



Description of the Pre-Application and Application Processes for the CIRCLE Program

To be read by CIRCLE Applicants and Parents/Guardians

Welcome, and thanks for your curiosity! The goal of the Application Process - overall - is to find motivated young adults who will be able to co-create a meaningful CIRCLE experience. And, as this program is likely very unlike anything applicants have experienced before, we put a lot of intention into making sure CIRCLE applicants are good fits for the program, and vice versa.

As part of this intention, CIRCLE has a selective admission process.

This means that completing the requirements of the CIRCLE Application Process does NOT guarantee a spot in CIRCLE. Dozens of campers express interest in the program each year, and there are only 20 available slots. Even if only half of the interested parties decide to apply, we could only accept half of the applicants. Referrals to other programs for teens will be provided for any applicants whom we do not feel are a good fit for CIRCLE at this time, as well as thoughts about areas of growth for the future. We ask that families be prepared to support applicants in this time, as many have been coming to camp for many years and it may be challenging if they do not find a place in CIRCLE.

Description of the Pre-Application (5+ hours)

Why a Pre-application? To ensure that commitments/expectations of the program are clear to both the parents and the applicants upfront, and that CIRCLE is indeed something that both are interested in pursuing.

What's in the Pre-application? When the CIRCLE program has made its annual updates and is ready to start the application process, they will send out an interest email. When you respond, information on the pre-app process will be shared with you. The steps of the pre-app process include

- Review of the intentions, framework, ethos, and commitments of the program
- Completion of the *Signature & Initial Form* and the *Permission to Participate Form* (on CIRCLE website)
- A paragraph from the applicant about their interest in applying to the CIRCLE program
- Completion of the Intent to Register

Description of The Application (15+ hours)

The application is done in the spirit of reflection and assessing fit for the CIRCLE program. It is not an academic paper; rather, all parts of the application are open ended and reflective with the desire to get to know the applicant better and to hear their voice.

- **Round 1: Essay Questions:** Extensive and detailed essay answers to 10 questions will be required. Based on the effort and content of these responses, up to 22 applicants will be invited to proceed to Round 2. This is a 5+ hour process, and the earlier the pre-app is done, the more time for the app.
- **Round 2: Follow Up Questions:** CIRCLE staff will generate a set of follow-up questions in response to Round 1 answers from the applicant. These will address concerns and curiosities about the applicant's Round 1. Applicants may be invited to set up an interview with CIRCLE staff based on their assessed fit.
- **Interview:** Typically between 30-60 minutes on video chat or phone with the CIRCLE Leader, which **the applicant** must schedule. This will be a two-way Q&A to help determine whether CIRCLE is the best fit for the applicant at this time in their life, and whether the program will help them to serve and meet their own goals.

- **Invitation or Referral:** Applicants will receive an invitation to enroll in CIRCLE or given referrals for potential other programs. We will also offer our insights into potential areas for growth/reflection for applicants who are declined admission to CIRCLE
- **Accept or Decline:** Applicants will have week to reflect on the process and then accept or decline their invitation into CIRCLE. If some decline, additional spaces may be opened to other applicants. CIRCLE will begin shortly after the New Year.

Pre-application & Application Time Commitment: Up to 25 hours, spanning from mid-October through mid-December.

- Thorough reading and reflections on website content = 3+ hours
- Thorough reading of camp expectations and philosophies = 2+ hours
- Responses to application questions in Rounds One and Two = 15+ hours
- Interview = 1 hour.

Key Points Regarding Pre-Application and Application

1. **Email, Phone, and Video Chat contact:** Applicants will be in direct communication with the CIRCLE directors and other Camp Augusta staff, primarily via email, with some phone and video chat conversations. It will be necessary for your teen to have consistent weekly access to a computer and reliable internet connection to apply for and participate in CIRCLE.
2. **Preparation:** The CIRCLE Application process requires a thorough reading of many important pages on the Camp Augusta website, campaugusta.org (over 170 pages), with notes taken on those pages and questions written down for any content that wasn't understood.
3. **Intent to Apply email:** Prospective applicants must send a one-paragraph email to circle@campaugusta.org stating their intent to participate with the CIRCLE application process, including their thoughts about the vision and mission of both Camp Augusta and the CIRCLE program.