

Camp Kawartha & The Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre

R.R. #4, 1010 Birchview Road

Lakefield, Ontario K0L 2H0

Phone: (705) 652-3860 Fax: (705) 652-1500

Web: www.campkawartha.ca E-mail: info@campkawartha.ca



September 19, 2011

Dear Leadership Applicant and Parents,

With the summer still fresh in our minds, it's hard to believe it's already time to think about 2012! We want to offer you the best possibility of success in applying for our leadership programs (CSD, WCSD, LIT and WLIT) for 2012. This letter is a guide in assisting you with your application. The programs you will be choosing to apply to are the CSD/WCSD programs if you are turning 15-16 years of age in 2012, or the LIT/WLIT programs if you are turning 16-17 years of age in 2012. Included in this package is a leadership application, and a page with frequently asked questions. Leadership Applications are sent out prior to registration packages. Registration packages will follow shortly afterwards. For the remainder of this letter "CSD," implies both CSD and WCSD programs, and "LIT," implies both LIT and WLIT programs. The application deadline for all leadership programs this year is **Monday October 24th**. You may return an application after this date, but may not receive the same priority as application arriving on time. See timeline on the next page for important deadlines. Lastly, we encourage all candidates to fill out all parts of the application in **handwritten** form (as opposed to typing and using a computer).

Second, I want to thank all of you for your interest in our leadership programs and the investment you have made in applying and completing the application. We appreciate the hard work it takes to answer the questions and complete the application.

At Camp Kawartha, leadership is about respecting one's self, others and the environment. It's about working in a positive team setting and helping others. It's about participation, and trying even when it seems too hard. It's about being a positive role model whether you are being watched or not.

As a leadership applicant, you are coming to the final stages of being a camper. CSD & LIT years are often considered the best summers because it's a culmination of everything you've been building up to as a camper. It's a broader experience over a 4-week session with a group of peers and a leadership director. It's a sense of greater responsibility as you take those final steps towards becoming a staff member.

There has always been an application and selection process for CSD & LIT. Campers have to demonstrate that they are prepared to meet the demands of the program through their previous experience, by answering relevant questions and completing a letter to why they would be an asset to the program.

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The CSD applicant

CSD/WCSDs are chosen from the pool of applicants who are turning 15-16 in 2012. All eligible campers are encouraged to apply, and although we have adhered to the growing demand for the program, the number of applications received can exceed bed space. We expect a larger number of applicants this fall. Working thoroughly on your application and getting it in on time will help serve you well during this process.

In reviewing the CSD applications, our process of evaluation and selection is based on 7 things:

1. **Past evaluations** – past Camp Kawartha evaluations from our staff help us determine if the applicant is prepared for the CSD program. More recent evaluations (ie. 2011 evaluations) carry the most weight.
2. **The application** – we read the application and base its merit on the abilities to answer each question and how it ties into the program.
3. **Program completion** – a camper who has successfully completed Sr. Trip followed by Challenge and Adventure may be given priority over others.
4. **Oral evaluation** – staff may be consulted who have worked with the applicant for additional information..
5. **CSD Suitability** – based on the above, has the applicant demonstrated they are prepared to endure the challenges of CSD, will they be a positive influence to the dynamics of the group.
6. **Age** – prioritizing may come down to the age of the participant. With all other things equal, an older camper may be chosen over a younger one.
7. **Years at camp** – this could play a role indirectly as the above 6 are considered, but does not carry much weight if the applicant has proven themselves.

The LIT applicant

LIT/WLITs are usually chosen from the pool of campers who have successfully completed CSD, WCSD, Wilderness Canoe Trip or Challenge & Adventure. Anyone turning 16-17 years old in 2012 is eligible to apply, but 16 year olds are encouraged to apply for CSD if they haven't completed one of the former programs. All successful LITs on completing their programs will be invited back to volunteer for Session N (Nature Camp) at the end of the summer.

Timeline for CSD & LIT Applications

Week of Sept 19	Applications sent out
Monday, Oct 24	Application deadline
*Week of Oct 31	Decisions of CSD & LIT Applications
Friday, Nov 25	Deadline to accept and confirm your spot by submitting Registration & Deposit (or spot goes to those on waiting list)

*All applicants will be called and sent an e-mailed letter during the week of October 31 on their status.

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Those applicants who did not get into the CSD or LIT programs can then apply for regular camp (Wilderness Canoe Tripping and/or Challenge & Adventure on a first-come first-serve basis).

We wish to assist you with the process if you require clarity so feel free to contact the camp with additional questions throughout the process at adam@campkawartha.ca or 705-652-3860.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Adam Strasberg
Summer Camp Director