

What is TST neXt?

The TST neXt (counselor-in-training) program is a natural extension of the core values of both SpringHill and TST, allowing students to prepare for a role in ministry by giving them hands on experience in a structured, supervised environment. The neXt program is a 3 week experience. After one week of thorough training, neXt participants will serve for 2 weeks alongside counselors with 1st-3rd graders or 4th-6th graders.

We believe that building relationships with others, sharing the Gospel, and seeing lives transformed, is in itself transformational and an important step in the process of Christian growth and maturity. In this way, we hope that neXt participants will have a life-changing experience at SpringHill.

The week of training will highlight the following:

- Team building
- Group and behavior management
- Gospel Essentials
- Age-appropriate activities
- Building relationships with children
- Conflict resolution
- Leadership and management skills
- Learning and leading a curriculum
- How to share my faith story
- Customer service and professionalism
- Personal devotional life

The subsequent two weeks of service will include:

- Hands-on ministry with younger children
- Opportunities to build relationships with children
- Participation in skits and lessons as needed
- Assisting campers with activities
- Assisting counselors with behavior management
- Modeling and sharing a relationship with Jesus
- Leading a SHX for the children they are with
- Personal Bible study
- Time to discuss and learn from others in the neXt program during meetings

What happens once the TST neXt program is completed?

Teens who have completed the neXt program will be given a copy of a recommendation, written by the coordinator of the neXt program, which will highlight their strengths and accomplishments. This will serve them in the future as they apply for other jobs, leadership positions in school or extra-curricular groups, or their youth group. The recommendation will also be put in their SpringHill file for future reference if they apply for a position with us. Those who have successfully completed the neXt program will be at an advantage if they are considering a position on staff at SpringHill, although a position is not guaranteed. *The recommendation later will state that they have earned 60 to 100 hours of community service over three weeks.*

Who can apply for the TST neXt program?

The program is for any young person who has completed 10th-12th grade (those who have completed 11th-12th grade will be considered first). It does not matter if you have ever been a camper at SpringHill before – that is not one of the requirements for acceptance.

Here's a summary of the kind of student we are looking for:

- One who has completed 11th or 12th grade (possibly 10th)
- One who is a Christian and eager to share their faith with others
- One who loves younger children and realizes they can have an impact eternally on their life
- One who is willing to have fun, be spontaneous, and share experiences with children
- One who is able to draw teachable moments out of everyday experiences
- One who is primarily coming to camp to be in ministry, be challenged in their walk with Jesus, and work hard (relationships with peers is secondary to this)
- One who is responsible and trustworthy and will model appropriate Christ centered behavior for other campers
- One who may desire to work in ministry with children in the future (i.e. at a local church or at SpringHill as summer staff)

If this describes you, you should apply today!
Come and be prepared for a new and life changing summer experience!

Other important considerations:

Participants in the neXt program are campers, not staff. They will never have sole responsibility for a cabin of campers, and will work within a structured and supervised environment. We expect participants to be young men and women of integrity, who are passionate about being in ministry and sharing Jesus with others. Because of the structure of the program, with participants being a highly influential person in the life of a young person during their camp experience, any behavior which compromises their witness will not be tolerated. Even after accepted into the neXt program, participants will be asked to leave, without refund, if they are not acting appropriately or performing at the expected standard.

Applicants who have done TST in the past should realize that the neXt program has many differences from other TST programs. Once assigned to a cabin of children, they will be spending a large part of the day investing in and building relationships with children, not their peers. Time will be spent with peers during the training week and for limited times during the work weeks. The neXt program was created for older high school students, who are enthusiastic about ministry and sharing the love of God with children.

How can you apply for the TST neXt program?

Campers cannot apply or register for TST neXt online. Applications must be mailed or faxed in. The application process consists of:

Step 1: Print off & complete TST neXt application at: www.springhillcamps.com/tst

Step 2: Mail or fax to SpringHill: PO Box 100, Ewart, MI 49631 - Fax 231-734-0045

Step 3: Give reference forms to three references, and follow up to make sure they are completed and returned to SpringHill.

Step 4: You will be contacted for an interview

Step 5: You will receive notification of either a.) acceptance or b.) recommendation to a TST Classic or TST Elite program

Step 6: Our registration department will process your registration with deposit

When is the TST neXt program offered?

TST neXt Michigan dates:

- June 13 - July 2, 2010
- July 4 - July 24, 2010
- July 25 - August 13, 2010

TST neXt Indiana dates:

- June 13 - July 2, 2010
- July 11 - July 30, 2010

We encourage participants to apply as early as possible. Please expect 2 weeks to receive an interview once we receive all of your references and application. Any questions during this process can be directed to the TST director, Andy Hust, at ahust@springhillcamps.com or (231) 836-1067.

Questions concerning registration, your deposit, and your balance can be directed toward the registration department (231) 734-2616.

