

SEAWORLD CAMP

**WELCOMES
YOU TO**

**COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING
(CIT)**



AT SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO

HANDBOOK FOR CITS & PARENTS

**Education & Conservation Department
SeaWorld Adventure Camps
10500 SeaWorld Drive San Antonio, TX 78251**

This is your confirmation packet. Please review the enclosed materials carefully. In this packet you will find program descriptions, information, and all forms that must be filled out and returned. If you have any questions, please call us at 1-210-523-3608, Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM CST.

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Forms to be filled out and sent at least 5 weeks prior to camp start date:

- _____ Health History & Physical Examination Form
- _____ Health History
- _____ Immunization Record/Diet/Medication Page
- _____ O-C-Meds Release
- _____ Physical Examination
- _____ Photo Release Form
- _____ Consent & Release For Medical Treatment Form
- _____ Camp Participant Release Form

Important Contact Information

Education & Conservation Office (M-F, 7-4:30pm).....	210.523.3608
Camp Dorms A, B, C (Please leave a message).....	210.523.3658
Camp Dorms D, E (Please leave a message).....	210.523.3175
Security Department (Emergency <u>Only</u> after normal business hours).....	210.523.3683
Camp E-mail.....	SWTResCamps@Seaworld.com
Payment or Registration Questions.....	1-800-700-7786
Camp Address:	

(Participant's Name)
C/o SeaWorld Camp
Counselor-In-Training
10500 SeaWorld Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78251-3002

SeaWorld Camp

Counselor-In-Training General Information

About SeaWorld Camp

- **Camp Mission**

SeaWorld Camp is designed to promote an appreciation of and stewardship for animals and the environment by providing a safe, fun and educational camp. The Counselor-In-Training program will provide an experience like no others to begin developing your leadership abilities for those interested in become a counselor or those who desire to one day teach.

Through this program, you will develop an appreciation for science, conservation and scientific research in our society. It will also increase basic competencies in science and other disciplines. Practical experiences will be working/mentoring campers, leading camp activities, and growing as a leader.

Participants must understand before arrival the primary purpose of Counselors in Training is to offer a challenging and enriching academic and social experience. You are expected to take responsibility for your learning by completing any written assignments, studying the information necessary for each day's work, as well as participating in lectures, presentations, and information sessions.

- **Administration of the Program**

SeaWorld Camp programs at SeaWorld San Antonio are accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) and the Texas Department of State Health Services. To achieve and maintain this accreditation, SeaWorld San Antonio complies with and exceeds standards set by the ACA and the state to ensure a safe, educational and enjoyable camp experience. For more information, please visit www.acacamps.org.

This program is under the direction and supervision of the SeaWorld San Antonio Education & Conservation Department. Our camp counselors are members of the department with several years of experience working with and teaching students of all ages. All counselors possess American Red Cross Lifeguard or Shallow Water Lifeguard certification (including first aid, CPR and AED Certifications). All staff pass a national background check and drug test and complete training in behavior management, abuse recognition, animal information and curriculum and team building.

- **Housing**

Our dormitories offer bunk-house style living on property at SeaWorld San Antonio. Top/bottom bunk assignments will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Males and females will be housed in separate areas. Camp counselors will be housed in the facilities to maintain an appropriate participant lifestyle.

Dietary Needs

- **Meals**

Three meals will be provided each day; the meals will be served in the Employee Cafeteria, restaurants within the park, catered meals or box/sack meals. Additional snacks and soft drinks are available at various sites at the camper's own expense.

- **Special Dietary Requests**

We try to accommodate campers with special dietary requirements. If the requirements exceed our capabilities, campers are welcome to bring their own food and/or pay the additional cost of meeting those needs. Advance notice is required if you will be bringing food for this reason. If you need assistance, please call. **Please indicate any food allergies or special dietary needs on the health form.**

Health Care Services/Procedures

• Services

Emergency Medical Technicians and/or nurses are on duty 24 hours a day. All camp staff is American Red Cross First Aid and CPR certified. Accommodations can be made for individuals with disabilities and special needs.

• Physical

A physical examination signed by a licensed physician is required for all participants. The physical examination and health information form is included in this packet. If you have had a physical exam within the last 12 months, attach a copy with the physician's signature and fill out any parts of the forms with pertinent medical/health history information.

