

East Granby Parks and Recreation
Counselor – In – Training Program
Summer 2026

Dear CIT Applicant & Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in the East Granby Parks & Recreation Department's Counselor in Training (CIT) Program. The purpose of this letter is to help both the applicant and parent better understand the CIT Program. The CIT Program offers opportunities to interact with children, lead activities and participate in camp programs. CITs must have a sincere desire to work with children, a strong work ethic, lots of energy, creativity, and a positive attitude.

The objective of the CIT program is to better prepare the participants for future work with children. This is done through hands-on experiences and guidance from staff members. Participants will learn how to work together while gaining a better understanding about summer camp and what it takes to be a counselor. This program will also give participants the opportunity to learn how to be a role model for younger campers. CITs both observe staff members and work alongside them, learning and practicing how to teach campers new skills, lead them in games or help them create projects.

All CIT applicants need to complete an application form and are interviewed before being accepted into the program. CIT applicants will also have to commit to 3 weeks of involvement in either our Mini Adventurer Camp or our Granbrook Camp (See program options below). We recognize that being a CIT is a big responsibility; therefore, to be considered, applicants must be 12 - 15 years old and entering 7th grade or higher.

Counselors-in-training get a behind-the-scenes peek at what it takes to run different aspects of camp. East Granby Parks and Recreation offers two options for our CITs:

Mini Adventurer Camp is our half day program for children ages 3-5 years old. This half day camp gives our CITs the opportunity to work with our youngest campers. As the campers learn how to develop social, education and emotional skills away from home our CITs will work with them through this journey. CITs interested in this camp must be energetic, motivated, and willing to work with young campers. CITs interested in Mini Adventurer Camp are committing to participate from 8am – 1pm Monday – Friday.

Camp Granbrook is our full day camp for children who are 5 years old and have completed kindergarten through 12 years old and entering 6th grade in Fall 2026. This camp is an outdoor camp, and the campers are kept busy with many different activities and off-site adventures. CITs interested in this camp should enjoy working with children in grades K – 6. For Camp Granbrook involvement also means attending off-site field trips and the challenges and responsibilities of moving campers to and from off-site locations. CITs must be energetic, motivated and have a love of the outdoors. CITs interested in Camp Granbrook will have 2 options: committing to the half-day program 7:00am – 1:00pm or 12pm – 4pm. This year Camp Granbrook will have a home base of East Granby Farms but will take a variety of field trips each week.

All CITs are required to participate in our mandatory training programs. There will be 2 trainings offered: one specific to being a CITs and one specific to each of the two camps. Final dates for these trainings will be provided if accepted to the program.

There is a \$75 administrative fee that covers the cost of 5 staff T-shirts and training materials. If accepted as a CIT this fee will be added to the family's household account and it is the expectation that the balance is paid prior to the start of camp training. As always, if there is a financial need, please reach out directly to Alicia.

CITs are asked to submit a volunteer application, a self-evaluation, and answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. Applications will be reviewed beginning on Monday, March 16, 2026 and will continue until all positions are filled.

Please answer on a separate sheet:

1. What do you hope to get out of the CIT experience? If a returner – what new experiences do you hope to have as a CIT?
2. What are three of your best strengths and three skills you hope to develop this summer?
3. What do the words respect, empathy, and responsibility mean to you?
4. Please share any weeks you know you are not available this summer (weeks camps are being offered can be found at eastgranbyrec.com).

East Granby Recreation understands and acknowledges that for many of our CITs this application process is a new experience. Our goal is to give them the opportunity to express themselves and share their knowledge with us. There are no right or wrong answers. We do ask that the youth communicate with us themselves, and we will always cc a parent on communication. We ask that applicants communicate with us through a non-school email.

Questions can be directed to aliciav@egtownhall.com or 860/653-7660. Forms may be returned by mail, dropped at East Granby Farms in the mailbox near the Sears House or emailed back to aliciav@egtownhall.com. If you email them back, please be sure they are in PDF format or word format.

Thank you.

East Granby Parks and Recreation Staff