

To: Camp Counselor Applicants
Fr: Kalan Taylor, 4-H Agent, Sumter County

This year's theme is "Circus"

There are some changes in regards to Camp Cherry Lake this year. The first change is our camp counselor training program. The program will now consist of multiple trainings allowing counselors more opportunities to gain leadership, communication, and life skills. The second change is our camping cluster. This year we will be camping with Marion County, Hernando County and Columbia County. We are excited about these new changes and hope that you will join us this year as a camp counselor!

1. Counselors **MUST** attend all four pre-camp trainings, two of which are overnight trainings.
2. Both overnight trainings are required for **ALL** applicants. Anyone missing a training will not be eligible to serve as a counselor. Applicants can miss no more than 4 hours total of training (based on coming late or leaving early).
3. Those youth age 13 as of Sept. 1, 2016 and those never before serving as a 4-H counselor will be eligible to serve as counselors-in-training only. They are not legally permitted to supervise cabins of youth. *CITs do not attend these training sessions.*
4. Due to the number of expected applicants and lack of proper vehicles, transportation may not be provided this year. However, we will try to coordinate assistance but may need parental help.

All dates are 2017 – you MUST attend ALL sessions, no exceptions:

February 4	Saturday 9am – 5pm	Marion County 4-H Farm
March 24-25	Friday 6:00pm until Saturday 2pm	Camp Cherry Lake
May 20	Saturday 9am – 5pm	Marion County 4-H Farm
June 14-15	Wednesday 6pm until Thursday 2pm	Sumter County Fairgrounds
July 3-7	Camp Week (counselors up July 2)	Camp Cherry Lake

All dates and locations subject to change due to unforeseen conflicts.

**APPLICATIONS AND REFERENCES ARE DUE NO LATER THAN
January 5, 2017 5:00pm**



How the new counselor training works...

1. You complete the application, obtain two (2) letters of reference, and make sure everything gets to the office by **January 5**, 2017 5:00pm.
2. Go over the calendar with your parents/caretakers. If there are major conflicts, decide what you want to do. Legal requirements make it impossible for you to miss a session and still serve as a counselor. Therefore, if you know you cannot do all of them, wait until next year.
3. If you begin training and realize it is not for you or a conflict comes up and you can no longer commit to serving, just let us know immediately. The classes are educational anyway.
4. Each overnight session includes dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and snacks both days.
5. You are permitted to bring electronics but are NOT permitted to use them during training, social time, one hour after bed time, or during meals. In other words, you are here with a great bunch of teens and we want you to stay with us mind and body at all times.
6. These are interactive sessions; **homework is required**; ***hands on learning is guaranteed***; **and you will be expected to try new things.**
7. Not everyone will be selected for the job and that is okay. We will work with you, let you know how you are doing, and give you pointers on how you could improve. No matter what, you will learn, grow, and develop your skills.
8. Trainees include a mixture of genders and ages. We do overnight events and pajamas are not permitted. Sleeping bags and pillows are highly recommended.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the 4-H office!



4-H Overnight Camp Counselor Application

***You are applying for a JOB; this is your job application.** Be sure to complete all sections, be neat and accurate (including spelling) and be complete. Any blanks can result in immediate disqualification.

ALL applicants, regardless of age, will be required to submit two (2) letters of reference. Letters of reference cannot be from a family member or friend. The letters must be received by the application deadline. No exceptions!

1. Personal Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #s: Home: _____ Cell: _____ Parent: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ 4-H Age: _____ Yrs in 4-H: _____

NOTE: 4-H age is the age you are as of Sept. 1, 2016. Youth not yet 14 years of age as of this date are NOT eligible to serve as counselors. Those 13 years of age or not having served as a counselor can register as a Counselor-in-training.

In August **2016**, I will be entering _____ grade in school.

I have been a camper _____ years. I have been a counselor _____ years.

2. Education:

Name of school(s) attended	Grades Completed	Expected Date of Graduation
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What subject(s) do you feel are your strongest and why? _____

What subject(s) do you feel are your weakest and why? _____

3. Employment or Volunteer History:

Please complete this section with the name of any company or person with which you were employed or, if none, a company or person with whom you have volunteered.

Name of Company/Person	Contact Information (ie, phone #)	Job you performed
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4. References:

Provide information for the two people to which you are giving your reference requests. Read the directions to be sure they go to appropriate people.

Name of Person Contact Information (ie, phone #) How do you know him/her

5. Essay Questions:

What will you offer to this company/team and why should we hire you?

Do you have any certifications that may be helpful (lifeguard, first aid, etc.)? _____ If yes, what do you have: _____

What can you bring to the job that may benefit the program? (musical instrument, talent)

What can you contribute to camp that will make it a memorable event for all involved?

▶▶ (use back of form if needed [you are strongly encouraged to fill this up]) ◀◀

6. Authorization and Commitment:

By signing below, I agree to actively participate in all required activities and trainings, complete all tasks assigned or volunteered for and to stay in communication with my team members on our mission to plan and carry out an awesome summer camp program.

