

# LYFE Camp 2017 Leader-In-Training Application



January 25, 2017 (**Updated February 15, 2017 to reflect new due date, March 8, 2017, and a slight clarification on Application #6. Interact.**)

## **Greetings, friends, in the name of the living Christ!**

Thank you for applying to be a Leader-In-Training (LIT) at LYFE Camp 2017 (the dates are June 25 – July 1 at Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, MN; leaders arrive June 24). LYFE Camp is a powerful way for teens to grow in their self-esteem, faith, and love and trust of God. LITs will serve Christ and make a positive impact on campers' lives. *You* can be a part of this!

I'm Rev. Nate Melcher, the Dean of LYFE Camp, and I'm proud of you for discerning how God may be calling you to be a leader at camp this year. You are in my prayers in your application process and I hope you'll contact me whenever you need clarification, support, or help in this time. In the meantime, please set yourself up for success and give this letter your full attention. Here we go!

## **The mission of LYFE Camp:**

**Our mission** at LYFE Camp is to provide a quality camp experience in which Christ is offered to every camper to raise up faithful disciples so that the world is transformed. **Our goal** is to help all campers feel safe, secure, and loved, and to share and learn about Christ and creation. **Our winning proposition** is to build connections with Christ, Community, and Creation.

This is why we do what we do. If you've been to LYFE Camp or another camp before, think about the ways you saw this mission lived out. Think about how this mission can be lived out by you. Think about how we can all live this mission out better to give our campers the best experience possible. Please keep this in your mind and heart as you step into your application process.



## **LIT Responsibilities:**

Volunteering as a LIT is one of the most rewarding leadership roles you may have in your senior high years. Each LIT goes about the job a little differently and reaches different campers because no two campers are alike. The five main duties of a LIT are:

1. Help **ALL** campers feel welcome and accepted for who they are;
2. Be a Christian role model to campers (grades 7-10) **AT** and **AWAY** from camp all year-round;
3. Be an active leader in camp activities like crafts, campfire, small group, and worship;
4. Attend and participate in all pre-camp LIT training and planning sessions;
5. Be ready and willing to step up and serve where and when needed.

## **How LIT Candidates Are Evaluated:**

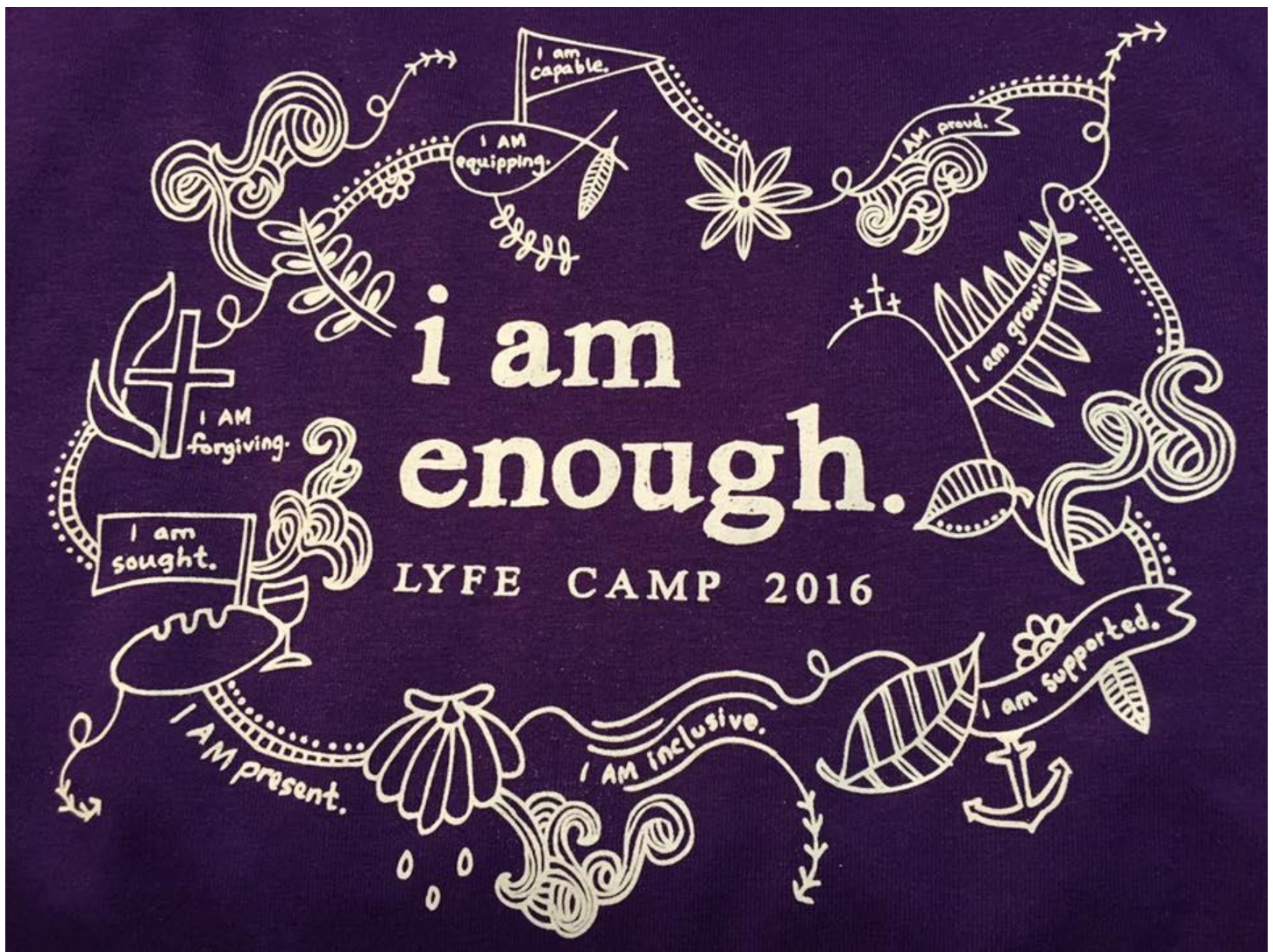
Candidates are selected based on:

