Camp Akeela Parent Handbook

Camp Akeela

Summer 2017

2017 FORMS CHECKLIST

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL FORMS BY MAY 15TH

Campers will not be able to participate in activities until we receive all the required forms.

Forms Found Through the Parent Log In Link at www.campakeela.com

- ❒ Emergency Contact Form (Complete online)
- ❒ Parent Authorization Form (Including insurance card copies and back-up payment info)
- ❒ Health History Form (Complete online)
- ❒ Immunization History Form (Print and mail in, or include equivalent from physician)
- ❒ Physician's Examination Form (To be completed by a physician)
- ❒ "As Needed" Medication Form (Physician's signature required in some cases)
- ❒ Instructions for CampMeds Online Registration
  (If camper takes daily meds, supplements, vitamins, etc.)
- ❒ Transportation Form (Complete online)
- ❒ Optional Outdoor Adventure Trip Form (Limited availability; nominal extra fees apply)
- ❒ Letter to My Counselor (For returning campers only)
- ❒ Update From Parents (For parents of returning campers only)
- ❒ Camper Code of Conduct (Complete online)

Forms Mailed To You With This Parent Handbook

- ❒ Land's End Clothing Flyer (Only the 1 white or grey camp t-shirt is required)
- ❒ LabelDaddy Flyer
  (The best way to label your camper's belongings – and support the POISE camp scholarship fund!)

Dear Akeela Parents,

Welcome to Camp Akeela! We are excited that you have chosen to join our camp family. We are sending you this handbook to help you prepare for camp. It contains information on our policies and procedures, how to order Akeela clothing, travel information and more! This handbook is updated each year; parents of new and returning campers are encouraged to read it carefully.

There are many ways that we try to strengthen the Akeela community. We create an environment that encourages kindness, friendship, participation and acceptance - and we send clear and congruent messages to our campers and their families. To accomplish our goals, we need the support of both campers and their parents. The easiest and most important way that you, as parents, can help to foster the Akeela community is by adhering to our rules and policies and ensuring that your camper understands them as well. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with questions or concerns.

Yours in camping,

Dave Katie

Dave and Katie Baker
On-Site Directors

Debbie Eric

Debbie and Eric Sasson
Executive Directors

CAMP AKEELA - SUMMER 2017 CALENDAR

Sunday, May 15 ..... ALL forms must be returned to our PA ("winter") address

Monday, June 26 ..... Session 1 Begins

Saturday, July 8 ..... Session 1 Ends

Monday, July 10 ..... Session 2 Begins

Saturday, July 22 ..... Session 2 Ends

Campers who are staying for two sessions will have a fun program planned for our "intersession" days!

** NOTE: The May 15th forms deadline does not apply to campers who enroll close to or after that date. We ask that those families complete their camp forms as soon as reasonably possible.*

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ABOUT AKEELA

At Camp Akeela, our mission is simple: to provide our campers with the most incredible, life-changing summer experience on the planet. In particular, we believe in...

- **FRIENDSHIP.** Camp Akeela facilitates social growth and helps campers develop meaningful, life-long friendships.
- **COMMUNITY.** The Camp Akeela community accepts, values and celebrates each camper and staff member.
- **GROWTH.** Camp Akeela fosters the personal growth of each camper by supplying safe and supported opportunities for choice and challenge.
- **PRIDE.** Akeela campers develop and experience competence and are encouraged to take pride in their accomplishments.
- **FUN.** Above all, Camp Akeela provides campers with lasting memories of summers filled with spirit and FUN!

ABOUT CAMPGROUP

Akeela's parent company, CampGroup, is a family-owned organization based in White Plains, New York.

CampGroup's mission is to strengthen and improve all summer camps. It does so by staying at the forefront of the camp world – maintaining and sharing the highest standards in leadership, safety, program offerings, staff recruitment and training.

For us, being part of CampGroup means that we have a built-in network of colleagues with whom we share best practices. The organization also handles all of the "back-end" components of running a camp: purchasing, payroll, accounting, legal, insurance, etc. This allows us to focus on what we do best – work with campers, parents, staff members and program!

