

ELI Applicant Name: _____

Pastor Name: _____

Church Name: _____

Pastor Contact Number: _____



ELI Pastor Reference Form

Dear Pastor,

You might be wondering why you have been asked to complete this reference form. In short, the high school member of your congregation who gave you this form would like to be a part of the Experiential Leadership Institute (ELI) this summer – and this is a requirement to be considered!

The ELI's Day Camp Counselor program is designed for rising 11th-12th graders who are cognitively ready to be self-reflective, who are ready to accept responsibility for elementary-aged children, who want to make a difference in the lives of others in Christian service and who will benefit from gaining leadership experience before leaving home for college. Just as summer camp is guided by the understanding that faith can only be grown as it is practiced, ELI believes that leadership cannot be nurtured without the opportunity to lead. So after a week of leadership theory and skills training, each participant will serve one or more weeks as a Day Camp Counselor, putting newly acquired skills to practice in a wonderful ministry setting. Thanks for helping to make this experience possible for your youth!

ELI Day Camp Counselor Program Description

Application & Interview Process (This Fall)

- Submit application and references
- Pastor Reference Form
- Formal Interview process
 - Group interviews this January/February

Leadership Development Week (Summer)

- Safe Sanctuaries Training
- Presentations from camp and church leaders
- Team building on high & low elements on the Glisson challenge course
- Facilitate skills for games and activities (field games, nature study, crafts, archery, basic high ropes facilitation)
- Personality and Strengths analysis
- Leadership training and workshops include:
 - communication & presentation skills
 - exploring Biblical examples of leadership
 - how to lead a Bible study and create a devotion

Home Church Leadership Experience (Next Fall)

It is required that ELI participants, with your help, participate in serving the local church next fall.

Opportunities might include:

- serving as a leader within the youth group...
- working with the children's ministry...
- helping lead an outreach program...
- serving as a youth representative on church committees such as SPRC or a task force...

Day Camp Volunteer Weeks (Summer)

- Serve as a counselor for Grow Day Camps hosted at local churches of the North Georgia Conference leading campers for five days
- Plan and facilitate daily activities for rising elementary-aged campers
- Nightly debriefing of the day's leadership experience with Grow Staff
- Host a celebration for parents and campers at the closing of the day camp week