1. the fullness of the content of their application submitted on time;
2. their past contributions to LYFE Camp (for those who have been attended before);
3. their perceived potential for this year's camp in an ensemble leadership setting;
4. and their year-round involvement as leaders in faith-based groups outside of camp (God calls us to "Live Your Faith *Everyday*" and definitely *not* just as camp).

## **How to Apply:**

Please fully complete your application and send it to the Dean via the LYFECamp.org submission form **by 11:59pm, March 8, 2017**. **Late applications will NOT be considered.** You're encouraged to be self-motivated in your application process: use good time management, put in the needed work, pray, and ask for help when you need it! It's not something one can easily do in one sitting or at the last-minute; **set yourself up for success and plan ahead.**





### All Applications Must...

- Be fully completed and submitted on time.
- Include both a telephone number and email address so we can reach you.
- Be typed, double-spaced, in an electronic format, 8.5" x 11" with one-inch (1") margins on all sides with a standard font and size like 12-point Arial, Cambria, Georgia, Times New Roman, or Verdana.
- Be sent with the submission form at [LYFECamp.org](http://LYFECamp.org).

### Application Tips:

**Save your work often!** Save it on your hard drive. Save it on your jump drive. Save it in the cloud. Email it to yourself. Send it to yourself in a Facebook message. Print it out. **Save, save, save.**

**Be creative!** If you wish to add creative elements like a podcast, video, artwork, original song, slideshow, website, blog, or other creative ways to express yourself *as part of* your application, please contact us ahead of time so we know what to expect from you and make sure we're on the same page.

**Follow the directions!** There are eight sections of the application. Please write about all eight; do not skip any sections. At the end of each section is a number in parenthesis with the expected word count length (total: 800 words). **Please respond specifically and honestly.**

## LYFE CAMP 2017 LIT APPLICATION:

### 1. ANNOUNCE. | 100 words

- a. **Scenario** | It's the first day of camp and everyone is introducing themselves in small group.
- b. **Respond** | Write your intro. Who you are?! Share about your family of origin, your city and school, your hobbies, interests, and activities, and how you're involved in your home church.

### 2. TEACH. | 100 words

- a. *If you're a second-time LIT applicant, watch the Rev. Rob Bell video "[Nooma: Today.](#)"*
- b. *If you're a first-time LIT applicant, watch the Rev. Rob Bell video "[Nooma: Kickball.](#)"*
- c. **Scenario** | You've been asked to share what you learned from this video to teach other LITs.
- d. **Respond** | Write a response to all three of these questions:
  - i. What is the main point or "nugget" of this video sermon?
  - ii. How does it apply to serving as an LIT at camp?
  - iii. How does it apply to living as an LIT at home?

