

Team Counselor Expectations 2017

Background:

Due to an extensive amount of interest and a growth in the eligibility of volunteers in the Heads Up! Hartford community, there will be a new implementation of a counselor selection process in 2017. Each person interested in being a counselor on a team will be required to read and sign the "Team Counselor Expectations" and fill out the "Team Counselor Application" form if they are interested in pursuing the position. Once the applications are reviewed, each and every applicant will be notified of their acceptance status by **May 1st**.

What is a 'Team Counselor':

A team counselor is an adult volunteer who will be paired with at least one other counselor during camp week, and together they will be responsible for the wellbeing and safety of approximately 8-10 campers (your team). Their responsibilities will entail:

- Supervising at (and participating in): various sites in the Greater Hartford Area during service work such as painting, gardening, and trash clean-up
- Facilitating a safe environment during team discussions and activities at St. Thomas
- Providing supervision and enforcement of rules for *all* campers (not just those solely on their team) when back at St. Thomas
- Being a person any camper can go to with comments, questions and concerns throughout the camp week

What are the expectations of a 'Team Counselor':

As a counselor at Heads Up! Hartford, a lot is expected of you as a role model and a leader. The campers look up to the adults in this camp, and as such, we want to provide them with a strong group of mentors. The following is a list of criteria for the counselor position. We ask that before you apply you prayerfully and carefully consider your ability to serve.

1. **Safety-** First and foremost, the safety of our campers is our number one priority. Counselors need to provide campers with a safe and secure environment both physically and emotionally

- when participating in camp activities. You will need to communicate with camp leadership when there are safety issues and seek assistance in situations that may be beyond the scope of your experience or ability.
2. **Positivity/Respect-** At our camp, we thrive on positivity and optimism. Even when times get tough, we look to our counselors to set the tone for our community. It is important that you are able to bring light and laughter to our sacred space and ensure the campers, counselors and other volunteers your utmost respectful attitude.
 3. **Responsibility-** Not only are you responsible for the wellbeing of our campers, but also the good intentions of our camp. Whether it be head counts, helping guide team conversations, or assisting a camper or counselor in an emergency, it is crucial that you are able to act thoughtfully and appropriately in every situation.
 4. **Work ethic-** A large portion of our camp week is doing God's work for the community at different locations. We expect that our counselors are willing and able to do the work alongside their team to the best of their abilities.
 5. **Experience-** Prior experience with youth and service work is a great preparation for your role at camp. We carefully consider what has guided you to Heads Up! Hartford and the counselor position you desire.
 6. **Availability-** It is very important you are present at camp for the full week, **June 22nd-29th, 2017** (with your arrival being the evening of June 21st), as well as counselor training on the morning of **June 10th**. When counselors are present, the team feels balanced and secure; your presence provides unity and trust in our community.
 7. **Flexibility-** Over the course of camp, there may be times when plans change and we have to adjust to new and sometimes challenging situations. It is important that you are able to quickly adapt to the new circumstances and what is asked of you.
 8. **Training/Planning and Communication-** It is expected that counselors participate in all required training and planning meetings prior to and during camp as deemed appropriate by the Camp Directors. Training this year is on June 10th and the evening of June 21st.

9. Follow Camp Policies and Procedures- In addition to what is outlined here, you must also follow the policies outlined in the Heads Up! Hartford Policies and Expectations.

I have read and understand the expectations of the role as a Team Counselor and the associated obligations. Should I be selected, I will fulfill these responsibilities.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Signature may be typed**

Team Counselor Application 2017

Please send in your application by **March 31st, 2017** to Jim Pestana via email as an attachment (jppest@comcast.net).

You will be notified regarding your eligibility by **May 1st**.

Name:

Phone Number:

Date of Birth:

Email:

Church/Organization:

Years at Camp:

How did you hear about HUH?

Will you be able to attend the full camp week, June 22nd-29th?

Will you be able to attend the counselor training on June 10th?

What prior experience do you have with youth and service work?

If selected, what strengths, energy, and passion will you bring to our community?

If selected, are there areas where you'll need more experience or training?

A large component of what we do at Heads Up! Hartford as counselors is encouraging youth to step up and lead. Sometimes this requires setting the example by being a role model rather than by being a swaying voice and making decisions for the campers. Who has impacted your life in your success as a leader? How did they do so?

If you are not selected for this position at camp, would you be willing to volunteer your time in areas such as at a station during field day,

refereeing the basketball tournament, or the bench building project, etc.?

If yes, which events would you be most interested in?

In a paragraph or two, please tell us why you want to be a camp counselor as well as how you can bring our expectations: safety, positivity, responsibility, work ethic, experience, flexibility and availability to life?