camps@vinsweb.org
FAX: 802-359-5001
- For questions, contact Julie Kozak, Nature Camp Assistant at jkozak@vinsweb.org



VINS Nature Camp

Returning Leader-in-Training (L-I-T)

Application

L-I-T Information

Name: _____ Grade entering in Fall 2020: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Shirt Size: _____ Shirt Style: Men's Women's

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Home phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Interest and Availability

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 Storrs Pond Recreation Area, Hanover, NH

Old Pepper Place Nature Reserve in Washington, VT (must be at least 16 years old)

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

June 17 – 19

July 6 – 10

August 3 – 7

June 22 – June 26

July 13 – 17

August 10 – 14

June 29 – July 3

July 20 – 24

August 17 - 21

July 27 – July 31

Indicate the number of weeks you interested in volunteering: L-I-Ts must commit to at least one full week of volunteering.

Minimum Number: _____

Maximum Number: _____

Note: Given the popularity of our L-I-T Program, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed in all the weeks you are interested in volunteering but will do our best to accommodate your schedule.

Background

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

What is your most memorable experience from your L-I-T experience last summer?

What was the most important lesson you learned about working with children last summer as an L-I-T?

Please explain one thing you learned about yourself last summer while volunteering as an L-I-T?

How did your experience last summer as a VINS L-I-T help you grow as a leader?

What skills would you like to build upon this summer as an L-I-T?

Acknowledgement

Please read and sign.

I am aware that the statements I make on this volunteer application will be reviewed and may be verified by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS). I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts called for is cause for immediate dismissal from the VINS Nature Camp L-I-T Program. I understand that, if I am accepted as a VINS Nature Camp L-I-T, 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 Nature Camp Leaders-In-Training Program.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____