### 3. PREACH. | 200 words

- a. *If you're a second-time LIT applicant, read Luke 10:25-37 and this [commentary](#).*
- b. *If you're a first-time LIT applicant, read Luke 15:11-32 and this [commentary](#).*
- c. **Scenario** | You've been asked to deliver a sermon at evening worship based on this scripture.
- d. **Respond** | Write a brief sermon that does three things:
  - i. Helps campers understand what life was like when Jesus lived.
  - ii. Helps campers see this story in their world, too. This parable (story) from Jesus shows what God's love looks like. Think about modern examples of this story in the life of middle schoolers, our nation, and the world. Offer 1-3 examples of how this story of what God's love looks like can show up today (at least one, but not all, should be a personal example).
  - iii. Offers campers the main point or "nugget" of the scripture for their lives.

### 4. LEAD. | 100 words

- a. *Read Matthew 5:38-48 and this [commentary](#).*
- b. **Scenario** | Imagine there is a camper who has a challenging personality and you don't see eye to eye. In fact, there's a lot you disagree about or you've had negative interactions with before. They're approaching you and just when you wish you could avoid them, you remember that this scripture passage was the lesson from last night's evening worship.
- c. **Respond** | Write a response to all three questions:
  - i. When was a time you found it hard to love an "enemy"?
  - ii. When was a time you found a way to love an "enemy"?
  - iii. What are examples of ways you can offer love for this camper?

### 5. TESTIFY. | 100 words

- a. **Scenario** | In Sanctuary, you're spending some quiet time with God and thinking about your life choices. Some are great! Others, you're not proud of. Something enters your mind from your past that makes you want to ask God, and even perhaps particular people, for forgiveness.
- b. **Respond** | Write about a time in the last year when you made choices/displayed behavior your regret or believe was inappropriate because you were not being a good role model. How have you learned from this experience so you can be a stronger servant of God in the world?

**6. INTERACT.** 100 words

- a. Complete [UMC Spiritual Gifts](#) Assessment and use the link at the end of the inventory to email Nate Melcher ([nate@haumc.org](mailto:nate@haumc.org)), a faith leader in your home church (get their permission AND their email address BEFORE you take the assessment), and yourself a copy of the results. Then, set up an appointment with that faith leader in your home church to go over the results together BEFORE you write your response below.
- b. **Scenario** | Everyone has skills from God, sometimes called “spiritual gifts.” Your home church wants to help you get more involved based on your spiritual gifts and have asked you to take the UMC Spiritual Gifts Assessment to see how your gifts rank. High rankings mean these are your strongest spiritual gifts and low rankings mean these are your growing gifts.
- c. **Respond** | After you’ve taken the assessment, emailed the results, and met with your faith leader, write a response to all three questions:
  - i. Who is the faith leader in your home church that you met with (plus email/phone info) and what do they think of your inventory’s results?
  - ii. What do you agree with the most and what surprised you?
  - iii. What gifts will you use easily and which will be challenging for you as an LIT?

**7. DREAM.** | 100 words

- a. **Scenario** | A few months before LYFE Camp, the Dean smiles and reminds you that if you were an LIT, you would have to work in an ensemble of other LITs, supporting each other and also allowing yourself to be supported. Then the Dean smiles again and asks you, specifically, what gifts you bring to an LIT team and what help you need from an LIT team.
- b. **Respond** | Write a response to both questions:
  - i. What gifts do you bring to an LIT team?
  - ii. What help do you need from an LIT team?

**8. COMMIT.** | No required word count

- a. **Scenario** | LITs need to train before LYFE Camp as individuals and as a team.
- b. **Respond** | Visit [LYFECamp.org](http://LYFECamp.org) and review the LIT pre-camp meeting dates. Put them on your calendar. Expect to attend. Write a list of all of the dates at the bottom of your application and whether or not you will attend (if you won’t be able to attend one of the meetings, write why). This section does not count toward the expected word count of the application.

**“The Fine Print.” The Important Not-To-Be-Skipped-Over Fine Print:**

Candidates may be asked for additional interviews / provide references. Due to staff-to-camper ratio needs, space limitations, and other factors, we must be discerning in staff selection; it’s possible not all candidates will be selected to serve as LITs in 2016. Juniors and seniors only attend LYFE Camp in the LIT role. Deans reserve the right to refuse any applicant for any reason at any time. Please send questions and comments about the application process directly to the Deans.

All applicants will be notified of their status on or about March 1, 2017. Please don’t register for LYFE Camp until *after* you learn your status. Scholarship money is available from both your local church and Camp Minnesota. *Please don’t let funding deter you from applying for a LIT position.*

Thank you so much for applying to be a LIT. In the LYFE Camp ministry, LITs play a vital role and you wouldn’t be applying if you didn’t understand this. We hope to hear from you and we hope you find the process helpful in better understanding both yourself and how you might serve God as a LIT.

In Christ,  
Rev. Nate Melcher, Dean of LYFE Camp 2017  
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