

Leaders in Training / campers in transition



For any child, turning 16 years old is a rite of passage with many privileges and responsibilities. At Camp Boggy Creek it is also a little bittersweet for campers as they cope with the knowledge that they have reached the maximum age to attend summer camp and family retreat programs. For many, though, a new adventure is about to begin. Since 1999, more than 200 campers have returned to their "Home Away From Home" to participate in Camp Boggy Creek's Leaders in Training / campers in transition (LIT/cit) program.

Each year, approximately 20 campers, ages 17 and 18, return to Boggy Creek for a summer session or family retreat to renew friendships and learn leadership skills that will help them transition from camper to leader. The LIT/cit program is an experience that gives participants a new perspective on the camper-staff relationship and teaches lifelong lessons. While the training is implemented during select summer camp sessions, the campers learn quickly that their time in the LIT/cit program is not quite the same as when they were "just a camper."

This summer Boggy Creek welcomed 19 campers for the LIT/cit program from seven different illness groups. For each, it was an honor to participate in the program and to have the opportunity to give back to the Camp that gave so much to them. Each LIT/cit learns the skills necessary to be a leader as well as how to become a mentor to other campers. They are taught how leadership is a relationship and that caring is at the heart of leadership. These important lessons are invaluable not only for life experiences, but also for learning about themselves and their potential.

For many of the LIT/cit's, the transition from camper to counselor can be challenging. LIT/cit Jacob shares, "I hope that I can give the campers what I got when I was at camp, that feeling of knowing I was not alone." For LIT/cit Mark, the week is more personal, "I have many friends who are still campers during this week (cancer session) and sometimes it can be difficult to separate being a camper from being an LIT/cit."

Camp Boggy Creek has welcomed more than 120 LIT/cit program graduates as a volunteer and/or summer staff member since 1999. Many graduates have also chosen to further their education in the healthcare profession so that one day they will help other children just like them. "I was amazed at how much the campers touched my life – it was incredible!" states LIT/cit Logan.

You can help support our future leaders by sponsoring an LIT/cit today. Participants are never charged fees, but the cost to train an LIT/cit is \$2,500 per camper. Please consider sponsoring an LIT/cit for the week or for a day and know that your gift will help teach our leaders of tomorrow today. [Click here](#) to make a lasting investment in the life of a seriously ill child. LIT/cit Charlette shares, "As a camper, I looked up to my counselors and now I can learn how to become just like them. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!"