# Camp Tapawingo

## Counselor in Training Application 2026

Dear prospective Counselor in Training,

We are all looking forward to another fantastic summer at Camp Tapawingo and are excited that you are interested in joining us to develop your leadership skills, have fun, and take on the responsibility of becoming a CIT I or CIT II. Many Tapawingo alumni say their CIT summers were the most fun and impactful of their life, and that they made life-long friends at the CIT sessions. We believe you'll find it to be similarly impactful and can't wait to see what you bring to the table.

Additionally, being a Counselor in Training requires working closely with peers, campers, and staff who vary in age, race, culture, values, nationality, and backgrounds in order to make the camp experience a positive and memorable one for all campers. CITs serve as role models for younger campers and are leaders at camp. Being a Counselor in Training requires a serious and strong commitment to Girl Scout values and an appreciation for every member of the camp community. For this reason, we require an application for all CITs.

Any teen wishing to become a Counselor in Training at Camp Tapawingo must submit the following:

- Completed application
- Camp activity lesson plan (A suggested outline is on page 5)
- One letter of reference from a **non-family** member

In addition, CIT II's will complete a Zoom interview with the Camp Director. After the application is received an email will be sent with a link to schedule a zoom interview.

All application materials must be sent together and should be sent to the following address:

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois
c/o Sarah Roberts
1103 W Lake Ave
Peoria, Illinois 61614

OR

Send via email to sroberts@girlscouts-gsci.org

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. However, spots fill up quickly try to get your applications in soon. CIT I's (those entering grades 9-10) must attend both weeks of the two-week session (June 21-26 and July 5-10). CIT IIs (those entering grades 11-12) must attend training week (June 14-19). Exceptions are taken on a case-by-case basis and typically are given only if you have attended the same level of CIT the previous summer. You will also choose apprenticeship weeks. Spots for CIT II apprenticeship weeks fill quickly—get your application in early for the best chance to get your preferred apprenticeship week.

We can't wait to see what this summer has in store! Thank you for your interest and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Sarah "Freckles" Roberts, Manager of Outdoor Experiences

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**Please ensure proper spelling and type or print CLEARLY!**

_____

Full name

_____

Applicant's Email address *(**Acceptance letters will be emailed, so please double-check for accuracy.**)*

_____

Parent/Guardian's Email address *(**Acceptance letters will be emailed, so please double-check for accuracy.**)*

_____

Grade entering in fall 2026 Troop Number/ Individual Girl Scout

Number of camp sessions* you've attended with GSCI: _____

*(*Sessions typically offered are ½ or full week camps)*

What are your main reasons for wanting to participate in the CIT program at Camp Tapawingo?

What are you hoping to learn or gain from this experience?

**Session you are applying for:**

☐ **Counselor in Training I-** grades 9-10 at Camp Tapawingo
**Sunday, June 21 - Friday, June 26 and Sunday, July 5 - Friday, July 10**

☐ **Counselor in Training II**- grades 11-12 at Camp Tapawingo
Training Week: **Sunday, June 14– Friday June 19, 2026**

Please **RANK** your choice of apprenticeship weeks 1-5, with 1 being most desired and 5 being the least desired. We guarantee TWO apprenticeship weeks for all accepted applicants and will assign others as space permits.

☐ **Sunday, June 21-Friday, June 26**

☐ **Sunday, June 28-Tuesday, June 30 (Mini-Overnight Camp)**

☐ **Sunday, July 5- Friday, July 10**

☐ **Sunday, July 12- Friday, July 17**

☐ **Sunday July 19- Friday July 24**

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**Applicant Questions:** (Include a separate piece of paper if more room is needed)

Tell us about an experience at camp that was particularly memorable to you and why?

What qualities or skills do you have that would make you a good CIT?

Please list any previous experiences you have had working with children and what you like most about working with them?

What would you do if a camper refused to do an activity with the rest of the group?

**Skill Areas** Number areas in which you have: 1. Interest 2. Experience 3. Ability to assist teaching

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| _____nature hikes/games | _____astronomy | _____backpacking | _____badge work |
| _____canoeing | _____swimming | _____archery | _____shelter building |
| _____team building | _____primitive camping | _____orienteering | _____leading songs |
| _____night activities | _____outdoor cooking | _____horseback riding | _____fire building |
| _____arts & crafts | _____leading games | _____high/low ropes courses | |

**References:** Ask an induvial (not a family member) who has knowledge of your character and abilities to write a letter of recommendation. Include the letter in the email with your application, and camp activity lesson plan.

**Camp Lesson Plan:** ***Attach a camp activity lesson plan*** that you feel would be appropriate at camp and would best show who you are and the impact you want to have on campers. Include all possible details in the lesson plan so anyone could lead it. Note: if accepted as a CIT, your activity may be presented to campers.
Please reference the suggested outline for the lesson plan of a camp activity on page 5 of the application, to ensure you have all necessary information.

Why did you pick this activity? What impact are you leaving?

**CIT II applicants**
CIT IIs please pick a focus area in which to develop your skills, such as horseback riding, aquatics, survival skills, or arts. This will help us while placing you with a group during your apprentice weeks. CIT IIs must have prior experience in the area and be able to teach without assistance. What area would you like to focus on? What prior skills, training, or experience do you have in that area?

By signing this, I agree that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I also understand that a letter of recommendation and a lesson plan of a camp activity must be received by the Camp Director via email (sroberts@girlscouts-gsci.org) or by mail for my registration/application to be considered. CIT II's must also complete a Zoom interview with the Camp Director.

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

**Suggested Camp Activity Outline**

# [Name of Activity]

[Insert picture of activity if possible]

**Activity Objective:** [This is where you will explain what the activity aims to do]

**Age of Participant:** [include the age the activity is for]

**Materials Needed:**

- [List ALL materials needed for the activity]
-
-
-
-
-

**Instructions:** [Write very detailed step by step instructions for facilitator (person leading activity)]

**Step 1:**

**Step 2:**

**Step 3:**

**Step 4:**

**Step 5:**

**Facilitator Notes:**

[Leave any notes you think would be necessary for someone to effectively lead this activity that are not already listed in the step by step instructions. These could include questions to ask in a group debrief after the activity or notes on what needs to be done to set up the activity.]