CAMPER TRAVEL TO AND FROM CAMP

TRAVEL TO CAMP

Please fill out the online Transportation Form for your camper's travel to camp. When possible, we recommend having your child travel to camp on our chartered coach buses. Counselors and senior staff ride the buses and we carefully assign seating to help campers get to know each other. There is no additional transportation charge for taking the bus to or from camp

Camp Bus from Highland Park (Chicago's North Shore)

Akeela staff members will meet and greet you at 10:00am in the Staples parking lot at 1931 Skokie Valley Road (Rte 41) in Highland Park, IL. The bus will leave promptly at 10:30am.

Camp Bus from O'Hare International Airport

Campers traveling by air should plan to arrive at Chicago's O'Hare Airport as close as possible to 11:00am on the first day of their camp session. (Alternatively, parents may fly to Chicago with their campers the night before and then meet up with Akeela staff members the following morning at a pre-determined time and location in the airport.) **Please check with our office before making any flight reservations.**

PARENT DROP-OFF:

Families traveling from other areas of the Midwest, and those that prefer to do so, may bring children to camp by car. Please plan to arrive at camp between 12:30 and 1:30pm.

Our staff will be prepared to help your child make a smooth transition into camp. Please assist us with this process by planning to stay at camp only long enough to unpack your car and say goodbye to your child. Not only will this help us prepare for the bus arrivals, but it will make your separation much easier as well!

Directions to Lawrence University are available at the end of this Handbook and on their website (lawrence.edu). We will have staff on campus to direct you to the Akeela drop-off location.

TRAVEL FROM CAMP

Camp Bus to Highland Park (Chicago's North Shore)

Our bus will return campers to the Staples parking lot at 1931 Skokie Valley Road (Rte 41) in Highland Park, IL. More detailed information about timing will be sent during the summer, but families should please plan to meet the bus at approximately 11:00am.

Camp Bus to O'Hare International Airport

Campers traveling home by air should plan to depart Chicago's O'Hare Airport after but as close as possible to 1:00pm on the last day of their camp session. (Alternatively, parents may fly to Chicago and meet their children at a pre-determined time and location in the airport.) **Please check with our office before making any flight reservations.**

PARENT PICK-UP:

We welcome families to come see campus, meet our staff and pick up their children on the last day of your child's session. Please plan to arrive at camp between 9:00 and 9:30am.

Directions to Lawrence University are available at the end of this Handbook and on their website (lawrence.edu). We will have staff on campus to direct you to the Akeela pick-up location.

BAGGAGE INFORMATION

For a complete list of what items are needed at camp, please see our suggested Packing List on page 11. There will be space on the camp buses for campers to arrive and depart with all of their belongings. Likewise, families who are dropping off and/or picking up by car may bring and take baggage with their campers.

Those who are taking a flight to camp, or anyone else who prefers to do so, may ship their camp belongings to Akeela prior to their camper's arrival. We recommend UPS Ground, FedEx Ground or the US Postal Service. Please plan ahead and allow plenty of extra transit time; we much prefer to hold bags for you for several days than to have your camper arrive before his/her clothing! Here is our shipping address:

Camp Akeela
c/o Lawrence University
Attn: [Camper Name]
711 E. Boldt Way
Appleton, WI 54911

COMMUNICATION

CAMPER MAIL

Address all mail as follows: [Camper Name]
Camp Akeela
c/o Lawrence University
711 E. Boldt Way
Appleton, WI 54911

Campers eagerly await incoming mail at camp. A few days without a card or letter can be upsetting, especially for younger campers. We strongly advise parents to send one letter several days before the start of the camp session. Please avoid writing letters that dwell on events at home; instead, write positively about your child's camp experiences.

MAIL HOME:

We do not force our campers to write letters home. We will encourage them to do so. However, for many of our campers, the process of writing can be stressful. As a parent, you can call or email us anytime and we are happy to provide you with an update. When your camper does send you a letter, please remember that "snail mail" takes quite some time to get to you. Because of this delay, a sad letter home may be referring to feelings or events that are no longer relevant. Please call to confirm this with us and trust that we will give you an honest and UP TO DATE report!

E-MAIL:

Through our summer website, parents can send email to their child at camp. Emails will be printed once each day and delivered with the campers' regular mail. We request that incoming email be limited to once per day. Log in details and instructions will be sent to you before camp starts.

