



Camp Akeela Circular



News From The Directors

Dear Camp Friends,

Throughout our nine unforgettable summers on Miller Pond we have seen so much growth, not only in our campers but in the size of our community, as well. We have watched our camp grow from approximately 40 to almost 120 campers per session. Likewise, the number of Akeela staff members has risen from less than 40 to more than 100. Over the years, we've added six new camper cabins, a golf driving range, the Lodge, a dining hall porch, gazebos and so much more. We are excited to announce that in the summer of 2017, our community is going to grow even more, with the opening of another Camp Akeela, in Wisconsin!

Don't worry, nothing is going to change about the Camp Akeela that we all know and love in Vermont. We are just expanding west so that more boys and girls have an opportunity to grow in a loving and fun-filled summer camp community similar to what we have created together on Miller Pond. Debbie, Eric and Kevin will all continue to spend their summer in Vermont, while Dave and Katie Baker will be the On-Site Directors in Wisconsin.

Akeela Wisconsin will be located on the campus of Lawrence University in Appleton, which is about 40 minutes southwest of Green Bay, two hours north of Milwaukee, and three hours north of Chicago, IL. Despite being on a college campus, our Wisconsin camp is most definitely NOT an academic program! In three 2-week sessions, campers competing grades 3 - 10 will enjoy many of the same activities that our Vermont camp has to offer, including swimming, art, drama, music, cooking, tennis, team sports, LARPing, hiking, trips, and nature exploration. All of the camp traditions we have grown to love in Vermont – evening meeting, campfires, bunk songs & plaques, and special event days – will be equally integral to the experience at our new camp. We are going to bring as much of the magic of Vermont as we can to Wisconsin to create yet another incredible, life-changing summer experience for campers and staff!

We are so excited about this new adventure and invite you to follow all of its progress at the camp website, campaakeela.com.

Fondly,

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2016 DATES

VT FIRST SESSION:
June 28 - July 21

VT SECOND SESSION:
July 24 - August 16

WI FIRST SESSION:
June 26 - July 8

WI SECOND SESSION:
July 10 - July 22

WI THIRD SESSION:
July 24 - August 5

BEYOND AKEELA:
July 10 - August 2

FAMILY CAMP (VT):
August 19 - August 25

Blayne's Bulletin

Blayne is taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather on Miller Pond and is getting off to a blazing start with a few projects we have planned for the off-season. He has already completed the new Bunk 4 porch (pictured to right), and is making progress on porches for Bunks 5, 7, and 8. We're so excited that ALL of our camper cabins will have porches next summer. Bunks 7 and 8 will share a large common porch between the cabins, a nice treat for our most senior male campers! Blayne is also making a few aesthetic improvements to a cabins and completing the stone wall along Miller Pond Road at camp's entrance.



Can you tell which former building is shown in the photo below? If you guess the camp office, you're right! Blayne has knocked down our (very) old office and is laying the foundation for our new two story office, which will be ready for Summer 2017. The new office will provide a more welcoming space for touring families, and provide a more efficient workplace to help camp run even better! We're also continuing our landscaping work around the office and Main Lawn by adding new trees and various other shrubs.



Kev's Korner

Dear Akeela Families,

Now that we've had time to reflect on another successful summer at camp and also look forward to next summer, a word is consistently coming into my mind: Growth. When I think about all the different facets of camp, from campers, to program, to our off-season work, it seems like growth is everywhere!

This past summer, we saw campers grow in so many ways. They took leaps of faith in trying new things, whether it be an unknown food or going down the zip line. They took on leadership roles in welcoming new

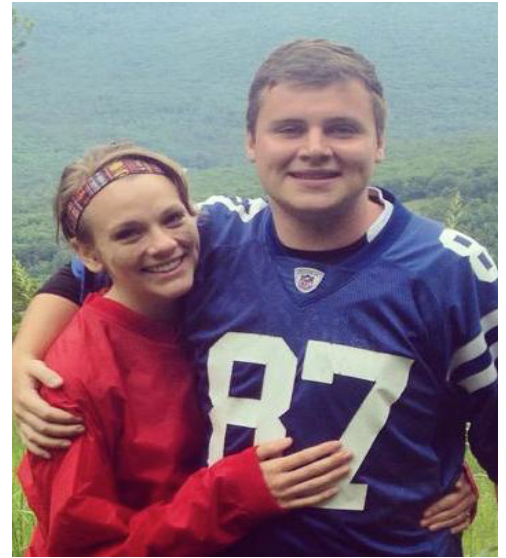
campers to the community, just as they were warmly welcomed in their first summer. They took positive social risks like performing in the talent show or camper play. Akeela campers as a whole really took it upon themselves to step out of their comfort zone and we're so proud of the growth they exhibited in doing so.

