

Tabor Summer Camp

Leadership in Training (LIT) Program



Respect, Caring, Community, Growth, Connections, and Joy

Purpose: Tabor Academy’s LIT program supports adolescents to deeply explore themselves as followers and leaders. The program is designed to challenge adolescents to think critically about how they engage, collaborate, and work as both individuals and alongside their peers. The program is scaffolded each summer to promote personal growth and to continually push our LITs to become the best versions of themselves. Additionally, it is our goal that each LIT leaves each summer with a sense of confidence, deeper friendships, and emotionally aware of who she or he is as a person. It is our hope that our program promotes the dynamics of followership and leadership beyond the Tabor campus and the summer months. These skills should manifest themselves in all areas of an LIT’s life.

The following pages outline the goals of each summer as well as a daily schedule.

LIT 1
Summer 1

Age: finishing 8th grade/entering 9th grade

Pre-requirements: Tabor Summer Camp or prior camp experience desired

Community Service: Two opportunities a week

Areas of focus:

- Know thyself - understanding ones strengths and weaknesses
- Followership - what it means to be a good teammate
- Teammate skills - working in a group, setting goals, and knowing one's role in the group

Experiences:

- Trips off campus - a combination of fun and team building trips throughout the local area guided by our LIT leaders
- Group challenges - Noodle challenge (LITs are split into two groups and are given the following supplies of four pool noodles and three tennis balls and then the fun begins), Puzzle challenge, Lava challenge, Cheerio challenge, M&M Challenge, and Shape Building Challenge. The following challenges encourage LITs to focus on specific followership and leadership skills. For example, listening skills, communication, open to new ideas, and working alongside others
- Group discussions - an opportunity to listen and speak on a variety of topics regarding followership, leadership, being a teenager, etc.
- Form new friendships - the experience of camp is about challenging the status quo of who you know and inviting everyone into your circle of friends
- Learning the values of camp - Tabor Camp stands for six values - Respect, Caring, Community, Growth, Connections, and Joy - each of these impacts the way we act on a daily basis at camp and throughout life. By learning about each value and instilling them into our daily work, we enrich the camp and the communities we are part of outside of camp.

LIT 2
Summer 2
Age: Finishing 9th grade/entering 10th grade

Pre-requirements: Tabor Summer Camp or prior camp experience desired

Community Service: Two opportunities a week

Areas of focus:

Building on summer 1 skills and adding:

- How to react when there is role conflict - learning to apply followership and knowing one's role within a group
- Listening to others and respecting other's ideas - becoming open minded and willing to try other's ideas before one's own. Accepting feedback from peers and leaders.
- Applying followership and beginning to develop leadership - gaining the confidence to take risks and to step into leadership roles
- Leadership skills assessment - LITs will take a strengthsfinder assessment to gain a deeper understanding of one's strengths and weaknesses in relation to leadership

Experiences:

- Trips off campus - trips will build upon summer 1 with a continuation of fun trips and team building trips throughout the local area
- Group challenges - LITs will be continued to be challenged with tasks that push them to think critically, analyze, and problem solve
- Group discussions - group discussions will delve deeper into topics focused around leadership and what a leader looks like
- Form new friendships and continue building old ones - being open to meeting new people and welcoming new LITs
- Learning the values of camp - what matters most to camp and how is it applicable to the world outside of Tabor's summer program
- Be role models - think critically about what a role model is and what we want to be role modeling for our youngest campers

LIT 3
Summer 3
Age: Finishing 10th grade/entering 11th

Pre-requirements: Successful completion of LIT 2 program and acceptance by the Program Director are required in order to participate in the LIT 3 & 4 program.

Community Service: Lead 1 trip and participate in 1

Areas of focus:

Building on summer 2 skills and adding:

- Leadership in practice - will be given various challenges and tasks to practice and develop leadership skills
- Feedback - receiving
- Culture of summer program - LITs will learn more about the history of Tabor Summer Camp and delve deeper into understanding the culture of the program
- Professionalism in life - how to cooperate with peers on a professional level, dealing with differences, setting an exemplary model for younger campers, and demonstrating responsibility
- Building a team - recognizing individuals' strengths and weaknesses when developing a team

Experiences:

- Trips off campus -- overnight, deeper learning, celebration of commitment to the program and personal growth
- Group challenges - building upon Summer 1 and 2 challenges, focusing on the building of the team to solve the challenge
- Group discussions -- centered around the summer reading and developing the critical skills to make connections and apply concepts to events happening at camp and outside of camp
- Form new friendships and continue building old ones - digging deeper on forming new friendships, for example; trusting one another and getting past surface questions
- Learning the values of camp - appreciating camp and learning what it means to be campful
- Be role models - modeling and embodying the spirit of camp (radiating positivity and campfulness)

LIT 4
Summer 4
Age: finishing 11th/entering 12th

Pre-requirements: Successful completion of LIT 2 program and acceptance by the Program Director are required in order to participate in the LIT 3 & 4 program.

Community Service: Lead and organize both trips each week. Final community service project at end of summer.

Areas of focus:

Building on summer 3 skills and adding:

- Reviewing of leadership skill list - summarizing LITs' leadership skill sets and helping them to build on skills throughout the summer
- Refining a team - building upon knowing how to form a team, by learning how to make the necessary changes to strengthen the team
- Feedback - delivering of it
- Coaching/mentoring - developing the tool set to mentor and work with younger campers through camp activities such as sports and the arts

Experiences:

- Trips off campus - overnight, deeper learning, celebration of completing the LIT
- Group challenges - Summer 4 LITs will complete a challenge that embodies a multitude of leadership skills and tools
- Group discussions - group discussions will transition from coordinator led to LIT leading and discussions will focus on their topics of interest
- Continuing building deeper friendships
- Learning the values of camp - embodying what Tabor Summer Camp stands for
- Be role models - applying campfulness each and every day
- Leadership Project - Everyone is involved in the project and LIT 4s lead the LIT Project
- Lead portion of the camp - be given the opportunity to lead, receive and give feedback