



December 4, 2019

To: Prospective 4-H Camp Counselors

From: Christy D. Clary, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Re: Counselor Application and Requirements

Thank you for your interest in serving as a camp counselor for the 2020 4-H Camps at Canter’s Cave. Counseling can be a very rewarding experience. As a camp counselor you will work as a member of a team to plan and conduct a high-quality, safe and fun overnight program for young people. At the same time, you will be developing your own skills, forming lifelong friendships, and having the time of your life.

We will be camping in a multi-county camp setting at Canter’s Cave. This means there are a variety of camps you could be selected to counsel for and asked to rank your preferences on your application. These include a camp for youth in 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, a camp for youth in 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, a teen camp for older youth, a STEM focused camp for youth in 5th-7th grades, and several statewide special interest camps. Dates and counselor requirements follow for each. Some camps may require an additional application; I will notify you if that is the case.

STEM Camp – Grades 5-7: June 4-6	Teens must be 15 or older to counsel; experience is preferred.
Beginner Camp – Grades 3-5: June 1-4	Teens must be 14 or older to counsel.
Junior High Camp – Grades 6-8 th : June 11-14	Teens must be 16 or older to counsel; one year prior experience as a counselor is preferred.
Teen Camp – Grades 9-12: June 22-25 (All counties)	Teens must be 18 or older or at least a High School senior to counsel.
Cloverbud Overnight, June 6-7	
Junior Shooting Sports Camp (ages 9-12); June 25-28	Teens must be 14 or older to counsel; experience is preferred. Selection will occur later than the other camps.
Special Needs Camp, May 29-31	

Steps to becoming a counselor include completing the online application by January 15th AND participate in an interview. Interviews will be scheduled in January after applications are due.

Additionally, teens must participate in a minimum of 24 hours of training in order to be eligible to serve as a camp counselor. **All counselors must attend Counselor College at Canter’s Cave, April 4-5th.** You will be expected to pay your own registration fee of \$55. Provided you attend and



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satisfactorily complete the event, and successfully counsel at one of this summer's camps, this fee will be reimbursed by the 4-H Advisory Committee. You may attend additional opportunities such as MXC or BLW, but it is at your own expense.

Experienced counselors (2nd year and beyond) who are unable to attend Canter's Cave Counselor College must attend either MXC or BLW. Plan ahead, registration is early for these alternatives.

Attending some of the other statewide teen events can provide you with great training opportunities. These include the Teen Winter Retreat at Canter's Cave February 1st-2nd (cost TBD), Making Extreme Counselors (MXC) February 22nd-23rd at the Ohio 4-H Center (cost \$50, deadline January 30th), or the Ohio 4-H Conference March 14th (cost \$15, deadline February 1st), Buckeye Leadership Workshop (BLW) March 25th-29th (cost \$350, Due Feb. 27 – register early as space is limited and filling fast, ask, Christy about scholarship opportunities due Jan. 5th). There may be support for attending these events from the 4-H Advisory Committee, but that will not be determined until after their January budget meeting.

Additional training dates within Brown County will be provided after interviews. It is the applicant's responsibility to complete all trainings and communicate with me regarding all meetings and requirements. **BE RESPONSIBLE!** It is expected that camp counselor obligations are at the top of your priority list. Consistent failure to attend training or counselor camp will prohibit you from counseling. **Absences must be pre-approved.** Notify me at least 48 hours in advance so we can discuss your options for continuing on in the counselor selection process. Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact me at clary.42@osu.edu or by phone at 937-378-6716.

Counselor Checklist

- ❑ Complete, sign and return the Camp Counselor Application online by January 15th
 - Include 3 complete references. This person cannot be your relative.
- ❑ Attend Interviews and Training
 - Counselor Interviews times will be scheduled via email. Check your email!
 - Bring a copy of any calendars/dates you know in advance
 - Counselor College, Canter's Cave in Jackson, April 4th-5th (REQUIRED); Registration due March 10th
 - County Training (REQUIRED) – each will be at the Extension Office from 5-7pm
 - Dates will be announced after the interviews. Dates and times are subject to change with advanced notice.

Other Optional Trainings (other opportunities may be made available throughout the spring)

___ Teen Winter Retreat at Canter's Cave, Feb. 1-2nd

___ MXC at the Ohio 4-H Center; Feb. 22nd-23rd; Registration due Jan. 30

___ Ohio 4-H Conference in Columbus March 14th; Registration due Feb. 1

___ Buckeye Leadership Workshop March 25th-29th, (see www.buckeyeleadership.org for more information including scholarship info and registration).

___ Camp Open House; May 3rd