

Leader- in -Training Programs (LIT)

The Leader- in-Training Program at Creative Themes provides an exciting opportunity for 8th and 9th graders to take positive risks to grow, explore and have fun. In keeping with the Creative Themes philosophy, we strive to provide an atmosphere conducive to the creative expression of self, in which campers become aware of, and learn a respect for their environment and their peers. The two-week LIT program is designed to assist youth in developing skills in team building, problem solving, leadership and self-confidence. Each LIT group is asked to commit to a “Full Value Contract,” to ensure the proper and effective execution of the program.

This contract includes:

- Adhering to certain safety and group behavior guidelines set down by the staff and the group.
- Give and receive honest feedback.
- Increase my awareness to when I am putting down or devaluing others or myself.
- Challenge by Choice. (Goal setting is critical to achieving program outcomes, at both the individual and group levels. It is also important to allow participants to have personal choice related to activities. The “challenge-by-choice” philosophy of adventure programming allows the participant to have some autonomy related to the activities s/he participates in.)

Safety, whether it is physical or emotional, is essential for the group and individual to move forward. If the staff does not feel the group is ready for the next level of challenge, we will work together to achieve the necessary skills. Open and cooperative communication for the group helps instill trust and respect for each other. We promote caring attitudes for others while at the same time appreciate our strengths, weaknesses, and differences. Individual differences are an asset to the group. It is our expectation that each LIT actively participates in the activities to the best of their abilities. We operate under the guidelines of “Challenge by Choice” which helps the campers become involved in each activity, whether they are giving support to others or are receiving assistance. While LIT’s are considered campers, it is our expectation that they act as role models for the rest of camp. Appropriate behavior, language and dress show an example to the camp that they are “leaders” in training.

The program focuses primarily on outdoor adventure-based learning experiences through games, low and high challenge course initiatives. It is important to understand that this is an Adventure Based Leadership program and a high level of participation and commitment in the adventure activities is required.