

February 2009

Dear SIT Applicant,

Thanks for your interest in becoming a Staff-in-Training (SIT) at Mountain Meadow Summer Camp! As you probably know, Mountain Meadow is a camp for youth with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other non-conventional families. If you feel you are ready to learn new leadership skills and feel confident that you can take on a new level of responsibility at camp, we encourage you to apply for this program. Enclosed you will find a description of the SIT program, a SIT application, and a reference letterform. The SIT Program at Mountain Meadow is for youth ages 16. This year's summer camp program will take place from Sunday August 9th to Saturday, August 22nd, 2009.

Before being accepted into the program as an SIT, each applicant will be interviewed by at least one staff member, either over the phone or in person. In addition, **if you have not been to Mountain Meadow before we require at least one letter of reference to be completed by an adult who is not in your family**. Please use the enclosed form and have the person you choose send it directly to the MM office (instructions are included with the form).

Send applications to: **Mountain Meadow Summer Camp**
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY JUNE 30, 2009. Spaces are filled as applications are received, so please get your application in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the MM office at (215) 772-1107 or inquiries@mountainmeadow.org.

Sincerely,

Steve Duffy
Executive Director

MOUNTAIN MEADOW SUMMER CAMP CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF-IN-TRAINING 2009

The SIT program is designed to prepare 16-year-old campers to advance to Junior Staff positions in 2010 and become camp staff from 2011 and beyond. This program provides hands-on learning about the organizational structure of Mountain Meadow camp, the program goals of the camp, what different jobs at camp look like and how they are carried out by the actual team of staff selected for camp 2009. The SIT Program helps you gain the real-life knowledge and experience that can help you understand the many different roles at camp, and which of those roles seem best suited for you and your interest/skills. If you want to become a camp counselor or an Art Director or ultimately a Unit Leader, the SIT Program gives you a chance to observe people in these roles and lets you experience how each position at camp is an essential part of a unique community that we call Mountain Meadow.

Up to six positions are available in the SIT tent circles and, depending on how many apply for the program, additional slots may open - one SIT in the kitchen, at the waterfront, and in the art shack. Tent circle SITs receive assignments in pairs to the younger-aged tent circles. During times when tent circle SITs are with their tent groups or leading activities, SITs in the other positions are learning things about other areas in camp. From the first day of camp SITs are expected to act as leaders and role models for the camp community. All SITs participate in daily leadership and counselor training sessions which include learning how to lead group discussions, run group activities, understand the needs of campers at different ages, resolve conflicts between campers, build campfires, and much more. This knowledge is put to use through work in their assigned areas of camp. In addition, SITs work together to plan several all-camp activities (such as Kids' meetings, the camp dance, and the cleanest tent circle contest), and assist with leading a DYOT (Do Your Own Thing) activity during the second week. Another important contribution the SITs make to camp is leading guided tours that Mountain Meadow offers to potential new youth and families, to individual donors, the media, and or foundations – who help provide the funding that makes camp happen each year. In this role, you are the representatives of the camp – answering questions, describing tent circles, programs and activities and explaining why Mountain Meadow is so important to you and the other youth you meet at camp.

Below is a complete job description. Read it carefully to make sure the description matches your interests in growing with Mountain Meadow.

Staff-In-Training Job Description

Requirements:

- 1) Must be 16 years of age.
- 2) Must complete an application, be interviewed and accepted into the program.

Qualifications:

- 1) Former camp experience, either with Mountain Meadow or another camp.
- 2) Should believe in the mission of Mountain Meadow.
- 3) Ready to learn how camp staff functions

General Responsibilities:

- 1) Act as a leader and role model for younger campers, including teen campers.
- 2) Attend and actively participate in all SIT trainings.
- 3) Follow all camper policies outlined in the policy manual.