As you can probably imagine, growth is on our mind a lot this off-season as we begin a new endeavor in Wisconsin. Our year-round team has expanded and we're so fortunate to continue Akeela's mission beyond our Vermont community. The growth pillar of Akeela is ringing true more than ever. I'm honored to be part of an organization that stays so true to its vision, and a community that has been so supportive of that growth.

Love,
Kevin

More Akeela Weddings Bells!

We are thrilled to announce that we have another Akeela staff wedding engagement to celebrate! Greg W. and Julia S. met at Akeela in the summer of 2013 and have spent every summer together since. At the beginning of this summer, Greg planned a beautiful proposal to Julia in her favorite spot on camp – the Art Barn! Because Greg is from the UK, the pair are currently going through the visa process for Greg to become a permanent United States resident. They plan to get married at Camp Akeela in August of 2018. Theirs will be the 6th marriage of couples who met at Akeela! Congratulations, Julia and Greg!



POISE

Providing Opportunities for Independence & Social Experiences

Once again, this year's POISE-a-Thon was a rousing success. Collectively, Akeela campers raised over \$18,000 for charity through basketball, swimming, running and archery. The money raised this summer goes directly to camper scholarships for Akeela, MGH Aspire, and other similar camp programs.

This is continuously one of our favorite days of camp because of the passion that our campers show in each event and their drive to raise money for such a great cause. Thank

you, thank you, thank you for your energy, participation and generosity!

(If your child participated in the POISE-a-Thon and you have not yet had the opportunity to send the corresponding donation, it's not too late! Just visit www.poisescholarship.org/donate-now/ to make your contribution. Thanks!)

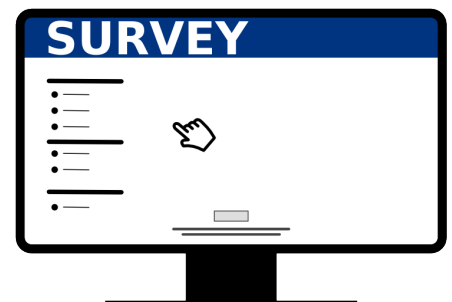
Survey Reminder: We Want Your Feedback!

If you haven't already done so, please remember to complete our online surveys for parents and campers. The more information we have, the better camp can be for all of us. We believe in always striving to do our best and we need your help!

Parents: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AkeelaParent2016>

Campers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AkeelaCamper2016>

Of course, we are also available any time to talk by phone; we'd love to hear from you.



Akeela Winter Weekend ...

We're looking forward to hosting the 3rd annual Winter Weekend reunion in the Berkshires. It's been wonderful to see our campers reconnect with each other, and we can't wait to re-create the magic of camp once again.

When: January 27th - 29th, 2017

Where: The Lodge at Camp Winadu in Pittsfield, MA

Who: 2016 Campers who are currently in grades 6-12



Program includes winter activities at Winadu, bowling and skating outings, and lots of time to play & hang out with friends. Our amazing staff will be there to supervise and ensure that campers have a wonderful weekend.

Registration forms with more details will be available soon. Be ready to reserve your camper's spot, as space is limited and will fill up quickly!

... and Simultaneous Parent Retreat at Cranwell!

10 years at Akeela and 5 summers of Family Camp have taught us how much joy, community and connection comes from bringing together not just Akeela campers, but their families, too.

To this end, we're hosting another Parent Retreat at the Cranwell Resort in Lenox, MA. While your camper enjoys our Winter Weekend reunion, you can relax and play with old and new friends at this world-class resort.

More details coming soon, with information about how to reserve your stay at Cranwell!