Medications

All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be turned in to staff on the first day and administered as prescribed by the physician.

ALL Medication must be in the original packaging that identifies the prescribing physician (if it is a prescription drug), name of medication, dosage and frequency of administration. If it is over-the-counter please make sure it stays in the original bottle.

Only these medications will be administered during camp. Medications will be kept in a locked cabinet at all times and administered only by camp staff. **We Will NOT accept samples without prescription labels!**

Security

Due to heightened security at public and private facilities nationwide, we must now ask all people attending SeaWorld Camp Programs to follow these security guidelines:

- Upon arrival at SeaWorld, all persons may be asked to show a valid photo identification card.
- All luggage, including backpacks and purses, are subject to inspection by SeaWorld Security officers.
- Security is provided 24 hours a day.

Lockers

Each participant will have a locker available for any personal belongings. Please provide your own combination lock for securing your locker.

Visitor Information

• Visits

Independent visits from friends are prohibited. Visits from family may be permitted depending upon the schedule. Please contact the camp director.

• Leaves of Absence

Time is limited and sequential activities are planned for each day of the session. Campers **MAY NOT** leave camp during its session, except in the case of emergency. In such cases, campers may not leave and return without **PRIOR** approval from the camp director.

Camp Fees

• Refunds

The \$100 deposit is non-refundable. If the balance of camp fees are paid and cancellation is necessary, the following refund will apply **if written or verbal notice of cancellation is received:**

- **Less than FOUR weeks prior to camp session.....80% of the program fee**

- **Less than THREE weeks prior to camp session.....50% of the program fee**
- **Less than TWO weeks prior to camp session.....No Refund Given**
If a camper leaves a session early or is dismissed, a refund will not be given.

- **Spending Money**

During camp you may have opportunities to purchase extra snacks and drinks as well as souvenirs. We suggest you bring pre paid debit cards rather than large amounts of cash. Our gift shops may be closed, but our employee store accepts personal checks with proper I.D., American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Discover.

SEAWORLD WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN MONEY OR PROPERTY.

Travel

All arrival days will be on Sunday and departure days on Friday. If the camper arrives/departs on any day earlier/later than the first/last day of camp, a **\$100 fee will be charged**. This fee covers additional costs for transportation, meals, lodging and staffing necessary to accommodate non-standard arrival or departure times.

Airport

Campers arriving by plane should arrange flights in/out of San Antonio International Airport (SAT). We will have camp counselors stationed at baggage claim for each terminal. When your camper arrives, they should make their way to meet SeaWorld Camp staff in baggage claim; unless, you, as the parent, have designated and paid for your child to fly as an unaccompanied minor* with the airlines. Staff will remain at the airport until the last camper’s flight has departed, regardless of delays.

Airport Arrival/Departure

Flights should arrive at the airport between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. CST on the first day of camp. Flights should depart San Antonio International airport between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the last day. Arrival or departure times outside these windows will require an additional travel fee of \$25 per occurrence.

**Unaccompanied Minors*

An unaccompanied minor is one who has been designated by the airline for this service and is paid prior to departure. Ask the airline your camper is flying on for departure for details. If you have paid and signed your camper up to be an unaccompanied minor, please designate so on the travel page found in the health history packet. If you want this service for the flight on the return flight home, please make those arrangements prior to camp or give your child money for that purpose. If you have not paid for this service and your child is under the age of 18, please do not designate this on the travel page; instead indicate they will be flying alone and complete their arrival/departure information.

Driving/Arrival Departure

- Check in on the first day of camp is from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Employee/Administration Entrance. (Lunch will not be provided; please plan accordingly.)
- Check out/pick up on the last day of camp is at 9:00 a.m. at the Employee/Administration Entrance.

Please note searching the physical address of SeaWorld online or through GPS will take you to the front of the park (main entrance), not the Employee/Administration Entrance. See the enclosed map for detailed travel instructions.

Please contact either the Education & Conservation Office or the Camp Dorms if there are any changes to travel information (different pick-up person, flight delays or traffic delays).

CIT Rules and Regulations

The program regulations are designed for the safety and well being of ALL participants and our animals.

VIOLATIONS WILL RESULT IN DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM.

