

StroudLeaders Handbook Addendum 2026

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission

Program Overview

The **StroudLeaders program** is a leadership development and public service learning program for teens ages **13–15**. Participants are called **Leaders-in-Training (LITs)**.

Goals:

- Develop leadership, teamwork, and interpersonal skills
- Gain exposure to career and community service experiences
- Mentor younger campers and assist staff in program delivery

Activities Include:

- Working in pairs or small groups with younger campers
 - Outdoor recreation, sports, games, and special events
 - Community service projects and career skill workshops
 - Theme-based programming alongside StroudKids campers
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Registration & Selection

Note: StroudLeaders is **limited to 15 participants**.

All LITs must register for the **8-week program bundle**.

Weekly registration is **not available**.

1. Submit an application and 2 letters of reference (non-family) online or email recreation@srosrc.org.
2. Applicants are contacted starting in **March for an interview** with the Recreation Manager and/or StroudLeaders Counselor
3. Acceptance is based on program fit and interview performance
4. Complete registration documents and payment in full due by **June 10, 2026**

Required Documents (if selected):

- Signed StroudLeaders Handbook Addendum
 - Community Service Permission Slip
 - Outside Service Form (if applicable)
 - Payment in full by June 10, 2026
 - Optional: First Aid & CPR Certification (recommended)
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LIT Expectations & Requirements to Graduate

Attendance: Maximum **5 absences** allowed for graduation eligibility

Service Hours:

- **Camp Service:** 10 hours/week assisting counselors and mentoring younger campers
- **Community Garden:** 10 hours through the summer at Grow and Give Garden
- **Individual Service Project:** Designed with counselor guidance

Other Expectations:

- Participate in **special events, guest speakers, and career workshops**

- Dress appropriately and demonstrate **positive behavior**
- Be a **role model** for campers at all times

Career Awareness Opportunities:

- Resume building, interviews, “dress for success” workshops
 - Parents may share career paths if interested (coordinate with Recreation Manager)
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Program Structure

- LITs rotate through different StroudKids groups in pairs or small teams
 - Daily activities follow the **weekly StroudKids themes**
 - LITs assist staff while also participating in fun, age-appropriate activities
 - Swimming may occur daily, weather and staffing permitting
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Behavior & Professional Expectations

LITs are **mentors and role models**. Expected behavior includes:

- Respecting campers, staff, and property
- Acting professionally in all interactions
- No bullying, foul language, or inappropriate behavior
- No personal relationships/fraternization with counselors
- Fully engaging in the program and leadership activities
- No cell phones, tablets, or personal electronics during camp hours

LITs are held to the same discipline policy as other campers, with additional accountability for mentoring responsibilities.

Graduation

- LITs who meet attendance, service, and behavior requirements will be invited to a **graduation celebration** with family
 - Graduation signifies completion of the StroudLeaders program and recognition of leadership development
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StroudLeaders Social Contract

As a StroudLeaders participant, I agree to:

1. **Be respectful** – honor differences and treat everyone with kindness
2. **Support camp counselors** – act independently and as a mentor to younger campers
3. **Promote a safe environment** – no bullying or inappropriate behavior
4. **Contribute to the camp community** – maintain clean camp areas and assist campers
5. **Conduct myself professionally** – uphold non-fraternization and model leadership
6. **Fully engage in camp** – no personal electronics or social media during camp hours
7. **Have fun & challenge myself** – participate actively in all activities
8. **Complete community service projects** – required to graduate

The StroudKids staff will redirect misbehavior and notify parents if necessary. SROSRC reserves the right to **suspend or dismiss a LIT without refund** if behavior does not meet program standards.