REGULAR WEBSITE UPDATES:

To keep you as current as possible with all that's going on at camp, we will regularly update our website. Updates will include news from camp, announcements of special events & trips, pictures and videos. These can all be accessed through the Parent Log In link on Akeela's website.

PACKAGE POLICY

In an effort to reduce unnecessary competition among campers and constant pressure on parents to send packages, Camp Akeela has a NO PACKAGE POLICY.

Campers may receive flat envelopes only, up to 11x14 inches in size. Larger packages will not be delivered; this includes Priority, FedEx and Express Mail boxes. They will instead be stored in our office for you to give to your child at the end of camp.

Food of any kind (including drink mixes, candy, gum, etc.) may not be sent and will be discarded. Please share this information with relatives and friends.

If you need to send appropriate camp items (clothing, replacement items, etc.) please call our camp office to let us know a package is coming.

BIRTHDAY PACKAGES:

Birthdays are very special at camp. Birthday packages can be sent to camp. Please address Birthday packages to "[Your Child's Name], Attention: Office Manager." Label the package "Birthday Present" and call in advance to alert our Office Manager to the package's arrival.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with these policies. They have been made solely in the interest of our campers, the cabin group and the camp community as a whole.

Please inform all family members of our package policy.

CAMPER PHONE CALLS (Double-Session Campers Only)

We know from experience that phone calls can often be difficult for both campers and parents. Happy campers can "fall apart" upon hearing a parent's voice and then go off to resume having fun with their friends, leaving parents worried and concerned. Likewise, a phone call home can be a "step backwards" for a camper who is still in the process of adjusting and thriving with the independence that comes with being away at camp. For those reasons, we do not offer a scheduled call home for our two-week campers.

That said, as in all areas of camp, we believe in doing what is best for each camper. Parents will be in regular communication with our senior staff. Throughout that partnership, we are open to all strategies that help children succeed, including a call home, should the situation lend itself to it. Also, if your child has a birthday at camp, you will be able to schedule a phone call on that day.

Parents of double-session campers may elect to schedule one (1) phone call with their child towards the middle of their 4-week camp session. (In families where parents are living separately, each parent will have an opportunity to speak with their child.) Once the camp session begins, phone call scheduling will be accessible through the Parent Log In link on Akeela's website. You will be able to see the dates and times that your child is available and then schedule a mutually convenient time to talk. Your child will call you from our office at the scheduled time.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

FIRST DAY CALLS: If this is your child's first summer at Akeela, you will receive a call from a camp director or key staff member within the first 24 hours of camp. We'll let you know how your child is adjusting to camp and help make sure that you are at ease. Be aware that we have many calls to make and may not reach you until late in the evening.

CALLING CAMP: We believe strongly in partnership and open lines of communication with parents. We regularly call parents to share information and ask for advice. You can expect to hear from your camper's Head Counselor at least a couple of times during the camp session. You can also call the camp office any time to leave us a message about your child. Please be aware that we are with campers and staff during the day and will typically return phone calls in the evenings. Also, while Dave and Katie are always available to you, most camper-related calls will be returned by one of our excellent head counselors. (As a reminder, head counselors are not your child's in-bunk cabin counselors; they are more experienced senior staff members who oversee several age groups at Akeela.)

SPECIAL SITUATIONS: If an emergency or special situation necessitates immediate contact during the office hours of 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, please call and speak with our Office Staff. During the evening hours of 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm, please call the main camp number and leave a message. The camp answering machine is checked regularly during that time period. After 11:00 pm, the camp directors can be reached for emergency purposes at: 401-207-0097. Please do not use that phone number unless there is a true emergency.

COMMUNICATION AFTER CAMP: In September, you will receive a brief report from us summarizing our staff's feedback of your child's time at Camp Akeela. We will also be inviting you to participate in a survey to collect any input you have for the camp.

One of the wonderful outcomes of Akeela is lasting friendships. We would love for your child to be able to keep in touch with his/her friends from this summer. At the end of each session, we will print out the names, home phone numbers and addresses for each camper. In addition, we will list the parent email address that you have used to be in touch with us. (We use parent emails because not all families are comfortable having their children email without their knowledge; if you prefer to have your child use a personal email address, please feel free to pass that information along to your child's friends after camp.) If you do not want to have your family's information shared with the other children in our community, please let us know before the end of your child's camp session.