Cell Phones

- Cell phones are a camper's responsibility. They may not be taken into animal work areas or into the park. Campers will have free time at night to use their cell phones but they must be turned off at lights off and remain off throughout the night. SeaWorld will not be responsible for lost or stolen cell phones. Please do not bring a cell phone for use as a camera for it will not be allowed in any animal area.

Curfew

- Curfew is at 10:00 PM and is STRICTLY enforced. All campers are to be in bunks and quiet by curfew. (Lights will go out at 10PM and come on at 7AM each day.)

Vehicles

• Camp

- Transportation during camp will be provided in 12 passenger vans. Please inform us of any restrictions you may have entering or exiting this type of vehicle.
- Vehicles must have a seat and a seat belt, for each person riding. Please remain seated at all times the vehicle is in motion.
- Campers are NOT permitted to ride in any vehicle unless accompanied by their parents or by SeaWorld staff members.
- All staff involved in transportation of campers are required to have valid state drivers' licenses and Sea World San Antonio drivers' licenses.

• Personal

- All vehicles arriving and departing SeaWorld property are subject to search by SeaWorld Security Officers.
- Drivers should be prepared to show photo identification, vehicle registration, contents of glove compartment, trunk and any storage containers or bags, toolboxes or personal items.
- Campers may NOT have roller blades, Heelys type shoes, skateboards, bicycles, motorcycles, cars or other vehicles either at the park or at their disposal.

Ethics

- **Honor - Stealing, lying, and cheating are intolerable under any circumstances and may result in dismissal.**
- **Language** - Cursing, inappropriate or vulgar language will NOT be tolerated.
- **Respect** - This program and workplace centers on respect for others. We DO NOT tolerate putdowns, bullying, harassment or disrespect toward fellow participants or staff. We expect tolerance of the diversity of others.
- **Damages** - Campers are responsible for the care and preservation of any issued equipment. All campers should and will respect the property of SeaWorld and other campers. Any damage to property will be repaired at the expense of the camper causing the damage.

Dress Rules

• Footwear

- Closed-toe footwear and socks must be worn at all times.
- Sandals are not allowed in animal areas.

- **Camp T-shirt**
 - The camp t-shirt is your uniform and is to be worn while involved in camp activities and while in animal areas.
- **Shorts/Pants/Shirts**
 - Shorts should be comfortable and come to the middle of the thigh.
 - Denim shorts of any length, cut-offs, short-shorts, and bike/exercise shorts (spandex) are **NOT** suitable.
 - Jeans, without tears or holes, may be worn during **free time**, but are not recommended.
 - Shirts/tops with spaghetti straps or which reveal a bare midriff are **NOT** permitted.
- **Swimwear**
 - Swimwear must be tastefully and conservatively cut. Females **MUST** wear one-piece swimsuits, **No tankinis**. Males **MUST** wear swim trunks.
- **Jewelry**
 - Jewelry is **NOT** permitted while in ANY animal work areas for animal safety. (This includes stud earrings and other body jewelry.) **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
- **Eyewear**
 - All eyewear (sunglasses included) should be secured with a strap or lanyard.
- **Hairstyles/ Headwear**
 - Hair should not hang in the face in animal areas or interfere with work.
 - Hard plastic hair clips or pins **CANNOT** be worn in the animal areas.

SeaWorld Camp Parent/Guardian Notification Policy

It is our policy to keep the parents or guardians of our campers informed of camper health concerns and behavior during his or her camp experience.

SeaWorld Camp Staff will notify you for the following health reasons:

- Any minor injury requiring more than a small adhesive bandage.
- Any illness requiring a visit to our Health Services office.
- Any illness or injury resulting in Camp Staff transporting the camper to a doctor's office, clinic or hospital emergency room.

We will contact parents, guardians or emergency contacts as soon as possible, depending upon the severity of the illness or injury and need to transport.

SeaWorld Camp Staff will also notify parents or guardians in the case of behavioral or social problems while at camp. Some of these behavioral concerns might include:

- Flagrant disregard or breaking of Camp Rules and Regulations (See Confirmation Packet.)
- Any behavior that endangers or harms any other camper, staff member, guest or animal.
- Behavioral or disciplinary problems for which the camper has been pulled aside and counseled by the counselor, camp manager and camp director.