CAMPER UPDATES



Lydia D is in her school's production of Fiddler on the Roof, and she is going to see the Broadway hit Hamilton in November (on Election Day!) ... Harrison S has recently started at a new boarding school in Massachusetts where he is in the school production of Rent ... Sadie K and Elliot S (Family Camp) are attending the same school and they are the only two students in the school taking Mandarin class! ... After camp, Jonah L went on a vacation to the coast of Maine with his family where they stayed in a 50s style motel. When his family arrived home, he hung out with fellow camper Charlie N! ... Bunkmates Chris G and Matthew L spent some time together playing fun games and eating brownies, and Chris hopes to have another Akeela reunion with more of his friends later this year ... Jacob C is undertaking a three-year science class called "Science Research" at his school, where he is also in the play, Tarzan. In his Chemistry class, Jacob participated in experiment that made a gummy bear explode, which he thought was really cool! ... Sam S is studying at a new school in Maryland, and he reports that its, "So far, so good!" ... When she wasn't at camp, Sabrina S enjoyed part of her summer snorkeling and jet-skiing in Nevis ... Max T went straight from Family Camp to a wilderness program in Utah where he has spent the last few months climbing mountains, learning to cook, building shelters and learning other outdoor survival skills. He is having a great time ... Since riding for the first time Akeela, Eitan J has taken up horseback riding lessons at home. He is doing weekly classes, loves his horse named Huck, and can't wait to ride again next summer at camp! ... Joey V, Nate L and their dads got together in NY at the end of September for a bike ride along the Bronx River Parkway. Joey also got a new pet hamster named Panda! ... Alexander M has been taking trumpet lessons as well as sailing lessons on the Hudson River ... Elizabeth L is on her school soccer team this fall and will play basketball this winter ... Kate F got four new pet fish (her first pets!) and recently went on a two-night overnight adventure trip with her school where she did lots of rock climbing and ropes course activities ... Noah J and Jacob O got together for Jacob's birthday. They played video games, ate a ton of great food, and tried a "mystery room" which they almost escaped in time ... Ben N recently performed at a Rockit Live Foundation gala event at which musician Steven Van Zandt was being honored ... Jackson B's school soccer team will be playing against his bunkmate Yoni B's school team ... Jacob P has hung out with Dylan G a few times after camp, and has been regularly talking to Michael K-F by phone.



Alumni Spotlight

Evening Meeting is one of our favorite parts of camp because we get to share in the pride of countless camper accomplishments. Now that fall is here and we don't get to be together every day, we thought these newsletters would be a great way to recognize the achievements of some Akeela alumni. There are over 100 young men and women that have completed our Beyond Akeela program. In the spotlight this fall is one such alumnus: Andrew Seide!

Andrew was a camper at Akeela in 2011 (Bunk 6) and 2012 (Bunk 8), and he participated in Beyond Akeela in 2013 and 2014. His favorite memories of camp were the after-dinner "Digestive Dance Parties", boating on Miller Pond, and going on trips with friends. Everyone who has met Andrew knows how energetic and enthusiastic he was about camp, as well as how kind he is to everyone he meets.

Today, Andrew is part of the Transitions and Access Program (TAP) at the University of Cincinnati. The program provides support for college students as they take courses, obtain professional internships, practice independent living skills, and make new friends.

"TAP has helped me navigate the college experience and has allowed me to access university community for social opportunities, such as going to events and making friends, as well as academic and work experiences," Andrew says. One of those work experiences that he highlights was his time as a volunteer equipment manager for the UC Bearcats Division I football team. He was even on the sidelines for a few Bearcats games!

Another thing that Andrew emphasized was that TAP has allowed his social circles to grow. Although he is not a member of a fraternity, he spends a lot of time with the brothers of Phi Delta Theta and Pi Kappa Phi going to Cincinnati Reds baseball games, bowling, playing Super Smash Bros. and playing frisbee golf around UC's campus. "A few of the brothers from the fraternities are some of my closest friends," he says.



Andrew (second from left) enjoying a Cincinnati Reds game with some of his friends from the University of Cincinnati!

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Alumni Spotlight

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Andrew is enjoying the independence and fun he is experiencing at UC, and credits a lot of his readiness for his current situation to his four years spent at Camp Akeela. "I would have never gone to college or been independent enough to live away from home had I not had a similar experience at Akeela, in the way that we learned independence and made friends," notes Andrew. "These experiences of being away from home either on group trips or going to camp will definitely prepare you for the road ahead."

Andrew also wanted to let current and future campers know that it is important to embrace their time at Akeela and to enjoy their camp experiences. "Even if you were especially homesick, like me," says Andrew, "in the long-term these experiences are going to matter and you are going to want to go back and thank [the staff] for teaching us and preparing us!"

