



LEADERS IN TRAINING

Program Description Packet



*To raise up a generation of Godly servant-hearted
kingdom builders.*

VERSION 2018

Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre

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LIT Theme Verse

"Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:43b-45

Program Overview

Who is LIT for?

Students who are at least 15 years of age and love God, wanting to explore their relationship with Him further and become leaders in their world. This is a challenging program that begins at camp, but is not simply another few weeks at camp. This experience has been created for those wanting to better understand how to follow Christ, lead others to Him and seriously deepen their faith in Him, all in the context of a Christian camping environment.

What does LIT look like?

It is a 2-year formalized commitment the camp makes to the participants and their relationship with God, guiding them to live out their faith in their world as members in the body of Christ. They will receive character development training in godly living along with being exposed to the many facets of Christian camping ministry.

Where does LIT take place?

Rivers Edge Camp has been in the camping ministry for many years. It is located just 9 kilometres west of Cremona, AB in the Water Valley area approximately 45 minutes northwest of Calgary close to the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

When is LIT?

The journey begins this summer with three weeks at Rivers Edge Camp from **July 8th-27th, 2018** continuing into a fall retreat, a winter project and a 2018 spring retreat.

July 8 Parents drop off LIT's 4:00PM

July 13 Parents pick up LIT's 4:00PM

July 15 Parents drop off LIT's 4:00PM

July 20 Parents pick up LIT's 4:00PM

July 22 Parents drop off LIT's 1:30PM for all-staff meeting.

July 27 Parents pick up LIT's 9:00PM FINAL PICK UP

What's the Cost?

The cost of this two-year program is \$510 per student. Participants will be encouraged to seek the support of their local church through prayer and financial assistance. It is suggested that the local church assists by giving \$100 per student. Participants will be coached in sending out

a prayer letter and gathering support as this will underscore the importance of the church, prayer and accountability. (A sample prayer letter is enclosed in the packet)

Also each participant needs to prayerfully find an adult mentor, 18 years or older, in their local church who will meet regularly with them through the winter months. (A guideline sheet is enclosed in the packet)

What's the Plan for the Three Weeks at Camp?

Week One:

- Three hours of **Youth Alpha** Course
- Worship and Devotions
- Camp Activities
- Serving behind the scenes in different ministry zones
- Journaling

Week Two:

- Three hours of **Youth Alpha** Course
- Worship and Devotions
- Camp Activities
- Campfire Testimonies
- Serving behind the scenes in different ministry zones
- Off-site day trip
- Journaling

Week Three:

- Serve as a junior cabin leader if your leaders see that you are ready
- Journaling
- Fall project assigned
- Campfire debrief and wrap-up celebration

Sample Support Letter

Hi (include the pastor's name),

I have applied to Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre to participate in the Leaders in Training program. It is a two-year student leadership training program that enables students to establish their faith relationship with Jesus Christ; grow their character in Christ-likeness; gain clarity about their part in God's kingdom work, all in the context of Christian camping ministry. It involves having an adult mentor from my church family who will regularly meet with me to encourage and challenge me to keep growing in my relationship with Christ. I will be attending three weeks at Rivers Edge Camp this summer, *July 8th - 27th, 2018* then a fall retreat and a spring retreat next year. Along with these events I will be involved in a year-long project focused on Christian leadership.

The 2-year program costs \$510 per participant. I am prepared to raise most of that amount, but am asking if the church would support me \$100 along with regularly praying for me. I value the support of my church family as I enter into this adventure which I believe will significantly affect my life's direction and effectiveness as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for considering my request. Feel free to contact me or Jesse Nickel, Program Director at the camp (403-637-2766, jesse@riversedgecamp.org) if you have further questions.

(Conclude the letter as you wish)

Guidelines for Mentoring an L.I.T.

The L.I.T. program is a two-year student leadership training program provided by Rivers Edge Camp & Retreat Centre. The program's goals are to enable students to establish their faith and relationship with Jesus Christ; grow their character in Christ-likeness; gain clarity about their part in God's kingdom work, all in the context of Christian camping ministry. An integral part of ensuring that this happens in the student's life, is the role of a godly adult mentor which is why you are being approached.

What are the expectations of a mentor?

1. To meet regularly (monthly) from September through June preferably in person, although occasionally it may be done by phone/Skype if schedules do not allow in person.
2. To invite the student to share on three areas since the last meeting, referring to his/her journal.
 - a). Where have you seen growth in your relationship with Christ?
 - b). What have you found difficult? What temptations have you experienced and how have you handled them?
 - c). How have you witnessed God working through you?
3. Close each meeting with prayer
4. Pray regularly for your student.
5. Share an update regularly with Jesse Nickel, Program Director at Rivers Edge Camp, on the progress of the student.

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Personal Salvation Testimony (PST)

Your PST is your story. It's one of the most powerful ways to share the truth because it's your experience. No one can argue with what you've experienced.

As a result of this learning experience, you will:

1. Be able to share the story of how you met Jesus and how he is changing your life,
2. And will be able to explain how He can change the lives of your listeners as well!

Instructions From The Top

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have." (1 Peter 3:15)

As mentioned in the preface, your PST is your story. It's one of the most powerful ways to share the truth because it's your experience. No one can argue with what you've experienced. Since you're sharing a part of yourself, it shows people a vulnerable side of you and allows people to open up to you. It helps people relate to you because someone in your audience, or someone you are sharing with one-on-one may have experienced something similar.

Your Goal: To share the story of how you met Jesus and how He is changing your life, and explain how He can change the lives of your listeners as well.

Short & Simply: Keep your PST between 3 and 5 minutes

How To: Explain the Gospel so clearly that your listener will know how to meet Jesus as you did.

PST Outline: Let's look at the basic outline of your testimony.

1. The Hook: To grab people's attention
 - Ask a question or tell a brief story to grab people's attention.
2. How You Met Jesus?
 - Be specific about the actions you took. Describe your encounter with Jesus in such a way that someone listening to you can do it for himself or herself, without having to ask someone else for help.
3. What has happened since?
 - Tell how your decision to follow Jesus has affected your life, and is now affecting the way you live.

How to apply?

Download the application form on our website at:

<http://riversedgecamp.org/lit>

Then print it, fill it out, scan it and email it to info@riversedgecamp.org.

Note: All LIT participants accepted into the program will need to get a “Vulnerable Sector Check” from their local police station **PRIOR** to the program start date. It can take up to a month for the police station to process your request.



Hope to see you this summer!