



COUNSELOR INQUIRY LETTER

Dear Volunteer Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Camp To Belong OC (CTBOC) volunteer camp counselor. We are looking forward to our 2011 Camp session the week of July 23rd – 30th, which is being held at the Irvine Regional Park in Orange, CA. On July 25th we will welcome approximately 100 brothers and sisters from around Orange County who have been separated in the foster care system or other out-of-home care. This camp week is an opportunity for siblings to spend time together in a relaxed, yet exciting, environment where a special mix of activities and programs will be put together to make their week at camp memorable for the sibling connections that are enhanced.

It will be the responsibility of the volunteer camp counselors to provide a safe, nurturing, and fun setting for these siblings to connect with one another and with other campers who are in similar situations and to safely enjoy their week at camp. We look for camp counselors who

- are responsible & respectful,
- are energetic & like to have fun
- are team players and can take initiative
- are willing to jump in the trenches,
- are willing to be totally unselfish,
- feel exhilaration,
- yearn to learn and understand the needs of the resilient kids who will be campers
- and who also understand and value the sibling relationship.

I have attached to this letter the "New Counselor Application" and the "Camp To Belong Volunteer Reference Questions." The application needs to be completed and mailed to the address provided. You will also need three references to complete and return the reference form.

For confidentiality purposes and to keep everyone's personal information safe, we ask that the application form be mailed via regular mail rather than submitted electronically. References will be accepted electronically as long as the questions and format on the attached reference form are used.

Once we have received your application, you will be contacted to schedule an interview. In most cases a telephone interview will be scheduled. A follow-up interview may also be requested if we have further questions. A decision will not be made until all three reference letters are received and background checks have been returned.

Background checks will be required of all first-time camp counselors at their own expense. Please include a check for \$25 made payable to the Eddie Nash Foundation.

Again, on behalf of the Camp To Belong OC Planning Committee, I thank you for your interest in volunteering at CTBOC. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 949-683-8632 or at cindy@camptobelongoc.org

Sincerely,

Cindy Roe and Bryan Nash
Camp To Belong Orange County



NEW COUNSELOR APPLICATION
(Complete one application per volunteer)

CAMP TO BELONG OC
Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center
July 23rd – 30th, 2010
Counselor Training July 23 – 24, campers July 25 - 30

Please consider your application and commitment to become a volunteer counselor carefully. We understand that life events can occur unexpectedly. However, we must stress the importance the role our volunteer counselors play. If counselors drop out, especially close to the dates of camp, the number of campers may be adversely impacted. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

DATE OF APPLICATION:

Have you served at any other CTB? Yes No If yes, please give the location and year(s) served.

NAME: _____
Name you want on your Camp To Belong Name Button: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____
LENGTH OF RESIDENCY: _____
HOME PHONE: _____ **WORK PHONE:** _____
CELL PHONE: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** _____
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: _____ (May opt to provide this information at phone interview)
DATE OF BIRTH: _____ **PLACE OF BIRTH:** _____
GENDER: _____ **HT:** _____ **WT:** _____
T-Shirt Size _____

Do you speak more than one language? Yes No If yes, please list those languages in which you are proficient:

DRIVER'S LICENSE (#, STATE ISSUED BY, AND EXPIRATION DATE): _____
Has your driver's license ever been suspended or revoked? Yes No
If yes, attach a signed document indicating the nature and circumstances of the action taken against you.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? (Exclude any minor traffic violations for which the fine was \$50 or less before April 5, 1986 or \$100 or less on or after April 4, 1986.) Yes No
Have you ever been arrested for a crime? Yes No
If yes, attach a signed document indicating the nature and circumstances of the crime(s).

Camp To Belong requires clearances for all volunteers through the Department of Justice, Child Abuse Index and/or Investigative firms. Do you give Camp To Belong consent to obtain these clearances with regards to you serving as a volunteer at Camp To Belong Summer Camps? Yes No If no, we will not be able to continue the application and interview process.
Have you included a \$25 check to The Eddie Nash Foundation to cover the expense of obtaining the clearance? Yes No

Residency History:

Previous address #1.

Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Length of Residency: _____

Previous address #2.

Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Length of Residency: _____

Employment History:

Present Employer

Employer: _____ Position: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Supervisor: _____

Last 2 Employers

Employer 1: _____ Dates of Employment: _____
Position: _____
Responsibilities: _____
Reason for leaving: _____

Employer 2 : _____ Dates of Employment: _____
Position: _____
Responsibilities: _____
Reason for leaving: _____

Education:

Degree(s) held: _____
Field of study: _____
If student, list school currently attending: _____
Year in school: _____

Health:

Date of last TB test: _____
Health status: _____

Do you have any health issues that would pose a risk to campers or staff?
Yes No If Yes, please elaborate : _____

Do you have any health issues that would prevent or limit your participation in camp activities?
Yes No If Yes, please elaborate: _____

Do you have current CPR training? Yes Expiration date: _____ No
Do you have current First Aid Training? Yes Expiration date: _____ No

Volunteer Experience:

Are you volunteering as a paid representative of your agency or business?

