

March 3, 2023

Dear August 2023 CITs,

Congratulations on being a counselor in training for August 2023! You were chosen because you have shown skills which indicate that you have what it takes to become a counselor at Camp Ponacka. Being a CIT is a difficult, yet fun endeavour. Many staff will tell you that their favourite summer at camp was their CIT year. This summer, you will learn lots about leadership, communication and teamwork among other things. These skills are not only useful as a counselor, but are useful in a lot of real life situations.

You may be nervous about your new role for this summer. This is an understandable feeling. We are not looking for you to be an excellent counselor as soon as you enter camp as a CIT. We are looking for you to be enthusiastic, take initiative, and be willing to adapt when faced with constructive criticism, all with the goal of becoming the best counselor you can be. Don't be afraid to ask questions, or say "I don't know." Any staff member should be happy to answer your questions or give you feedback on how you've been doing. Through this process, we hope you gain appreciation for the different responsibilities of a staff member, whilst gaining experience as an authority figure in a constructive environment.

Finally, I would like to note that there is no "model" for a good Ponacka counselor. Drawing inspiration from past counselors is a good idea, but you should try to be the best version of yourself. To reiterate, **you were chosen because you have shown skills which indicate that you have what it takes to become a counselor**, not because your skills resemble a previous counselor's skills.

As your first CIT challenge, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, due before May 1.

1. Who was your favourite counselor from when you were a camper? Why?
2. What is something you're excited about for this summer? Something you're nervous about? Why?
3. What is a goal you'd like to achieve this summer?
4. Why do you want to come back as a counselor?
5. What do you expect of me as your CIT director? How can I help you have the best summer possible? (I have no control over CIT shirt colours, so not that)

There is no need to worry about word counts here, just answer the questions until you're satisfied with your answer. There is no right or wrong answer. You can send your responses to me (malcolmsal02@gmail.com), bockingleaura@gmail.com and info@ponacka.com.

I look forward to seeing all of you on July 31st at 4pm! It's going to be a fun month.

Best Regards,

Malcolm Salamon