STAFF UPDATES

Mark B accepted a job as an associate teacher at Success Academy Charter Schools for next year ... **Celia O** moved to Nashville, TN, to start her graduate school program at Vanderbilt in Early Childhood Education. She's working toward getting her BCBA certification! ... **Akram A** moved from Chicago to St. Louis where he has started his grad school program in Applied Behavior Analysis and is working on a research project ... **Roger T** has been traveling and enjoying post-graduate life. He has also has recorded a new Spoken Word Poetry album ... **Brianna L** is taking a neurology class and is enjoying the challenge ... **Cassidy R-S** is studying in New Zealand where she is working in a school and getting students more involved in gardening and outdoor education ... **Will T** is in his final year at University and he has gotten a job as a support worker with adults with autism ... **Jordan C, Alana T, and Elliot L** all traveled to visit Will for his birthday in September! ... **Lily B** is in her junior year at Castleton University studying elementary education where she's working as a mentor to a 5th grader in a local school ... **Lauren O** is spending her fall semester student teaching at a middle school in Madison, WI, and she is busy applying for teaching jobs in Denver and Chicago ... Since returning back to Scotland **Elliot B** is in his third and final year at University studying event management ... **Emerson M** is working at an adult transitional program with 18 - 21 year olds ... After camp, **Henry B** traveled around the U.S. to see **John M** in Chicago and **Rachard N** in Atlanta. He is now home and working at the Royal Bank of Scotland ... **Kate B** is studying abroad this semester in Barcelona, and she has loved visiting other European cities such as Madrid, Munich and Dubrovnik. She is planning a trip to see her co-counselors **Rob B** and **Henry B** in Dublin in a few weeks ... See the "Wedding Bells" article for news about **Greg W** and **Julia S** ... **Cat C** is in her senior year at Harvard and is taking a class called Anatomy and Physiology in which she's dissected dogfish sharks, rabbits, and a sheep brain! ... **Simon T** recently accepted a teaching job in the UK ... **Nicky B** has been busy rehearsing for an upcoming production of Hairspray playing Link Larkin ... **Alexa D** is starting work as a math teacher ... **Alex W-M** moved to Vermont after camp and has recently gone hiking with **Amanda P**! ... **Angie C** has recently accepted a job at a restaurant on the beach, which she says is both scary and exciting ... **Ian R** is getting his nursing work experience in a hospital in the labor and delivery and pediatrics units ... **Catricia M** moved to St. Paul, MN, and started working as a Behavior Therapist ... **Sacha M** is working as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in New Hampshire ... **Adella S** is spending her semester student teaching in Philadelphia and having a blast ... **Jordan B** started his year out course in Cardiovascular medicine at University and also joined his university's rowing team ... **Nicholas K** moved back to Tucson, AZ, where he is supporting an Autism Program in a middle school and preparing for the GRE exam.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Alex K, November 3
Margo S, November 3
Ricky H, November 5
Marley M, November 5
Claire H, November 7
Ben B, November 8
Jack O, November 8
Ryan B-A, November 8
Natalie R, November 9
Tomas L, November 9
Brayden T, November 10
Reese K, November 11
Ariana M, November 12
Chris M, November 12
Joey V, November 17
Lily W, November 17
Ross P, November 19
Amelia D, November 24
Jackson B, November 29
Michael K, November 30
Jackson B, November 30

Benji S, December 1
Alex H, December 3
Jared T, December 3
Alexander K, December 4
Talía M, December 5
Connor S, December 6
Ethan G, December 6
Elizabeth M, December 8
Aidan B, December 12
Cara W, December 16
Saurav B, December 17
Grace T, December 17
Sean M, December 22
Max T, December 25
RJ T, December 26
Cathal M, December 28
Ethan B, December 30
Elizabeth L, January 1
Ben E, January 1
Nate G, January 2
Julius R, January 3



Dani S, January 5
Thomas C, January 6
Jonah V, January 6
Spencer K, January 7
Jackson J, January 12
Nate L, January 13
Jordyn O, January 14
Jeremy R-T, January 15
Ava E, January 18
Robert O, January 19
Brady W, January 19
Gabby S, January 22
Hannah S, January 22
Eli M, January 27

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Marlon S, November 1
Ronan M, November 4
Caroline M, November 10
Jordan D, November 10
Rachard N, November 11
Brianna L, November 12
Gabe M, November 16
Adella S, November 23
David B, December 1
Jerry C, December 3
Jesus H, December 4
Lauren O, December 5
Jordan C, December 11
Kristin W, December 19

Chris L, December 26
Celia O, December 29
Shamus A, January 2
Chidera A, January 6
Alex W-M, January 8
Cullen B, January 10
Isabel F, January 10
Rob G-J, January 12
Kaitlyn D, January 17
Gabriel Q, January 20
Mark B, January 21
Taylor W, January 21
Michael H, January 27
Elliot B, January 28