Yes No

Are you volunteering on your personal time? Yes No

Please list all past and current volunteer experiences:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

What interested you in volunteering with Camp To Belong Summer Camps?

Describe any experience with children in foster care, adoption or kinship care?

Have you received specific training on appropriate ways to restrain youth?

Yes No If yes, please include verification of training.

References:

List three persons, not relatives, who have knowledge of your character, experience, and ability to work with Camp To Belong Summer Camps. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE COPIES OF THE ENCLOSED REFERENCE SHEET AND FORWARD THEM TO YOUR REFERENCES. YOU MAY WANT TO INCLUDE AN ENVELOPE FOR THEM TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO CAMP TO BELONG TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Years acquainted: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Years acquainted: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____
Years acquainted: _____

Emergency Information:

In the case of an emergency, please list those individuals we should contact.

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____ Relationship to you: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____

So that we may start to get to know one another prior to the camp week, please include a short biography of yourself that will be shared with all volunteer counselors in future mailings.

PERSONAL BIO:

Your Volunteer Commitment:

Please know that the Camp week is not finished until all campers have been connected with their care providers for their return home and Camp To Belong has cleaned and packed to leave the Outdoor Education Center. Counselors may not leave their camp commitment early except by pre-arrangement or in the case of emergency.

I understand the opportunity to participate in Camp To Belong Summer Camp is a volunteer position, and therefore money for services will not be exchanged. If I am traveling to a camp site outside of my home geographic area, I understand I am responsible for all transportation costs to and from Summer Camp.

I understand that I will participate in volunteer training starting with reviewing documents that may come through regular mail and e-mail prior to camp, as well as attend on-site pre-camp training as included in the days for each camp noted above.

I authorize investigation of all statements herein and release Camp To Belong and all others from liability in connection with it. I understand that if I am chosen to volunteer, it will be at-will, and any agreement to the contrary must be in writing and signed by Camp To Belong. I also understand that untrue, misleading or omitted information herein or in other documents completed by the applicant will result in dismissal regardless of the time of discovery by Camp To Belong.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

Camp To Belong is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization and gives equal opportunity to all volunteers.

Return your application to

**Camp to Belong, Orange County
c/o The Eddie Nash Foundation, ATTN: Cynthia Roe
307 W. Taft Ave., Suite A
Orange, CA 92865**

Questions? Call Cynthia Roe, Camp Director, at (949) 683-8632

PLEASE NOTE: ONCE WE HAVE RECEIVED YOUR APPLICATION, YOU WILL BE CONTACTED TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW. IN MOST CASES A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WILL BE SCHEDULED. A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW MAY ALSO BE SCHEDULED IF WE HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS. A DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE UNTIL ALL THREE REFERENCE LETTERS ARE RECEIVED AND BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. WE WILL CONTACT YOU TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF APPLICATION.

FOR CTBOC USE ONLY

Date application received _____

Date of interview _____

Name of interviewer _____

Clearance _____

Camp To Belong OC Volunteer Reference Questions

_____ is applying to be a volunteer counselor at a Summer Camp session for Camp To Belong Orange County 2011 and has listed you as a reference. Camp To Belong is a non-profit organization dedicated to reuniting brothers and sisters placed in separate foster homes or other out-of-home care (www.camptobelong.org). Our counselors spend a week with the siblings in a camp environment. We would appreciate it if you would answer the following questions and send the form back to us within ten days of receipt. Feel free to use an additional sheet of paper if necessary. Thanks very much for your time.



Please return the form to
Camp To Belong Orange County
C/O The Eddie Nash Foundation, Attn: Cindy Roe
307 W. Taft Ave., Suite A
Orange, CA 92865

1. How long have you known the applicant, and in what capacity?

2. Have you seen the applicant interact with children? If yes, what stands out?

3. Is the applicant a leader/initiator or a follower?

4. Is the applicant self-motivated, or does he/she need others for motivation?

5. How does the applicant handle conflict?

6. Would you consider the applicant to be flexible? Responsible? Loyal?

7. Does the applicant have a sense of humor?

8. Does the applicant like individuality and/or to be part of a team?

9. What kind of patience level does the applicant have?

10. Why do you think the applicant wants to be a counselor?

11. Would you recommend the applicant to take care of your children? To be a counselor at camp?

PLEASE PRINT NAME:

SIGNATURE:

MAY WE CONTACT YOU IF WE HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? YES NO

IF YES, BEST NUMBER OR E-MAIL TO REACH YOU _____