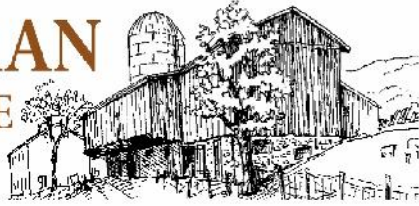


# GORMAN HERITAGE FARM



Thank you for volunteering at Gorman Heritage Farm! We're glad you are going to be part of our day camp program this summer. As a camp Counselor-in-Training, you will play a very important role in our campers' lives. Your actions and attitude will help set the tone for camp and will determine the quality of experience for the campers. Everything you do should always be a support for the campers and the staff delivering the program.

*As a Counselor-in-Training, it is your job to:*

## **Help all campers have fun.**

- Help campers feel welcomed.
- Smile often, make eye contact, and call campers by name.
- Create and maintain a positive atmosphere throughout the day.
- Praise positive behavior and provide lots of encouragement.
- Each camper is important; help them feel valued.

## **Ensure that campers stay safe.**

- Two counselors should be with each group at all times. Never be alone with a camper.
- Be aware of potential hazards in the area.
- Help counselors with group management.
- Help keep the group stay together and on task.
- Never yell at or strike a camper.
- Don't initiate touching a camper. Don't carry campers or let them sit on your lap.
- Don't share food from your lunch because campers might have unknown allergies.
- Close gates after the group has passed through them to ensure animals do not escape.

## **Encourage campers to experience new activities and make friends.**

- Encourage campers to try all activities, and try them yourself.
- Actively participate in camp activities including chores, games, songs, and crafts.
- When playing games, play at the level of the campers.
- Don't be afraid to get dirty or be silly.
- Be enthusiastic.
- Be respectful of animals, GHF staff, other CITs, and campers at all times.
- Model a positive and inclusive attitude.
- Don't pick favorite campers.
- Do not tease or argue with other CITs, camp counselors, or GHF staff in front of campers. Younger children may not understand sarcasm.

## **Provide structure and organization.**

- Help with sign-in and sign-out.
- Help plan and lead at least one activity, game, chore, or craft a week.
- Help counselors set up and clean up daily activities.
- When a counselor needs something, be the first to volunteer to help.
- Support the camp staff with their directives to campers.

- Try to think ahead and anticipate the needs of the counselors and campers.
- Remember: camp is for the campers. You are a Counselor-in-Training.

**Be prepared.**

- Come to camp with a positive attitude.
- Arrive at camp at 8:45 a.m. and plan to leave no later than 3:30 p.m.
- Wear appropriate clothing (no spaghetti straps or low cut shirts, wear close-toed shoes and clothes that can get dirty). Keep jewelry to a minimum.
- Bring a water bottle and lunch.
- Wear your name tag each day.
- Personal cell phones should be turned off and used for emergencies only.
- Come to camp for the entire week-long session to which you have committed.
- Go over daily and weekly schedule with the camp director and/or your group's counselor so you know what to expect and can help prepare.
- Know that errors are part of the learning process (for counselors, CITs, and campers).
- If you find yourself without something to do, ask your senior counselor how you can help.

***As a Counselor-in-Training you will get to:***

- Spend several weeks during the summer as part of a fun and talented staff
- Be a role model for young children
- Gain leadership and volunteer experience
- Earn community service credit, if needed

By signing below, I verify that I have read and agree to follow these expectations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counselor-in-Training Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature (if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

***Please return this form with medical form at latest by May 15th, 2012.***

***Education Manager  
Gorman Heritage Farm  
10052 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45241***