COMMUNICATION WITH COUNSELORS: Campers often ask us for their counselors' contact information. We ask that our staff members not share their personal email accounts with campers. We also ask that they do not "friend" a camper on Facebook or other forms of social media. We do this in an effort to protect their privacy and because we believe that, as a parent, it is your right to monitor communication between your child and any adults in his/her life. If your child would like to write a letter to his/her counselor, we're confident that our staff would be happy to give you their mailing addresses. You can also send emails to us and we will forward them to a counselor for you. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about this policy.

HEALTH CARE

We are fortunate to have a wonderful medical staff working hard to provide the best camper and staff medical care and to be responsive to parent inquiries and concerns.

MEDICATIONS

We want our campers to be as successful as possible at Akeela. If your child takes medication during the school year, we feel that it is imperative that he/she maintains the same routines at camp. If you have any questions or concerns about this camp policy, please contact us as soon as possible.

All medications, prescription or "over the counter," must be kept in the Health Center. Children are not allowed to administer their own medication without prior approval from our medical staff.

REQUIRED - CAMPMEDS:

In our on-going commitment to meet the needs of our campers as well comply with strict state regulations, we will once again be working with CampMeds, a pre-packaging medication program founded by a former camp nurse. CampMeds has been packaging and shipping medications directly to summer camps for over 10 years.

Our policy and procedure for dispensing and administering medicine requires camp families to have ALL of your child's daily medicine dispensed by CampMeds and sent to camp prior to their arrival.

CampMeds will fill:

- Prescription medication in pill form (daily)
- Prescription medication in liquid form (daily)
- Prescription nose sprays, eye/ear drops, inhalers and creams/ointments
- Non prescription items (OTC) such as allergy medication (daily)
- Vitamins and supplements (call CampMeds to confirm they can provide)

The exceptions are: Accutane, growth hormone, insulin, injections, & birth control pills.

We want to be clear that we do expect 100% participation in CampMeds from families with campers who will take daily medication at camp. (If your camper does not take daily medication, you do not need to register with CampMeds.)

If there is a specific brand that you require for your child, you can send it IN ADVANCE to CampMeds so they can pack it for you. You'll need to do that in the early spring -- please do not wait until May or June!!! In addition, please remind the doctor who writes the prescription to do so with as much detail as possible. For example, if a physician writes a prescription as "2 times a day", it will be given at breakfast and dinner. If there are specific times when a medication should be given, it needs to be written as such on the prescription! Please call us or CampMeds if you have any questions.

Any other medication (i.e. items administered on an "as needed" basis or those listed above as CampMeds exceptions) must be mailed to camp in its original packaging one week prior to your camper's arrival. Please call the office to notify us if medications will be arriving by mail. It is camp policy not to accept any medication (including vitamins, supplements, etc.) on Opening Day.

You will find details about how to enroll in CampMeds, along with an FAQ, on your family's online Forms Dashboard (accessible through the Parent Log In on Akeela's website). If you have any questions about CampMeds, you can reach them at 954-577-0025 and www.campmeds.com.

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS:

Our Health Center stocks basic over-the-counter medications.

The following is a partial list of items we stock in the Health Center. Please do not send any of these items with your camper:

- Advil (Ibuprofin) – pills and liquid
- Midol or Aleve (Naproxen)
- Sudafed
- Throat lozenges and throat spray
- TUMS
- Dramamine
- Calamine, Caladryl & Anti-itch cream
- Swimmer's ear drops
- Tylenol (acetaminophen) – pills, liquid and chewable
- Benadryl (antihistamine)
- Cough Syrup
- Immodium (antidiarrheal) and Pepto Bismol
- Mylanta
- Bacitracin & Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Nebulizer, associated equipment & solution
- Aloe gel sun-burn cream

OTHER "AS NEEDED" MEDICATIONS:

If your child takes any medications NOT listed on the previous page on an "as needed" (PRN) basis, please complete the "As Needed" Medication Form, have it signed by your child's physician and return to our office.

THESE MEDICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO CAMP IN THEIR ORIGINAL PACKAGING A WEEK BEFORE YOUR CAMPER'S ARRIVAL.

