

SAFETY TOWN

Safety First! for Santa Clarita's Kids

Youth Volunteer: Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Info Sheet - 2020

Safety Town is a one-week, 3^{1/2}-hour day, safety education summer program. Safety awareness is introduced to children (ages 4½ to 6 years) in an age appropriate, fun, and secure environment. Through group lessons, guest visits from local community safety professionals, songs, lessons, crafts and pedestrian/driver role play, the program teaches children to evaluate “safe” from “unsafe” situations. *Topics include:*

- Earthquake & Disaster Safety
- Fire Safety
- Emergencies/9-1-1
- Water Safety
- Bicycle Safety
- Internet Safety
- Personal Safety/Stranger Danger
- Pedestrian Safety
- Vehicle and Passenger Safety
- Playground Safety
- Animal Safety
- Medicine/Drug Safety

At **Safety Town**, young children learn and practice basic safety concepts and rules and develop safety habits under the guidance of a California-credentialed teacher, a safety instructor and youth volunteers (Counselors-in-Training or CIT). In addition, students learn safety lessons from daily visits by local community safety professionals representing the County Fire and Sheriff's Departments, American Red Cross, the City of Santa Clarita – Crossing guards, Lifeguards, and more. The Safety “Town,” built in the school's MPR, is complete with child-size buildings, street signs, crosswalks, sidewalks, traffic light and small pedal cars with seat belts. Children are divided into building groups and colors for smaller group instruction.

Safety Town will be held:

Date: July 13 – 17, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Place: Wiley Canyon Elementary School
24240 La Gloria Circle, Newhall

Youth volunteers (Counselors-in-Training or CIT), play a valuable and integral role in the success of Safety Town - Santa Clarita. CITs ages 13 - 17 in 8th to 12th grades, are needed to assist the credentialed teacher, safety instructor, and teachers' aide in the instruction, reinforcement and modeling of safety rules and behaviors to be learned by the young children. Volunteers work every day of the session and earn community service hours. Hours of CIT service: *Monday* from 8:00 AM to 1:10-1:20 PM, *Tuesday – Thursday* from 8:30 AM to 1:10 - 1:20PM, and *Friday* from 8:30 AM to 1:30 - 1:45 PM.

All youth volunteers must attend a mandatory orientation program on Friday, July 10 from 10:00 AM to 12 noon. Please read the **Youth Volunteer (CIT) Info Sheet** and **FAQs**, before submitting this application.

Applications are available on www.SafetyTownSCV.com.

For more information contact

Stephanie Molt, CIT Coordinator at (661) 904-2540 or email Stephanie@santaclaritaoptimistfoundation.org

or

Susan Russell, Exec. Director of Safety Town at (661) 306-4414 or email Susan@santaclaritaoptimistfoundation.org

Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation or the Optimist International is neither sponsored nor endorsed by Newhall School District or the School or by William S. Hart Union High School District or the School.

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Safety Town – Santa Clarita

FAQs for Youth Volunteers

How old do I need to be to apply to become a Counselor -In-Training (CIT) youth volunteer?

Volunteer applicants must be entering 8th – 12th grade (13 – 17 years of age) and eligible for community service hours. The individual must be mature, responsible, dedicated and enthusiastic for working with young children. The Director reserves the right to dismiss volunteers due to immaturity, inappropriateness, and/or noncompliance to rules (e.g., overt/covert behavior, dress, and/or inattentiveness to assisting children or co-workers).

When and how do I apply to be a Counselor-In-Training?

Applications can be downloaded from www.safetytownscv.com. Completed applications must be mailed to the address listed on the form, and positions are filled according to qualifications, experience and age to ensure balance of groupings.

If I have served as a CIT at previous camps, do I need to attend the orientation on Friday, July 10 at 10:00 AM?

YES. This is a mandatory training for All volunteers; there are no exceptions.

I sent in my application before the deadline but was not given a volunteer position. Why?

We have limited positions available. You must apply early to have a better chance of receiving a volunteer spot. Also, Safety Town – Santa Clarita reserves the right to deny an application based on prior noncompliance and/or negative behavior, as outlined in the volunteer agreement.