Your signature and printed name please

Today's Date

By signing below, I give my child permission to make this commitment and agree to provide transportation as needed, time away from home, and support for the undertaking.

Parent/Guardian signature and printed name please

Today's Date

Contract of Understanding

The University of Florida/IFAS Extension 4-H program believes strongly in the youth/adult partnership and success of experiential learning. The 4-H camping mission is “to help develop life skills in youth through experiential education in a camping environment.” To that end, a camp counselor program has been utilized to offer senior members the ability to learn, develop, and utilize multiple life skills including leadership, self-responsibility, character, stress management, decision making, problem solving, and many more. Ultimately, the counselor is responsible for adhering to the rules, regulations, policies, and best practices presented and referenced at the camp counselor trainings.

We, the faculty of UF/IFAS Extension, do hereby pledge to give camp counselors the tools, resources, education, and support to carry out their duties. We also agree to use our funds to pay registration and camping fees for all “hired” counselors. When possible, t-shirts and canteen purchases will be paid for by our funds. In exchange, counselors agree to all of the following:

- 1) Abide by and adhere to all rules, regulations, codes of conduct, and policies of UF/IFAS Extension
- 2) Use Best Management Practices at all times
- 3) Remain ‘on duty’ for the entire duration of the scheduled camp
- 4) To pay back all registration, camping, t-shirt, and canteen fees to the organization in the event I either
a) choose to leave before the end of camp or b) am required to leave before the end of camp due to a violation of rules, regulations, or policy.
- 5) To provide a safe, fun, fair, and educational experience to all campers without discrimination

By signing below, I as counselor and my legal parent/guardian, do hereby agree to all the above:

Printed name of counselor

Printed name of guardian

Signature of counselor

Signature of guardian

DATE

DATE



Florida 4-H Code of Conduct for Youth and Adults

As a participant in 4-H at the local, state, or national level, I have the responsibility of representing the UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program to the public. Therefore, I am expected to conduct myself in a manner that will bring honor to me, my family, my community, and 4-H. To do that, I must abide by the following rules:

(1) Obey local, state, and federal laws. Follow county, district, state and/or national 4-H policies. Abide by any special rules for a 4-H event or activity.

(2) Speak and act in a responsible, courteous, and respectful way. Harassment, threats or bullying of any type is prohibited.

(3) Act responsibly to maintain a safe environment for all participants. Acting in a manner that could endanger the health, safety or welfare of yourself or others is prohibited. Report threats to the well-being of any participant immediately to the adult in charge.

(4) Possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs is prohibited. Possession or use of approved medications by youth during a 4-H function must be reported to the adult in charge and must not be accessible to other participants.

(5) Possession or use of weapons or other dangerous objects is prohibited, except when required as part of an approved educational program. Weapons are defined to include, but are not limited to, guns, knives and incendiary or explosive devices of any kind.

(6) Respect all property, facilities, equipment, and vehicles. I will be responsible for any damage or other consequences resulting from my behavior.

(7) Participate fully in 4-H functions. Be in the assigned program areas (example—dorms, cabins, programs, etc.) on time. If I am unable to attend or participate, I will tell the adult in charge. Help others have a pleasant experience by making every attempt to include all participants in activities.

(8) Dress appropriately for each 4-H function.

(9) Use of any mobile electronic device during a scheduled 4-H activity is prohibited unless activity-specific rules otherwise allow. When permitted, they should be used only in a manner that is consistent with the approved activity and not discourteous or disruptive.

(10) The belongings of youth participants, including but not limited to bags, purses, computers, other electronic devices, lockers and vehicles, are subject to search and seizure by 4-H faculty/staff, and in some instances a volunteer designee, upon reasonable suspicion that a prohibited and/or illegally possessed substance or object is contained within that area. (If an adult is suspected, this will be handled by law enforcement.)

Counselor Signature

Guardian of Applicant Signature

Date

Date

Counselor Dress Code

In an effort to be positive role models and good example setters, a camp counselor should first monitor choices regarding daily appearance. While none of us will pass judgment on you, the “image” you provide can send many messages to young minds. Remember, your campers may idealize you, envy you, or want to be just like you by the end of camp. When they go home, will their parents be happy with what they see????

No Bikinis or Speedos

Bathing suits are to worn at the water front only

No bare chests or bellies outside the swimming hole

Mid-thigh shorts (no rolling up or down)

No underwear showing - including bra straps

Shirts should be down to your pants/shorts (no bellies)

No “inappropriate” themes or words (the safest thing to wear are plain t-shirts or 4-H shirts; any representative shirt/symbol can become a distraction, a controversy, or a conflict.)

Clothes need to be in good repair and appearance

Safe shoes, water shoes, wearing shoes

Put your smile on every morning and leave it there through the day

Your Name Tag should be on at all times outside of the cabin

Do not get pierced or tattooed between now and camp

Thank you for your cooperation,
Dr. Cindy, Ms. Nancy, Ms. Ashley, & Ms. Kalan

