

Hey CITs of 2022,

I absolutely could not be more excited to be sending you all this letter! It is a great privilege to welcome you to the best summer of your lives, CIT summer. I'm your CIT director, Halle. As your CIT director, it is my job to guide you through your last summer as a camper and make sure it's as memorable and enjoyable as possible! I have been so lucky to have watched many of you grow up at camp, and I can't wait for you to take the next step this summer. Whether you have been at camp long enough to have been my Freshkid or just for a couple years, the best part about CITs is that there is a place for everyone.



Before I can talk about what is sure to be the best summer ever, let me tell you a little bit about myself:

This will be my 7th year on staff and 16th summer at Manitou! I worked as a counsellor on the Adventure Park for 3 years, then spent one summer as Head of Dance, one summer as Senior unit head, and finally last summer got to return to the CIT unit as CIT director. I learned so much from my time with the CITs of 2021. I can't wait to build on all of the amazing memories we made last summer and make some new ones that are uniquely CITs '22!

This year I have been busy completing my Master's of Occupational Therapy (OT) at the University of Toronto. As you can imagine, completing a master's program and making it to camp is no easy feat. Luckily, a lot of OT directly aligns with camp, and particularly with the CIT program, because OT focuses on helping people accomplish meaningful activities of daily living, especially in the face of a big life transition. You are all going through a huge transition this summer, as you move from campers to staff, and I feel so lucky that I have this new OT lens to help guide you through it! I will be telling you more about what my role will look like at camp and how it aligns with OT, but for now just know that being able to spend one more summer up at camp with all of you means the world to me.

Some other fun facts you should know about me:

I have two dogs and will show pictures to anyone upon request, I am a big Raptors fan, I once went skydiving and scuba diving within 24 hours of each other, I believe pizza is an open-faced sandwich (if you agree, I must know), and I go all in during music lunches. But in all seriousness, CIT summer was hands down my favourite summer at camp. I will do whatever I can to make sure it is just as special for all of you!

The best part of the CIT program is that it is constantly growing and changing. This summer we are of course bringing back the classics: our amazing CIT canoe trip, salsa night, CIT snack, and the best Midnight Madness to date. Also returning are our "CIT meetings" every other day to gather and discuss leadership, counsellor roles in camp and personal development. These meetings feature many special events, guests, and fun activities! You will have the opportunity to learn leadership roles within a camper cabin and on an activity placement. If you have any questions or concerns about CIT responsibilities, please never be afraid to reach out and ask – that's what I'm here for! In addition to the classics, I have so many amazing ideas for new programs and special events this summer. But most importantly, ideas that come from you are always the best ideas! Please reach out if there is anything you would like to see happen this summer.

Think back and remember the unforgettable memories your counsellors and camp role models have given you. You now have the chance to help create those kinds of moments and become a mentor in a camper's world. This is a time to start fresh and be your best self! This summer is yours to make as special, memorable and rewarding as possible.

After the past few crazy years we've had, I completely understand that the thought of this summer can be a bit intimidating. Maybe you are feeling a bit nervous or unsure about the summer, or maybe you are just so excited you can hardly wait, either way, I would love to hear from you! Feel free to send me a message on Instagram (@hallepurther), or an email (hallepurther@rogers.com), or even send me some TikToks because that's what I spend 95% of my time doing.

That's all from me for now, but before you know it, we will be chilling in the village laughing around the campfire. Also, make sure to bring decorations to spice up our CIT lounge – this is a dream every summer, but if there is one group that can finally make this happen, it's you - the CITs 2022! I am so excited to spend the summer with all of you and to watch you thrive as a CIT, as an individual, and as part of the Manitou family.

Sending you all lots of love, the best summer ever will be here before you know it!

Halle