

# LIT/CIT CAMP 2026

## WESTFIELD AREA Y

Summer 2026 Camp Newsletter



## WELCOME!

### Meet the Director



So, the 2026 camp season is now upon us. My name is Dylan Hirtler and I'm excited to be your director for LIT/CIT this summer. Our camp always presents new opportunities to learn and grow, for myself, my staff, and of course the campers. The last two years have been great, with fun times and challenges overcome, and my goal is to see the good times return with a bang, while continuing not to shy away from the growth opportunities along the way.

During the school year my responsibilities as Assistant Director of Youth Development and Events sees me taking part in various trips, community events, clubs, and civic engagement.

#### Facts about Dylan:

- I have been a part of this YMCA for 28 years, starting as a camper in Sunshine all those years ago.
- I've become a part of what some teens in my program have called the "Millennial running craze" – and happily so!
- My favorite sport is Sumo and have spent a lot of time enlightening people on it whether they've wanted that or not.

#### **THE STAFF ARE EXCITED!**

I've taken a lot away from last summer, and, with the help of my Assistant Director, Anthony Paradiso, have really keyed into what make LIT/CIT such special camps. Our unique setting for campers, full of fun games, inclusivity, team building, leadership, and looking ahead at future possibilities for professional growth, is both exciting and challenging. This summer, we want to focus on more specific avenues of leadership, such as volunteerism, public speaking, and community building. For our CITs too, we want to increase the amount of staff-led training, to give them a more comprehensive sense of what being a YMCA counselor really entails. We look forward to growing alongside the campers, and fully realizing the goals we have for this summer.

#### **WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR CAMP?**

- A heavy duty tote bag or old backpack to carry belongings
- A labeled, refillable water bottle
- A labeled **peanut/tree nut free** lunch
- **Sneakers!** Sandals, flip-flops, Crocs, etc., are **not acceptable**

...and an open mind!

Every FRIDAY, we'll be walking into town from the Bauer Branch and campers are allowed to purchase their own food, but it is not required of them and they can choose to bring a lunch if they wish. This is a privilege and can be revoked.

At **NO TIME**, will any sort of delivery service be a proper substitute for a normally-packed lunch except in special circumstances or if cleared with the Camp Director first. This is a supervisory issue that cannot be solved.

#### SAMPLE FIRST DAY SCHEDULE

<b>8:30 AM – 9:00 AM</b>	Drop-off and Sign-in
<b>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	Expectations/Consequences + Purpose of LIT/CIT
<b>10:00 AM – 10:45 AM</b>	Community Building Challenge #1
<b>10:45 AM – 12:15 PM</b>	Introduction to Games Workshop + Intro Game
<b>12:15 PM – 1:30 PM</b>	Lunch and Free Time @ Outside Site
<b>1:30 PM – 1:45 PM</b>	Transition Back to Bauer / Journal Entry
<b>1:45 PM – 2:30 PM</b>	Leadership Activity and/or Timed Test
<b>2:30 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	Dealer's Choice Game
<b>3:30 PM – 4:00 PM</b>	Chores! Clean up our Space!
<b>4:00 PM – 4:30 PM</b>	Pickup at the Front Area of Bauer

### How to Contact Us:

**Camp Cell:** 908-623-6637

**Email:** dhirtler@westfieldynj.org

**Need a camp form or additional info?**

Visit [www.westfieldynj.org/programs/camp](http://www.westfieldynj.org/programs/camp)

### Important Information

#### **Drop-off/ Pick-up Procedure:**

On the first day we ask that parents both sign in AND sign out their child.

*Paperwork to allow the LITs and CITs to walk home (if so desired) will be distributed on the first day.*

#### **Bauer Drop-off:**

Please drop off at the Robert and Virginia Bauer Building. Drop off runs from 8:30-9:00am.

#### **Valet Pick-up:**

Pick-up runs from 4:00-4:30pm at the Robert and Virginia Bauer Building. Please stay in your car, follow the driveway to our staff, and have a photo I.D. ready. Sign out your child and a staff member will bring them to you.

#### **Medications:**

MUST be handed to director on the first day at drop off with original prescribed box along with completed paperwork, **available on our website.**