

LYFE Camp 2019 Leader-In-Training Application



February 20, 2019

Greetings, friends, in the name of the living Christ!

Thank you for applying to be a Leader-In-Training (LIT) at LYFE Camp 2019 (the dates are June 23-29 at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, MN; LITs arrive June 22). LYFE Camp is a powerful way for teens to grow in their love and trust of God and LITs serve Jesus and make a positive impact on campers' lives. And here's one of the best parts: **You can be a part of this!**

I'm Rev. Nate Melcher, the Dean of LYFE Camp, and I'm proud of you for discerning how God may be calling you to be a leader at camp this year. You are in my prayers in your application process and I hope you'll contact me whenever you need clarification, support, or help in this time. In the meantime, please set yourself up for success and give this letter your full attention. Here we go!

The Mission of LYFE Camp:

Our mission at LYFE Camp is to equip and empower teens to **Live Your Faith Everywhere!** Camp Minnesota's mission is to provide a quality camp experience in which Christ is offered to every camper to raise up faithful disciples so that the world is transformed. **Our goal** is to help all campers feel safe, secure, and loved, and to share and learn about Christ and creation. **Our winning proposition** is to build connections with Christ, Community, and Creation. **This is why we do what we do.** If you've been to LYFE Camp or another camp before, think about the ways you saw this or a similar mission lived out. Think about how you can live out this mission to give campers the best experience possible. Please keep this in your mind and heart as you step into your application process. **You can help LYFE Camp fulfill this mission by serving as an LIT.**

Preparing Your Servant Heart:

Now, before you read further, pray for God to give you guidance in your process. How is God calling you to be open, to be mindful, to be all you can be? At its core, LYFE Camp is a time and place to help campers see Jesus in their everyday lives back home and equip them to partner with Jesus to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Is your heart ready to help campers do that? Do you know why you're applying to be an LIT? Make sure your heart's intentions are aligned with the LYFE Camp mission before you write one sentence of your application!



LIT Job Description, Expectations, and Responsibilities:

Leaders-In-Training put campers first by serving them with leadership, friendliness, and a flexible, can-do spirit. Carry on loved traditions and make new ones! Experience the expansive love of Jesus in this diverse camp community. Explore who God created you to be in small groups and worship, let your identity as a beloved child of God shine. Feel the Spirit in games, crafts, sports, campfire, and Quest. Share and love of Christ with your friends in song, support, and lots of laughter. Lead worship, help campers feel welcome, and share the love of Christ with everyone. Serving as a LIT is one of the most rewarding leadership roles you may have in your senior high years. **Like all leadership roles, there are high expectations and high rewards.** Please prayerfully consider and how you can, with God's help, be responsible to:

1. Help **ALL** campers feel welcome and accepted for who they are at all times;
2. Be a Christian role model to campers (grades 7-10) **AT** and **AWAY** from camp all year-round;
3. Be an active leader and team player in camp activities (crafts, campfire, small group, worship, etc.);
4. Attend and participate in all pre-camp LIT training and planning sessions;
5. Be ready and willing to step up and serve where and when needed.

It all boils down to one word: **mindfulness**. You are being called to be mindful of the people around you, the person who you want to be, your fellow teammates, and to how the Spirit is working through you. There are high expectations of LITs, including but not limited to expectations that you will:

- Create an environment where all campers feel safe, welcomed, and accepted at all times.
- Be okay asking for help (referral) and be glad to be helpful (resource).
- Supervise and interact with campers appropriately.
- Be a positive role model at and away from camp.
- Conduct oneself appropriately throughout camp.
- Abide by, respect, and encourage the rules of LYFE Camp, Northern Pines, and Camp Minnesota.
- Participate in staff meetings, 1:1 meetings, Prayer Partners, and all camp events.
- Participate in rotating responsibilities for worship, crafts, snacks, meal grace, Faith Minute, etc.
- Create Camper Awards for campers in your cabin for Saturday morning.
- Support your fellow LITs, respect the Senior Staff, and work together with the Northern Pines Site Staff.
- Hold each other accountable and be held accountable.
- Other duties, responsibilities, and guidelines as-assigned. This is where **flexibility** enters the picture! Serving God beyond our comfort zone is sometimes called "**the high cost of discipleship**," and we believe in you!

How LIT Candidates Are Evaluated:

Candidates are selected based on:

1. the fullness of the content of their application submitted on time;
2. the content of their references' testimony to their character and leadership;
3. their past contributions to LYFE Camp (for those who have been attended before);
4. their perceived potential for this year's camp in an ensemble leadership setting;
5. and their year-round involvement as leaders in faith-based group settings and ministry outside of camp (remember: God calls us to "Live Your Faith Everyday" and definitely *not* just as camp).

How to Apply:

The first thing you need to know is **your application will take time**. If you wait until the last minute, you will have a really challenging time doing a good job. You will be stressed. You may miss the deadline. Truly, give yourself one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself: the time to fully complete your application. Here are your steps:

1. Register for "L.Y.F.E. Camp: Leader in Training (LIT) Camp #276 at campminnesota.org. When you register, you and/or your parent/guardian will login or set up a CampWise account, make a down payment toward camp, enter your health information, etc. Can you see already how you need time on your side? Don't delay – start early!
2. Once registered, go to your CampWise account dashboard and look under **Forms**. There, you'll see a link to "**Open LYFE Camp LIT Application.**" Open it and fill it out. Lucky you, there is a big **SAVE** button at the bottom of each page of the application so you can work on it, save it, and come back to it later without losing any of your work!
3. Fill out the application **completely**, submit it, and voila, it's done! It's automatically sent in when complete. No late-night emailing, no saving attachments, no page numbering. It's all set. Great, huh?
Bonus Tip #1: *It is a professional courtesy to ask your references BEFORE you list them, thank you!*
Bonus Tip #2: *Every applicant is TRULY encouraged to apply for AT LEAST ONE **Calling!***

All Applications Must...