As a reminder, all daily meds (even vitamins or OTC medications) must be pre-packaged through CampMeds.

COMMUNICATION ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES

We understand the importance of keeping you informed about health issues affecting your child. Our medical staff follow the guidelines below and respond to you as quickly as time allows.

- We generally will not contact you if your child is seen in the Health Center for routine problems, i.e. minor skin abrasions, headache, cold, etc.
- If your child is taken to the doctor's office, put on antibiotics or kept in the Health Center overnight, a member of our nursing staff will call you that day or evening. The phone numbers you provide on your child's Health/Emergency Form will be used to contact you. Unless your child has a medical emergency, the health center staff will generally not leave a message on an answering machine. Such messages can often be misinterpreted and be unnecessarily alarming.
- If your child has a medical emergency, we will contact you immediately by phone.

MEDICAL CHARGES

The camp tuition covers all medical services provided in camp. All medical bills from providers outside of camp will be processed by the provider through your health insurer. Any applicable payments or copays will be charged to the credit card that you provide to the camp for this purpose.

OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE:

If your child has been exposed to any communicable disease within three weeks of camp, please notify the camp immediately. Children may not attend camp until they have recovered. Our health center staff completes a thorough health screening of each child before they are allowed to join our camp community.

HEAD LICE:

Have your child inspected for the presence of head lice three weeks prior to departure and again immediately before camp begins. If your child had head lice or was exposed to it (family member, friend, schoolmate, etc.) within four weeks of her arrival to camp, please notify us. We will check for the presence of lice while your child is at camp. If lice is discovered, you will be charged $75 for the treatment.

ORTHODONTURE:

If orthodontic problem occurs at camp, we will notify you. With your concurrence (most times home orthodontists want to be consulted as well), we will take your child to a local orthodontist to resolve the problems and keep your child comfortable at camp. We are unable to provide ongoing orthodontic care.

EYEGLASSES:

If your child wears eyeglasses, we ask that you send an extra pair to us for safekeeping in our Health Center in case the first pair are lost or broken.

CLOTHING, EQUIPMENT AND LAUNDRY

PACKING LIST

The Packing List below details the clothing and equipment that will be needed at camp. The list is only a suggested guide. Substitutions can be made for individual preferences and age appropriateness. Campers do not need more than what's recommended and storage space is limited. Please do not overbuy!

All items brought to camp must be clearly marked with the camper's name.
Akeela is not responsible for any lost property.

REQUIRED:

- ❑ 1 white or grey Akeela t-shirt (ordered through Land's End)
- ❑ 6 additional t-shirts
- ❑ 2 long-sleeved t-shirts
- ❑ 2 pair pants (sweatpants, jeans, etc.)
- ❑ 5 pair shorts
- ❑ 2 sweatshirts (1 hooded)
- ❑ 1 pair sneakers
- ❑ 7 pair underwear
- ❑ 7 pair athletic socks
- ❑ 2 pair pajamas
- ❑ 1 shower caddy with soap dish, cup, toothbrush holder & toiletries
- ❑ 10 pre-addressed, stamped envelopes with stationery
- ❑ 2-3 bathing suits (GIRLS: one-piece or tankinis only!)
- ❑ 2 pool towels
- ❑ 1 pair flip flops/sandals/Crocs
- ❑ 2 hats with brim
- ❑ 1 fleece jacket
- ❑ 1 rain jacket or poncho with hood
- ❑ 1 pair rain boots
- ❑ 1 sleeping bag (if camper intends to participate in camping trip)
- ❑ 1 flashlight
- ❑ 1 water bottle or canteen (All Campers MUST bring)
- ❑ 1 bottle insect repellent
- ❑ 1 bottle sunscreen
- ❑ 1 small backpack

OPTIONAL:

- ❑ Sunglasses
- ❑ Camera
- ❑ Music player (without screen content)
- ❑ Baseball glove
- ❑ Musical instrument
- ❑ Tennis racquet
- ❑ Books

A NOTE ABOUT LINENS

CAMP PROVIDES: all bedding, a blanket, a pillow with pillow case, two bath towels, and a washcloth. All linens are refreshed weekly. If campers have pillows or blankets from home that they would prefer to use, they are welcome to bring them! Reminder: Pool towels are not provided and should be brought to camp.

