

Consent to Participate in a Program Evaluation

As described in the email you received, your child is being asked to take part in an evaluation of their counselor-in-training (CIT) experience. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the evaluation is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you want your child to volunteer to take part in this evaluation.

The purpose of the evaluation is to learn more about peoples' CIT experiences to help the American Camp Association improve summer camp training programs (CIT programs). We want to know how people feel about their CIT programs and if they think they will return to camp as a CIT or staff member in the future. We want your child to be in this evaluation because they are going to be a trainee at a camp this summer.

This evaluation is being conducted by Dr. Lisa Meerts-Brandsma at the University of Utah on behalf of the American Camp Association. The anticipated time for your child's participation in this program evaluation is approximately 10 to 15 minutes. When your child completes their CIT training, they will be provided a survey asking them questions about their experience as a CIT. However, you or your child can opt out of participation at any time.

If you agree for your child to participate, there is no further action required. When they are provided the survey, they will have the opportunity to review and sign an assent form. If they choose to assent, they will complete the survey, which will take up to 15 minutes. Your child will be asked to provide their name if they are willing to let the evaluation team know whether they return to camp the following summer. Their name will be removed from publications and will not be associated directly with their answers. In other words, camp will not be informed of specific answers that your child provided about their time at camp.

If you do not wish for your child to participate, please email your summer camp contact within one week of receipt of this email. Please include your child's name, the camp they are attending as a CIT, and that you do not wish for your child to participate. There will be no repercussions for your decision to opt your child out of the evaluation.

The risks of participating in this evaluation are minimal. Your child may feel upset thinking about or talking about personal information related to camp. These risks are similar to those that people experience when discussing personal information with others. If your child feels upset from this experience, they can tell the evaluator, and the evaluator will tell your child about resources available to help. Another risk is the potential loss of confidentiality.

There are no direct benefits for taking part in this evaluation. Some people like being able to process their experience in the survey. We hope the information we get from this evaluation may help camps develop more inclusive and impactful counselor-in-training programs.

If you have questions, complaints or concerns about this evaluation, you can contact Dr. Lisa Meerts-Brandsma at lisa.meerts@utah.edu or 801-585-7560.

Program evaluations include only people who choose to take part. You can tell us that you don't want your child to be in this evaluation. Your child can start the evaluation and then choose to stop the evaluation later. This decision will not affect you or your child's relationship with the evaluation team in any way.

If your camp contact does not receive an email from you opting your child out of the evaluation within one week of your receipt of this email, your consent for their participation will be assumed, and your child will be provided the evaluation survey at the conclusion of their training.