



## Summer Camp Teacher-Naturalist in Training (TNT) Program Description

Want to help strengthen your college résumé? Transform your summer experience from the ordinary into the extraordinary by becoming a Teacher-Naturalist in Training (TNT) at the New Canaan Nature Center. TNTs at the Nature Center comprise a volunteer force of teens who shadow and assist our experienced Camp Counselors with a variety of everyday camp activities while gaining invaluable life skills in a dynamic and energetic nature camp setting. TNTs help bridge the gap between campers and counselors and play an indispensable role by bringing their unique teen energy to camp. TNTs who excel in their position and enjoy the camp experience often go on to become Camp Counselors once they are 18! Do you have what it takes to be a TNT?

### Qualifications:

- Age 14-17
- Enjoy working with children ages 3-10 years
- Be highly motivated and able to handle responsibility
- Possess a willingness to help Counselors in a variety of tasks
- Must be prompt, energetic, and enthusiastic
- Be a role model for younger kids

### What Do TNTs Do?

TNTs will assist Camp Counselors with everyday camp responsibilities such as:

- Engaging the campers in concept-related planned activities
- Reinforcing camp expectations
- Assist with snack time and lunch breaks
- Participate in Leadership workshops with other TNTs
- Help gather and prepare supplies for camp activities
- Reading stories and singing songs
- Participating in /facilitating games and activities

*Additional responsibilities will be given to TNTs based on your interests, ability to grab children's attention, and your readiness for it!*

**Commitment:** TNTs will commit to volunteering for a minimum of 2 consecutive weeks. TNTs are expected to be at camp each day Monday-Friday from 8:45 am to 3:00 pm. TNTs may choose their weekly schedule preference. In the event a TNT must miss a day of camp, the TNT Coordinator or Camp Director must be notified of absence in advance.

**Cost:** There is **a one-time \$100 materials fee for each TNT**, regardless of the length of your commitment. This fee is due upon acceptance into the TNT program and helps to cover the cost of training, TNT program supplies and the TNT uniform (T-shirts and Water Bottle).

**Training Session:** Upon accepting a TNT position, all TNTs will participate in a quick 45 min orientation and training session before their start date. Please indicate on the application which sessions you will be attending.

### TNT Timeline:

March 1 – May 15: Accepting TNT applications (*apply early as positions are limited*)

March 15 - May 20: Interviews for TNT applicants

May 20- June 1: Acceptance notifications and required camp paperwork sent to accepted TNT applicants

Two weeks before start date: All camp paperwork and payment completed and returned

**Interested?** That's fantastic news! To get started, simply fill out and return a TNT application (available online or at the Visitor Center). If chosen, you will be contacted by the Summer Camp Director to set up a short phone interview. Please note, sending in an application does not guarantee you a position as a TNT. If you have any questions, please contact the Summer Camp Director at [camp@newcanaannature.org](mailto:camp@newcanaannature.org).

### Summer Camp Teacher-Naturalist in Training (TNT) Program Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (m/d/y) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size:  Small  Medium  Large  XL

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the TNT program? \_\_\_\_\_

I've been a TNT before. If so, when \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions (use the back or an extra sheet for additional space):**

**What are your experiences working with children? Include ages and group sizes, please.**

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**Why are you interested in working with summer campers?**

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**What are your interests and experiences with nature and the outdoors?**

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**What do you like to do with your free time?**

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**Why do you want to be a TNT at NCNC?**

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**What are you hoping to gain from your TNT experience?**

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**What day and time is most convenient for you to participate in a zoom interview?** (Choose one and specify a time)

- Monday Afternoons \_\_\_\_\_  Wednesday Afternoons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tuesday Afternoons \_\_\_\_\_  Friday Afternoons \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose a time to participate in a mandatory orientation meeting.**

- Tuesday, June 20 at 2:00 pm  
 Thursday, June 22 at 2:00 pm

**During which weeks this summer are you able to be a TNT?** (Choose all that apply)

- June 20-23  July 10-14  July 31-- August 4  
 June 26 – 30  July 17-21  August 7-11  
 July 3-7  July 24-28

**Which weekly schedule/ age group do you prefer:** (Choose all that apply)

- 3- and 4-year-olds  
 Pre-K--Kindergarten  
 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Graders  
 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Graders

**I have read the TNT Program Description and understand the commitment of being a TNT at the New Canaan Nature Center.**

**TNT Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed application to: Summer Camp Director  
New Canaan Nature Center  
144 Oenoke Ridge  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
camp@newcanaannature.org