What if I can only work part-time during the week of Safety Town?

As a CIT you commit to work every day during operating hours of Safety Town. This includes arriving on Monday at 8:00 AM, and by 8:30 AM Tuesday - Friday, participating in pre- and post-camp session briefings, and assisting with clean-up. CITs usually leave the camp between 1:10 PM on Monday – Thursday, and 1:30 ~ 1:45 PM on Friday.

How do I earn community service hours?

If you have graduated from the 8th grade or above, you must bring a community service form from your school to the CIT Coordinator where you will perform your volunteer service. At the end of your service, the CIT Coordinator will return the form to you with the amount of completed hours and an authorized signature. It is your responsibility to bring the completed form to your school office for credit. Note, if you do not have a school form, or you have not graduated from 8th grade, the CIT coordinator will complete a school-compliant form and give to you as you leave on Friday, July 17.

What do CITs need to bring to Safety Town?

An enthusiastic attitude, a willingness to help, guide, teach young children, model safe and healthy behaviors, and accept responsibility for following Safety Town rules and ethics.

CIT and Staff Communication.

We strongly encourage CITs to communicate and cooperate with the staff. Good communication with each teen helps the staff relate to them most effectively.

Is there a dress code a CIT needs to follow at Safety Town?

All CITs will be expected to wear the green CIT Volunteer vest each day, and clean and appropriate attire, which includes:

- Closed-toe, athletic type shoes are to be worn.
- **No** short-shorts (shorts must extend at least 5 inches below the distal end of your seat), leggings with mesh material, halter tops, bare midriffs/crop tops, tube tops, oversized tank tops, or spaghetti straps.
- Pants must stay up at the waist without the need for a belt and/or suspenders.
- Hats may not be worn indoors, except for medical necessity.
- **No** visible tattoos. If you have any that are exposed, you will need to cover them. No exceptions.
- **No** facial piercings or visible jewelry that interfere with our work with the children (at the discretion of the Safety Town Staff).
- Avoid any clothing or hair style that interferes with the learning environment.

What is your Disciplinary Policy, and does it apply to CITs?

The Disciplinary Policy applies to all children and teens participating in the camp. To ensure that each camper has a fun and safe Safety Town camp, the following rules have been established:

1. Be safe
2. Follow the lead and direction of all Safety Town staff members and counselors
3. Use appropriate language
4. Be respectful to staff, counselors and peers

For the protection and well-being of all participants, children and teens must be able to follow simple instructions. Inappropriate behavior and/or negative language and attitude may be grounds for dismissal from the program. A warning will first be issued, followed by removal from activity if negative behavior persists. Dependent upon the nature of the behavior, parents will be notified to discuss appropriate measures and possible dismissal of their child/teen from Safety Town. The Safety Town staff and Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation reserve the right to make appropriate adjustments and/or dismiss any child or youth volunteer student for behavior that poses a safety risk to themselves or others.

Is there a Code of Conduct for all Volunteers? You will be asked to sign a Safety Town/Newhall School District **“Code of conduct.”** It will be emailed to you with your confirmation to participate in the camp. You and your parent will need to sign and date it and bring the completed copy with you to the CIT orientation on July 10. With the confirmation, you will receive a map and address of the school.

Will the Safety Town Staff administer medications to teens?

No, there is no nurse or medical staff on duty. Staff cannot administer medications, including asthma inhalers, epilepsy medication, etc. If your child/teen has a medical condition, (1) request a *Safety Town Medical Waiver* from the Safety Town Director, (2) have your child’s/teen’s physician complete the form, and (3) mail the original form (not a copy, photo or email attachment) to the Director. The completed form **must be received no later than July 6, 2020** to this address:

Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation - Safety Town
23890 Copper Hill Drive, Ste. #249
Valencia, CA 91354

Is there a Scholarship for CITs who have worked at Safety Town?

CITs are encouraged to participate in each session of camp each year, as eligibility permits. Annually, the Santa Clarita Optimist Foundation awards a scholarship to one CIT who is a graduating high school senior and has successfully completed at least 4 Safety Town camps.