

Summer 2012 Counsellor-In-Training Application

Application Deadline is April 6, 2012

Purpose: Camp Valaqua is a Christian ministry of the member churches of Mennonite Church Alberta. It extends the ministries and congregational life of these churches by providing facilities and Christian programs in a unique setting close to creation. Camp Valaqua also serves as a ministry outreach to the larger community by inviting others to participate in the use of its facilities and Christian ministry.

Camp Valaqua is dedicated to proclaiming the Good News that God is the Creator, we are God's people, and the earth is placed in our hands as a gift and a trust. We give campers the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to be with others in a Christian community, to learn how to care for God's creation, and to have a lot of fun.

About Camp Valaqua: Camp Valaqua is beautifully situated in the Foothills of the Rocky Mountains on the Little Red Deer River, 1 hour northwest of Calgary. The camp's 250 acres of spruce and poplar forests offer an extensive hiking and mountain biking trail system. Facilities include a modern Lodge with washrooms and showers, recreation hall, climbing wall, ball diamond, and nature centre. Activities include archery, crafts, camping skills, climbing wall, nature study, drama, model rocketry, swimming, canoeing, and field games. Morning chapels and evening campfires offer singing, skits, and Christian teaching from the Bible. Some camps include an overnight camp-out, and the Breakaway camps feature a day hike in the Rockies. Out-trip camps consisting of week-long canoe, backpack, and bike trips are also part of the camp's program.

Description: The **Counsellor-in-Training program** is open to anyone finished grade 10 and is focussed on youth between grades 10 and 12. Applicants should be interested in learning leadership skills in a Christian environment. CIT's learn about camp counselling through training sessions, and through assisting with cabin groups and activities. The emphasis is on leadership skills and abilities specific to the camp setting, although youth will find the program useful in a variety of leadership positions, as well as in their own personal development. CIT's should be interested in developing new abilities, as well as challenging and deepening their Christian faith.

Program Dates: The CIT position is **voluntary** and runs from July 2 through August 24 with the exception of July 29-August 10 when CITs will have two weeks of time off. Preference is given to applicants who are available for the entire time period, however special considerations can be made depending on the number of applicants and positions available. Please indicate on this application form if you are available for the whole summer. If not, please indicate the specific dates for which you are available.

Applicants must provide a complete application form, including names and phone #'s of references. Retain this top page for future reference. Do not send it with your application.

Please Mail or Email your application to:

Camp Valaqua
Box 339 Water Valley, AB
T0M 2E0
email: valaqua@telusplanet.net

Questions? Phone: (403) 637-2510 or email: valaqua@telusplanet.net

Additional forms available at: www.campvalaqua.com

Camp Valaqua CIT Application – Summer 2012

1. Personal Information: (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!)

Full Name: _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

Date of Birth: _____ Home Church: _____

Pastor: _____ Are you legally entitled to work in Canada? Yes ___ No ___

2. Present Address: _____

Postal Code: ___ ___ ___ Phone: (____) _____ At this address until (d/m/y): ___/___/___

Email: _____

3. Permanent Address: (if different from above) _____

Postal Code: ___ ___ ___ Phone: (____) _____ At this address until (d/m/y): ___/___/___

4. Are you available for the full volunteer period? ___ yes ___ no. If not, please clarify: _____

5. Medical Information: Health Card #: _____ Province: _____

Please list any diet restrictions, food allergies or other allergies you have: _____

Please list any medical conditions you have that could affect your work: _____

Please list any medication you are currently taking: _____

6. Education: High School: _____ Gr. Completed (as of June 2007) _____

7. Camp-Related Experience:

Camp _____ Type of Involvement _____ Date _____

Camp _____ Type of Involvement _____ Date _____

Camp _____ Type of Involvement _____ Date _____

8. Work or Volunteer Experience: (please indicate most recent jobs first - do not include camp jobs)

Employer _____ Involvement _____ Date _____

Employer _____ Involvement _____ Date _____

9. Other Experience: Please describe other experiences that would be of benefit at Camp Valaqua (church responsibilities, leadership positions, volunteer work, involvements with music, drama, etc.).

10. Qualifications: List certifications you have (i.e. First Aid, lifeguard etc.) and expiry dates. Include photocopies:

11. Activity Skills: Please indicate your training and experience in camp related skills and activities. (Circle "1" for activities you have organized or led, "2" for activities you feel qualified to organize or lead, "3" for activities in which you could assist a competent leader, and "4" for activities in which you have interest.