PURCHASING CAMP CLOTHING

Camp Outfitters by Land's End is our official camp supplier. To make your camp shopping more convenient, you can visit Akeela's Camp Outfitters page online. They recommend that you order by calling them directly so they can help you with your shopping. Also, feel free to look at the general Land's End website if there is an item you can't find on the Akeela page. Land's End will be happy to put the Akeela logo or your child's monogram on any of their (applicable) items for you. Please keep in mind that purchasing items from Land's End is strictly optional except for the one white or grey Akeela t-shirt which is used for trips out of camp.

Please allow 5-7 days fulfillment of your orders. ORDER EARLY TO INSURE ON-TIME DELIVERY! Please don't hesitate to call the Camp Outfitters at Land's End directly with any questions about camp clothing: 800-995-8711.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Each camper is provided with ample storage space for his/her belongings. Please do not send extra storage containers or drawer units, as there is no space for these. We appreciate your understanding.

Also, please do not send or allow your camper to bring any of the following items to camp:

- Any type of toy gun (including foam, water, dart)
- Knives (including Swiss Army or Boy Scout types)
- Any type of tobacco product, drugs or alcohol

LAUNDRY

Camper laundry will be washed near the half-way point of each camp session. Please remember, laundry is done in commercial machines, and expensive/fancy clothes are not appropriate or necessary for camp.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

One of the ways we provide positive experiences for our campers is by limiting electronics in our camp environment, thereby encouraging our campers to socialize through traditional camp activities. We thank you in advance, for your cooperation with and support of these policies.

Any item that makes phone calls, accesses the internet, or has screen content of any kind (games, videos, etc.) is not permitted at camp. Examples of permitted and not permitted electronics:

YES

✔ iPod Shuffle or Nano, or other *screenless* music player

✔ Tablet/E-Reader (Kindle, Nook, etc.) - without video or game content

✔ Disposable Camera

✔ Digital Camera

NO

✘ Any electronic device that contains games or video content

✘ DVD Player

✘ Laptop Computer

✘ Handheld video gaming systems

✘ Video Camera

✘ Apple Watch, or any other "smart" watch

✘ iPhone or iPad

NOTES:

1. We recognize that many digital cameras have the ability to record videos. We will ask campers and staff to refrain from taking videos inside of the cabins.
2. Camp is not responsible for replacing electronic devices brought to camp, which may be damaged or lost.
3. If any of the items not permitted are brought to camp, we will collect them and return them at the end of camp.

HOMESICKNESS PREVENTION

Most campers attending overnight camp feel some anxiety about being away from home. In fact, we believe that managing and overcoming homesickness is an integral part of the camp experience. Camp is the best place for young people to learn coping skills, gain independence and enhance their self-esteem. Adapting to camp life, with the help of a caring and attentive camp staff, is a challenge that helps young people develop those important life skills.

We have many years of experience helping children through homesickness and will specifically train our staff to assist campers in their transition to camp. We also recommend that parents take the following steps before camp to minimize their child's anxiety:

- **TALK ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT:**
  Use the camp brochure, website and mailings to talk about what camp will be like. Go over the daily schedule, the bunk set-up, camp activities and who your child can turn to when they need help at camp.

- **PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!**
  Campers who have not spent significant time away from home should "practice" by having sleep-overs before camp. Extended family is great, but staying at a friend's house is even better. Talk to your child afterwards to debrief the experience.

- **FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE:**
  Parents who talk about how much they are going to miss their children actually create more anxiety and a heightened sense of homesickness. While it may be hard for you to see them go, remember that camp is a wonderful gift that you are giving your child, one that will help him/her grow and develop as a person, while also have a GREAT time!

- **AVOID THIS MISTAKE!!**
  Whatever you do, please don't tell your child: "If you don't like it, I'll come get you." Promises like this set your child up for failure and make our job much more difficult. Most importantly, they deny your child the opportunity to develop the resilience, pride and sense of independence that come from working through something that is difficult.

- **LET US HELP:**
  Campers can always email us (directors@campakeela.com) with questions or concerns about coming to camp. The more comfortable they feel with us and our staff before arriving, the easier it will be for them to adjust to camp life.