We will contact the parent or guardian by phone, in the presence of the camper, to discuss the situation and conditions for remaining in camp or arrangements for ending the camp experience.

SeaWorld Adventure Camp Packing Checklist

All Camp Packing List

- _____ Twin-Sized Sheet set/Blanket and Pillow
- _____ Sleeping Bag (For sleepover in Penguin/Shark exhibit)
- _____ Towels (Showering/Swimming)
- _____ Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant)
- _____ Female Hygiene Supplies
- _____ Shower Shoes
- _____ Toothbrush/Paste
- _____ Shaving Equipment
- _____ Comb/Brush
- _____ Pajamas/Sleepwear (Full pajamas top and bottom)
- _____ Closed Toe Footwear (Athletic shoes)
- _____ Shorts/Pants (**NO DENIM IN THE ANIMAL AREAS** - See Rules)
- _____ Hat or Cap

After Camp/Other Clothes

- _____ Shorts/Pants/Shirts (See Rules)
- _____ Light Jacket even for summer
- _____ Swimsuit (See Rules)
- _____ Socks
- _____ Undergarments
- _____ Shoes for Walking (See Rules)
- _____ Picture I.D. for Airline Travelers
- _____ Sunscreen
- _____ Backpack, Knapsack or Hip Pack
- _____ Books, Notebooks, Journals, Writing Paper, Etc.
- _____ Spending Money
- _____ Required Medications (**In the original bottle, with the prescription label**)
- _____ Stamps for Postcards or Letters
- _____ Combination Lock for Locker
- _____ Camera or Film (Cell Phones May not be used as a camera)
- _____ Glasses and/or Contact Lenses
- _____ Orthodontic Devices
- _____ Extra Bag for Souvenirs
- _____ Wrist watch

PLEASE LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME (Personal Stereos, Jewelry, ETC.)

SEAWORLD WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN MONEY OR PERSONAL ITEMS.

If you have any questions regarding any of these rules, call (210) 523-3608.

Directions

Please be aware that SeaWorld Camp residential programs do NOT meet at the main entrance to the park. We've include directions to the main gate of SeaWorld San Antonio and directions from there to the Administration/Receiving/Human Resources entrance (Employee Parking Lot) where SeaWorld Camp residential programs meet.

From Downtown San Antonio

Take I-37 South to Highway 90 West. Exit Highway 151 West. Take the Westover Hills Blvd. exit and turn left. Follow the directions below.

From North (Airport area)

Take Loop 410 West to SeaWorld exit. Take Highway 151 West to Westover Hills Blvd. and turn left. Follow the directions below.

From South (Corpus Christi, Pleasanton)

Take I-37 North, exit to Highway 90 West. Take Highway 151 West to Westover Hills Blvd. and turn left. Follow the directions below

From West (Del Rio, Uvalde)

Take Highway 90 East to Loop 1604. Turn left on Loop 1604. Turn right on Highway 151 East and exit Westover Hills Blvd. Turn right onto Westover Hills Blvd. and follow the directions below.

From East (Seguin, Houston)

Take I-10 West, which becomes Highway 90 West. Take Highway 90 West to Highway 151 West. Exit at Westover Hills Blvd. and turn left. Follow the directions below

From Austin or Dallas

Take I-35 South to Loop 410 West. Take Highway 151 West to Westover Hills Blvd. Turn left at Westover Hills Blvd. and follow the directions below.

From West (El Paso, Kerrville)

Take I-10 East to Loop 1604. Turn right on Loop 1604. Exit Highway 151 East to Westover Hills Blvd. Turn right at Westover Hills Blvd. and follow the directions below.

From Westover Hills Blvd. (driving into SeaWorld)

Turn left at the light at the entrance to SeaWorld (onto Ellison Dr.) Turn right at the first stop light (onto Military Drive W). Turn right at the second stop sign. Drive down the hill and through the first security check-point. The check-in table will be set up in front of the Administration building on the right.

CIT Camp Q&A:

Q: What should my camper wear and are there laundry services?

A: SeaWorld camp T-shirts will be supplied to each camper. Laundry service will be provided for camp shirts and work area shorts only, at no charge, once during the week if your stay is longer than three nights. Please bring enough socks, undergarments, etc. for the session.