	1	2	3	4	Comments		1	2	3	4	Comments
Waterfront/lifeguard					_____	Song leading					_____
Guitar					_____	Crafts					_____
Camp Skills					_____	Archery					_____
Nature/Outdoor Ed.					_____	Canoeing					_____
Group Games					_____	Drama					_____
Climbing Wall					_____	Backpacking					_____
Mountain Biking					_____	Hiking					_____
Model Rocketry					_____	Storytelling					_____
Basketball					_____	Other					_____

12. On a separate sheet of paper answer the following questions (typed responses preferred). First-time applicants answer questions 1- 4. Returning CIT's answer questions 2 - 5.

1. Tell us a bit about yourself, including personal history and significant growth experiences.
2. How do you understand your Christian faith and beliefs?
3. What are your reasons for wanting to work at camp?
4. What strengths do you possess that would benefit campers and the Camp Valaqua program?
5. How have you grown since last summer? (i.e. Christian life, leadership skills, personal skills, etc.) How will this growth help your involvement as a CIT at camp this coming summer?

13. References: Your completion of the following indicates your permission for Camp Valaqua to solicit information from your references to help assess your application. **Your application will not be processed without complete references.**

Please list the name of a church pastor, church council member, or other church representative capable of commenting on your Christian faith:

Name _____ Phone # _____ Relationship _____

List three people in a position to evaluate your character, motivation, and work habits pertinent to camp ministry and state their relation to you (i.e. previous employer, a teacher, adult mentor, personal friend, co-worker, etc.) **No family members please.**

Name _____ Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Statement of Commitment

Camp Philosophy: Camp Valaqua is a Christian ministry of the member churches of the Mennonites Church Alberta conference. I understand that as a member of the Camp Valaqua staff, I will be an ambassador of Christ and am representative of the conference that supports the camp. I commit myself:

- to do my best to model the Christian message in accordance with the Mennonite Confession of Faith and ministry goals as expressed by the supporting conferences (note: complete faith statement available upon request)
- to do my best to promote the objectives, philosophy, and ministry of Camp Valaqua
- to submit in love to the regulations and guidelines established by Camp Valaqua. These precepts have been established to ensure the safe implementation of the ministry of the camp.
- to respect and cooperate with the leadership of the camp in implementing the camp's ministry and guidelines.

Staff Responsibilities: Camp is for the campers. While I am at Valaqua I will:

- strive to put the interests of campers before my own, and to respond to their needs.
- do my best to ensure that each camper has a good experience physically, mentally, and spiritually at Valaqua.
- take a personal interest in the development, acceptance within the group, and growth of each camper
- take my assigned duties seriously and carry them out in a responsible manner
- take initiative in helping the camp program to function smoothly.

Camp work can be very tiring and stressful. I understand that as an important part of the camp team, my actions will affect both staff and campers. I commit myself to:

- take time for my own personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- ensure I get sufficient rest each night, including nights off
- relate to others in a Christian manner at all times, and to cultivate an atmosphere of cooperation
- work at problems of human relationships with honesty and openness
- avoid gossip and to bring concerns about a person directly to that person's attention
- be responsible to the group, accepting the discipline of a community working towards a common goal

Christian Lifestyle-I realize that camp is an important ministry and that my actions both on and off the property are reflections of my Christian life. Campers and staff will observe my lifestyle and for the duration of my employment I commit myself to demonstrate a Christian lifestyle at all times, whether at camp or during off-times. I realize that the following behaviors are not in keeping with Camp Valaqua's philosophy of ministry, and understand that participation in any of them at any time is grounds for dismissal:

- use of alcoholic beverages, all forms of tobacco (including smoking), and illegal drugs.
- use of violence, including both physical and verbal, or profane language.
- participation in sexual relationships of any kind outside of marriage.
- participation in abuse or harassment of other persons, whether physical, emotional, or sexual
- any verbal or non-verbal sexual behavior with campers
- entering into a dating relationship with a camper

I have read and understand the Statement of Commitment found above. By signing this application, I am stating my willingness to uphold the content and spirit of these guidelines. I understand that my failure in the above could result in termination of employment.

Signature of CIT Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Parental Consent is required for all applicants:

I give permission for my child to participate as a staff member in all aspects of Camp Valaqua's program, including activities, hikes, and overnight camp-outs that involve leaving the camp premises. I give camp personnel the authority to act on my behalf in the case of an emergency, and to authorize medical treatment for my child if necessary (parent/guardian will be notified). I understand that I am financially responsible for expenses not covered by my health care plan.

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print): _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____