SUCCESS AT AKEELA

Through our thorough application process and our extended conversations with all of our camp families, we do our best to ensure that each camper is a good "fit" for our camp community. However, children respond to new environments in different ways, and we occasionally determine that camp is no longer the best place for a certain camper. Before this decision is made, the camper's parents will be engaged in problem-solving discussions. After all other possibilities are exhausted, a camper may be asked to leave our community. Parents must make arrangements to pick up their child at that time. No refunds will be granted.

This decision is always a last resort. Most importantly, we want all of our campers to leave Akeela feeling great about themselves. In cases of early departures, we will make sure that campers recognize the successes they had during their stay at camp – and we hope that parents will be equally committed to emphasizing the positive.

CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT

One of the unique and wonderful things about Camp Akeela is the type of campers and families that choose Akeela as their summer home. We pride ourselves on being a warm, open and accepting camp community. We love the fact that our campers are so welcoming to new campers, whether they be 9 or 17 years old. Our goal is maintain this culture as our camp family evolves from year to year.

Of course, whenever people live together in a tight-knit community, some interpersonal issues will arise. We train our staff to recognize and effectively deal with any inappropriate behaviors, in order to maintain an emotionally safe environment where every camper can experience camp life to the fullest. We quickly and directly address any incidents of meanness, excluding or bullying so that our campers and their families know this type of behavior is unacceptable at Akeela.

As you know, most – if not all – of our campers have been on the receiving end of bullying behaviors at school or other youth programs. At Akeela, things are different; campers and staff feel truly accepted and embraced by their peers. We feel strongly that every camper must be protected from behaviors that disrupt their ability to have a successful summer in a safe environment.

Any behavior deemed by the Camp Directors to be inappropriate and/or unmanageable may result in any or all of the following:

- Meeting directly with the Counselor, Head Counselor and/or Camp Directors to discuss behavior
- A telephone call home to the parent/guardian to discuss behavior
- Missing out on programs or events at camp
- Dismissal from the camp program

We are asking all campers and parents to sign the following Camper Code of Conduct. It is one of the forms you'll find in our online forms dashboard.

As an Akeela Camper I will:

- Show respect to other Campers, and treat them as well as I would like to be treated.
- Respect the rights and beliefs of others, and treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- Communicate in an appropriate manner, which means I must not use foul language or gestures, harsh words or harsh tone of voice.
- Communicate directly with another camper if a problem arises, rather than talking to others and spreading rumors.
- Conduct myself responsibly. I understand that unwelcome teasing or other unkind behaviors are not allowed.
- Refrain from deliberately causing bodily harm to others. I understand that pushing, kicking, hitting or fighting are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Respect the property of others; which includes not stealing, damaging property, making graffiti or vandalism.
- Be fully responsible for my actions and understand that irresponsible behavior will result in disciplinary action or dismissal from camp.
- Know and follow the rules of camp.
- Let an adult know if someone is teasing or bullying me. (Reporting is confidential.)
- Let an adult know if I witness someone else being bullied. (Reporting is confidential.)

WHERE TO STAY NEAR CAMP

The Lawrence University website maintains an extensive list of hotels, all of which are within a few miles of campus: http://www.lawrence.edu/admissions/visit/accommodations

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP AKEELA

FROM CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE AND POINTS SOUTH AND WEST:

Follow Interstate 41 through Fond du Lac and Oshkosh. Take Exit 137 for WI-125 / College Ave. Turn right onto College Avenue and continue straight for 3.5 miles. At the Lawrence University campus, turn right onto S Meade Street. Drive to the end of S Meade Street, to Trever Hall.

FROM GREEN BAY AND POINTS NORTH:

Take Interstate 41 to Exit 144 for Ballard Road. Turn left onto N Ballard Road and drive 8/10 of a mile. Turn right onto E Northland Ave and drive 1 mile. Turn left onto N Meade Street and continue over College Avenue as it becomes S Meade Street. Drive to the end of S Meade Street, to Trever Hall.

Camp
Akeela

DIRECTORS

Debbie & Eric Sasson
Dave & Katie Baker

WINTER

Camp Akeela
314 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

SUMMER

Camp Akeela
c/o ~~Appleton~~ Lawrence University, 711 E. Boldt Way, Appleton, WI 54911

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