Specific Responsibilities:

- 1) Attend specific SIT trainings for one DYOT per day; attend other DYOT as a camper.
- 2) Assist in tent circle at bedtime, rest hour, and tent time.
- 3) Rotate duties (meal serving/runners/clean-up/trash, etc)
- 4) Meals and chores with SITs
- 5) Assist with a DYOT during second week
- 6) Plan and lead a tent time activity during the second week

Compensation

- 1) SITs are not compensated by Mountain Meadow, but they do receive 50% off of tuition fee.

**MOUNTAIN MEADOW SUMMER CAMP
SIT (STAFF-IN-TRAINING) APPLICATION FORM 2009**

****NOTE: Applicants for the SIT program must also complete the general camper application.****

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ Other Phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Age at camp _____ Date of Birth _____

****Gender/Gender Identification (optional):** _____

****Sexual orientation (optional):** _____

****Race and/or ethnicity (optional):** _____

**Optional questions will not be used to determine your eligibility into the SIT program. You are not required to answer these questions if you are not comfortable doing so. If you choose to answer these questions, your answers will be kept confidential and we will only use them as part of the data we use for our funding reports. Our data does not contain names or identifying information.

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Signature of Parent

Date

Signature of Parent

Date

New Campers:

Please give the recommendation form to an adult who knows you well. This may include teachers, employers, ministers, or other non-family adults who you've known for at least a year. Please instruct them to send the completed form directly to the Mountain Meadow office.

Please answer the following questions. Be as specific as possible. Feel free to attach another page if you need more space to elaborate:

1. What experience do you have working with children?

2. What experience do you have at summer camps? What camps have you attended and what did you do there?

3. How are you involved in the LGBTQ family community (if at all)?

4. Why do you want to be an SIT at Mountain Meadow?

5. What part of the SIT program are you most interested in (choose tent circle, waterfront, kitchen, or art shack) and why?

6. Describe at least one idea you have for a week-long DYOT activity that you would be comfortable leading (with a counselor helper) for younger campers:

7. What do you consider to be your strengths and growth areas?

8. What are you hoping to get out of your experience in the SIT program?

9. Do you think it's important to have a camp like Mountain Meadow? Please explain why or why not.

10. ****OPTIONAL**** If you have LGBTQ parent(s) or family members, please describe what issues you've had with this and how you have dealt with them:

11. Is there anything else about yourself that you'd like to share with us?

SIT APPLICATION DEADLINE IS June 30th, 2009
SIT program slots fill up quickly, so send in your application ASAP!

Send your application to:

Mountain Meadow
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

If you have any questions about the process, please contact Steve in the Mountain Meadow office at (215) 772-1107 or email inquiries@mountainmeadow.org

THANK YOU!

February 2009

To whom it may concern:

You have received this letter and recommendation form from an applicant applying for a Staff-In-Training (SIT) position for Mountain Meadow's 2009 camp season. As part of the application process, we ask that all prospective SITs provide at least one letter of recommendation from a non-family member. We hope that you will be able to help provide insight concerning this applicant and your experiences working with them.

If you have further questions regarding the SIT program you may either ask the applicant or contact the Mountain Meadow office at (215) 772-1107 or via e-mail at inquiries@mountainmeadow.org.

The deadline for the SIT application is June 30th. Please send the recommendation form as soon as possible to:

Mountain Meadow
Re: <The applicant's name>, SIT Applicant
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

We appreciate your cooperation in completing the SIT recommendation form and thank you for taking the time to help us get to know the applicant better.

Sincerely,

Steve Duffy
Executive Director

Mountain Meadow Summer Camp SIT Recommendation Form

Applicant's Name: _____

Your Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Home Telephone No. (____) _____ Work Phone No. (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Best time/way to reach you: _____

1. Briefly describe the context in which you know the applicant and for how long you have known him/her:

2. Please describe individual's strengths and challenges:

3. What sets this person apart from others you have worked with?

4. What will the applicant contribute to a summer camp program?

5. Is there anything else you feel we should know about this applicant?

Thank you again for taking the time to complete this form. Please return this form to:

Mountain Meadow
Re: <The applicant's name>, SIT Applicant
1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107