

A guide to our leadership selection process

Here are some frequently asked questions that parents and campers ask about the leadership process.

How many leadership applications are accepted? We have room to accept between 60-68 leadership applicants into our 6 leadership programs (3 LIT programs, and 3 CSD programs). We want to accept as many leadership applications as possible, but have a limit based on bed space and maintaining the integrity of the program (staff to participant ratios).

Do I need my bronze medallion or bronze cross to apply for WCSD? No, but priority for WCSD will be given to applicants who have these qualifications at the time of applying.

If I got into CSD should I get my Bronze qualifications? NO! The regular CSD program is focused around achieving Bronze Medallion and Cross in a waterfront setting.

I already have both bronze medallion and bronze cross qualifications. Can I still apply to CSD? Yes, although WCSD is highly recommended and a major component of the CSD program is to give our campers an opportunity to gain these swim qualifications, there are many other aspects of the program that the candidate can benefit from as part of their leadership development.

If I was in CSD, am I guaranteed a spot an LIT program? A candidate needs to apply, and be accepted into each program. Although completing the CSD program gives you an excellent chance on being accepted to an LIT program, it is not a guarantee.

When will I find out? Candidates will receive a call from the Summer Camp Director the week of November 7th (usually early in the week). This will be followed-up shortly after by an e-mail with greater detail involving, “next steps,” in completing registration. Please do not call the camp to inquire prior to November 7th. If for some reason, you do not receive a call by November 9th, we then encourage you to call the camp.

Why didn't I get my 1st choice? Acceptance to one of our leadership programs should be viewed as validation of your competitiveness. Due to the large pool of applicants and challenges this presents, we cannot always supply candidates with their first choice. This is why we request your preference of session on the application. Not getting your 1st choice is **not** a reflection of one's competitiveness, but rather on our resources as a camp. We make it a priority to ensure that every candidate gets their 1st choice of month to help families schedule their summers. There may be exceptions to this rule based on space, but we always try to work towards honouring this arrangement.

Why didn't I get in? We don't enjoy turning candidates down, but sometimes our judgment says that the candidate is not ready for the challenges of CSD/LIT based on previous summers, or did not show enough initiative in filling out the application, or did not prove they would make as strong a candidate as others. We try to take into consideration what is best for the camp, and the pool of applicants as a whole.

Those who ask this question often look where the candidate went wrong, but as long as the candidate has tried their best, they should be proud of their effort. We sympathize with their disappointment, and hope they use this as a learning experience. We have many individuals on staff that didn't get into CSD or LIT their first try, but they persevered to become excellent leaders.

Those candidates who do not get in will be encouraged to register for other programs as an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership qualities within the camp setting.

What can the candidate do to be better prepared next time? Returning to camp and registering for the Senior Tripping, or Challenge and Adventure programs is our best answer. This gives the candidate a second opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills. By completing any of these programs successfully, the candidate puts themselves in an excellent position to be accepted to the CSD or LIT program the following year. Dates for the Boys Senior Trip are from July 9-21, and for the Girls Sr. Trip, July 30 to August 11. The Challenge & Adventure programs run from August 19-25. All these programs fill up on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Is there a waiting list? / Will more spots open up? A waiting list will be created with the remaining applications. All applicants that are initially accepted will have until December 12th to accept. If they do not accept (fail to reserve their spot with a deposit), we will review the remaining applications a second time and make a second round of decisions. We don't anticipate spots opening up, but it **does** happen every year. Plans change throughout the year, candidates change their mind, and accepted spots are declined. We will be in contact with you if this is the case.

If I sign up for Sr. Trip or Challenge & Adventure, do I lose my spot on the waiting list? Not at all! You remain on the waiting list whether or not you sign up for these programs. If you are accepted to a leadership program from these other programs, we simply shift your registration.

To help you through the application process, Adam Strasberg (Wham) is happy to answer additional questions at adam@campkawartha.ca