Late applications NOT be considered. Please submit your application **by 11:59pm on Thursday, March 21, 2019**. Your app will have an auto time stamp on it when submitted. All fields are required except for "Callings." You're encouraged to work with your parent/guardian to register in the system early, be self-motivated, use good time management, put in the needed work, pray, and ask for help. It's not something one can easily do in one sitting or at the last-minute; **please demonstrate you can set yourself up for success and plan ahead.**

After the Application Window:

Here's the timeline:

1. A dedicated crew of Senior Staff will promptly review your application and contact your references.
2. You will be informed of your status by April 1, 2019.
3. If you are affirmed to serve as an LIT, please promptly pay the remainder of your balance. If you are not affirmed to serve as an LIT, you will be issued a refund on your down payment. Candidates who are affirmed as an LIT in the application process and who become disqualified prior to camp (not completing training by the deadline, inappropriate choices unfitting of the role, etc.), refunds will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
4. LITs will complete training by June 9, then it's time for staff to leave for camp on June 22!

Training will happen in three ways this year:

1. **Online Training.** LITs are given a link to a series of video-based training materials with quizzes to be sure you understand the material. All Online Training must be completed by June 9 to be eligible to be staff.
2. **Staff Gatherings.** There are two gatherings this year for as many of the LIT and SL staff as possible. The first gathering is May 10-11 for a **Staff Training Overnight**. The second gathering is June 15, our traditional **All-Staff Pot Luck Gathering** one week before camp. Get both dates on your calendar!
3. **Callings Team.** "Callings" is a new track at LYFE Camp for LITs who want to build specific skills and gifts. All applicants are encouraged to apply for one or more Callings. If selected for a Callings Team, you will be expected to work with your team to find common dates to train together this spring. Some have to be in-person while the others may be a blend of in-person and online.

Callings

LIT applicants can apply for one or more of three specific roles, or Callings: Music Leader, Preacher, and Worship Designer. We need "all hands on deck" for all LIT responsibilities, and these are three areas that require a little extra commitment, especially before camp, to help build a quality, meaningful worship experience. You don't have to be the loudest, most charismatic person in the room to be in an "upfront" leadership role like Preaching. You don't have to be the world's greatest writer to be a Worship Designer. And you don't have to be Ed Sheeran to play guitar in the Worship Band. **You just have to have an eager heart. We will train you!**

1. **Calling: Music Leader (5-7 LITs)** – Music is a major part of camp and all who have a gift for song are called. Using a mix of old favorites and new songs, the Worship Band is one of the backbone leadership roles of camp. We need eager musicians and bold singers to lead our worshipping body. Music Leaders in the Worship Band will gather together for two extended rehearsals before camp so we know songs really well. If you sing or play, even a little, and want to be part of this team, please dive in! **To Apply:** Write about what instrument(s) you play and are able to bring to camp, what band experienced you have, and your favorite camp songs.



2. **Calling: Preacher (5-7 LITs)** – It's a privilege to share about the love of God through a sermon during evening worship. Creating a mixture of scripture exploration, modern-day illustrations, and dynamic delivery truly that touches the hearts of the worshipping body can be an amazing experience. Preachers will gather as a small group 2-3 times this spring before camp to work on sermons together. This way, we have a dedicated team focused on exploring the theme, cheering each other on, and working hard to get sermons written before arriving at camp. If you've ever wanted to try your hand at preaching, please give it a shot! **To Apply:** Write a brief sample sermon exploring **Matthew 14:22-33**. Your sermon should talk about what you believe Jesus is trying to teach his disciples, how it's similar to a modern-day example(s), what we can do to learn this lesson, and be sure to bring people to a place of hope in Jesus by the end!

3. **Calling: Worship Designer (6-10 LITs)** – Each year, our theme guides our small group discussion, worship, and overall vibe of camp. This year, a Worship Design Team will craft worship built around the theme. This is a group who will write prayers and liturgy, come up with discussion topics and activities, and link worship services together. **To Apply:** Write a sample prayer about seeking God's love in the midst of struggle, write three sample faith-based discussion questions based on this theme: **Bravery**.

"The Fine Print." The Important Not-To-Be-Skipped-Over Fine Print:

Candidates may be asked for additional interviews, writing, or references. Some candidates may be asked to undergo additional training. Due to staff-to-camper ratio needs, space limitations, and other factors, we must be discerning in staff selection. It's possible not all candidates will be selected to serve as LITs in 2019. Juniors and seniors only attend LYFE Camp in the LIT role. The Dean reserves the right to refuse any applicant or terminate an LIT for any reason at any time. Please send questions and comments about the application process directly to the Dean. Scholarship money is available from your loved ones, your local church, and Camp Minnesota (please apply for scholarships in that order). *Please don't let funding deter you from applying for a LIT position.* This application is subject to change and updates will be promptly posted at lyfecamp.org and the [Friends of LYFE Camp Facebook Page](#).

Thank you so much for applying to be a LIT. In the LYFE Camp ministry, LITs play a vital role and you wouldn't be applying if you didn't understand this. We hope to hear from you and we hope you find the process helpful in better understanding both yourself and how you might serve God as a LIT.

In Christ,

Rev. Nate Melcher, Dean of LYFE Camp 2019
612.986.4457 cell | nate.melcher@gmail.com