



It's unusual that people actually look forward to becoming a "senior citizen." In the context of camp, however, things are a little different. Over the years I've talked with many campers who look forward to one day becoming an AC or a CIT, or completing the Isle Royale or Rocky Mountain Backpacking trips. Campers also often look forward to returning and someday being part of the Staff Team! Great camp memories continue to be made when you're a Senior Camper, and if you wish to work at camp someday, you have the advantage of experience!

I write today to give you a quick snapshot of what being a Senior Camper (also known as being part of the **Leadership Program** for campers ages 15 through 17) is all about:

**Advanced Campers - age 15, completed 9th grade**

- wake the camp with pots & pans on the 4th of July, and are relay team captains
- participate in the annual "AC Balloon Pop" on the 4th of July (an AC exclusive!)
- generally are campers who go on the Isle Royale Backpacking trip (info enclosed)
- spend a day during Session I whitewater rafting the Peshtigo River
- have a customizable activity schedule, including access to Advanced Water Skiing

**Counselors In Training - Year 1 - age 16, completed 10th grade**

- have a customizable activity schedule, including access to Advanced Water Skiing
- may choose to help Staff teach or facilitate up to two activities per day for campers
- may choose to participate in up to four activities, plus electives, per day
- reside in Chickadee, the newest cabin, with two Leadership Program counselors
- emcee Camper and Staff Talent Shows & serve as "team captains" as requested
- enjoy one chaperoned evening off per week in Eagle River - transportation provided
- assist with "cabin-sitting" responsibilities during Staff meetings & as requested
- qualify to participate in **Isle Royale Backpacking** & all top level Northpoint trips
- assist with leading songs after lunch or dinner in the Dining Hall
- attend the **Camp Manito-Wish Leadership / Ropes Course** day (a CIT exclusive!)
- have a dedicated CIT Advisor/mentor who facilitates group discussion/processing
- make a presentation on their camp experience at Final Banquet (Session II)

**Counselors In Training - Year 2 - age 17, completed 11th grade**

- all of the program aspects noted for CIT-1 campers, plus:
- may choose to help Staff teach or facilitate up to three activities per day for campers
- receive enhanced training related to being part of the Staff Team in a future summer
- assist on a Staff Committee - like Campfire, Weekend/Rainy Day, Dining Hall, Vespers
- work in collaboration on a special CIT Project, which is presented at Final Banquet
- enjoy a special CIT-2 out-of-camp experience/day trip (a CIT-2 exclusive!)

Above are "objective" or tangible aspects of the Senior Camper experience at Nicolet. It's difficult to list the "subjectives," because they are different for everyone. We know that camp friendships last a lifetime; and being an AC, a CIT, a tripper on the Isle Royale adventure, conquering the Voyageurs Wilderness Canoe trip (summer 2024), or cheering your team on to victory with your best friends - only further solidifies friendships and creates unbeatable, irreplaceable memories. **We're working hard to create an experience for you at camp that remains relevant, fun, and essay-worthy as you prepare for college.**

The entire Staff Team looks forward to welcoming you back to Camp Nicolet this summer! Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.