Q: What can I NOT bring to camp?

A: Restricted items are as followed set by the American Camp Association and the Texas Department of Health and any violation will result in dismissal from the program:

- Pets (cats, dogs, lizards, frogs, hermit crabs, etc.)
- Personal sports equipment (balls, bats, etc.)
- Weapons and firearms
- Alcoholic beverages and smoking is prohibited (regardless of age)
- Possession/use of non-prescriptive narcotic drugs under any circumstances

Q: Can I send my camper mail/packages or can my camper send out mail?

A: We will pick up mail at least once per day. For your convenience, we suggest that you bring your own postage stamps for postcards and letters. Campers can receive mail while you are here. All in-coming mail MUST have a return address for security reasons. Please have your family and friends address it to you at this address:

**(Participant's Name)
C/o SeaWorld Camp
CIT Camp
10500 SeaWorld Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78251-3002**

CIT Resources

In addition to the rules and regulations we want to supply you, the Counselor-In-Training, a little more information and some guidance on how to prepare for your time at SeaWorld San Antonio's CIT program.

Before the summer begins SeaWorld Camp counselors are given several resources to prepare with. We have listed below 4 resources that you might want to check out. From learning general SeaWorld animal information to behavior management, these skills will be helpful with the campers you will work with. We look forward to having you this summer and enjoy!

1. <http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/info-books/index.htm>. Please go ahead and take a look and freshen up on your information since part of your CIT journey will be to learn the information well enough to give presentations to the campers.
2. <http://www.acacamps.org>. As stated previously, SeaWorld Adventure Camps are ACA accredited. This accreditation helps to dictate many of the standards that we work by. Please take a moment to learn about ACA and why it is important in the Camp industry.
3. The camp atmosphere is unique. It's not school, but it's not home. It looks like school, with the group of kids, all the same age, doing something with a purpose, but it's less strict. It is a place where kids can come to have fun with their friends, learn something new and create memories they can keep with them for years to come.

SeaWorld Camp not only provides the opportunity to learn about marine life, but it's also a place where campers can develop life skills. Our camps provide situations where kids can have:

- Meaningful relationships with positive role models
- Exploration of self and environment
- Informal interaction with peers from different backgrounds
- Physical activity
- Safe experiences with limits and supervision
- Experiences that are inherently interesting and fun.

Although camp programs provide these opportunities, we achieve this through the counselor. You are the key to the success of our camp. This is a tremendous responsibility, but it is a rewarding experience that will provide you with many of these same opportunities. (Adapted from *Camp is for the Camper*, by Connie C. Coutellier and Henchey)

4. Take time to go to www.google.com and search for "camp counselor tips" to see what other professionals have to say. This will help you begin to develop your niche as a CIT.

Counselor in Training Sample Schedule

DAY 1

Arrival
Dinner and Orientation

DAY 2

How to be a Counselor 101

DAY 3

Expedition Camp Curriculum Training
Shadow Expedition Counselors

DAY 4

Departure Procedures Training
Expedition Camp Curriculum Training

DAY 5

Start of Counselor duties with Expedition Camper

DAY 6

Arrival Procedures Training

DAY 7

Begin practicing animal talks
Counselor test

DAY 8

Arrival of Expedition Camp campers
Assist with check-in, and shadow designated camp counselors

The following is a sample schedule of Expedition Camp. Since the CIT's will be working with the Expedition Camp, this is a tentative schedule CIT's will follow.

DAY 8 – PINNIPED DAY

Learn about pinnipeds and endangered species

- Feed & observe sea lions
- View Sea Lion, Otter, and Walrus show & talk by trainers
- Study endangered species at Sea World

DAY 9 – BIRD DAY

Uncover a unique variety of birds

- Feed and observe lorikeets
- Tour the Penguin Encounter/Talk with aviculturists

Sleepover at Penguin Encounter

DAY 10 – WHALE DAY

Discover whales and dolphins

- Feed & observe dolphins
- View White Whale & Dolphin show and Shamu show & talk by trainers

DAY 11 – FISH DAY

Study differences between bony fish and sharks

- Tour the Sharks/Coral Reef Exhibit
- Tour Behind the Scenes Support Areas

DAY 12

Departure