



Camp AkeelaSM Circular



A Note From The Directors

Dear Friends,

For camp directors, the fall is a reflective time when we can finally take a deep breath and evaluate everything that we did in the months of June, July and August. We look back fondly on campfires and talent shows, remembering the joyful look on campers' faces as they sang a silly repeat-after-me song or performed in a skit. We think about the days when a rain storm surprised us all and left us with no choice but to alter the schedule for a few hours, and the patience, flexibility, and understanding demonstrated by our campers throughout the change. We think about the stark contrast between Opening Day of a session and Closing Day of a session, and how nervous first-time campers blossomed into independent, confident, and social Akeela veterans in just two short weeks. All of these things make what we do the best job on earth.

The end of the summer transition into the fall is so busy for everyone that, admittedly, there is some dead space when we don't hear a lot from our camp families. We transition our own families back from camp to our winter homes in Philadelphia, we unpack boxes of files and office supplies from our summer offices to our winter office, and we do our best to quickly and smoothly settle back into our "off-season" routine. Soon thereafter, we send out possibly our most important piece of camp family correspondence – our parent and camper surveys. This year, that feedback was particularly important for us as we are still in the formative stages of creating the most life-changing summer camp experience on the planet for our campers. In reading the responses from parents all over the world, what stuck out to us were the positive social changes that parents saw in their campers after just one year at Akeela. Here are some of the highlights from the survey results:

- One of the biggest things that we continuously encourage at Akeela is to try new things, whether it's a new vegetable in the dining hall or a new activity that a camper has never done before like archery, Live-Action Role Playing (more affectionately known as LARPing to our campers!), or cooking – even if it's just once! Numerous camp parents shared with us how that fearlessness carried over with their campers into the school year.
- Our amazing staff constantly tries to boost campers' self-confidence, independence, and maturity by instilling in them a sense of ownership over everything they do at camp, from making their bed every morning to choosing which two specialty activities they want to do each week.
- Lastly, one thing we always tell parents is that we have never sent a camper home because they were homesick. Many camp parents were thrilled at how their campers overcame homesickness at camp and have used that experience to help work through other difficult challenges they've faced at home, too.

We also received some invaluable feedback on what we can do to make the Akeela experience better for the whole family, as well, and plan to implement as much of it as we can this coming summer. Look for more info on this a little later in the newsletter!

We are so proud of everything our campers accomplished this summer and how each one of them contributed to making our first summer in Wisconsin one that we will never forget. We can't wait to share another incredible summer with all of you in 2018!

Dave Katie

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2018 DATES

FIRST SESSION:
June 19 - July 1

SECOND SESSION:
July 3 - July 15

Note about a possible reunion

One of the most prominent pieces of feedback we've received this year was that people are interested in an organized camp reunion this winter in the greater Chicago area (as the majority of our camp families live around there). We would absolutely love to have an afternoon where our friends from this summer can get together and reconnect and relive their favorite camp memories. Keep your eyes peeled for an email from Dave asking parents to fill out a VERY brief survey to get an idea of interest and available dates for you and your family. Stay tuned for more info on this later on in the winter!



SURVEY THANK YOU AND RESULTS

We owe a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the camper and parent surveys. These are a vital way for us to continue to improve the overall camp experience for, not only our campers, but our campers' families. There were a lot of great ideas that were suggested, a few that we already know we are going to improve upon next year, such as:

For the Parents:

- More thorough and consistent communication throughout the session about your child and their experiences
- Reworking the post-camp report format to include more detailed and useful information

For the Campers:

- A different, bigger, more comfortable space for campfires
- A more challenging coding program with different levels for beginners through experienced coders
- Providing the wonderful people in the Lawrence University food service with camper input on which foods they would like more of and less of next summer
- More options to get off campus for organized trips

thank
you!

POISE-A-THON

We are proud to announce that through their participation in our POISE-a-thon community service events, Akeela campers (at our Wisconsin and Vermont locations) raised over \$13,000 for charity this summer. All of these donations will go directly to camper scholarships at Akeela, MGH Aspire or other similar camp programs. Thank you all for your participation and generosity.

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



POISE

RE-ENROLLMENT REMINDER WITH EARLY ENROLLMENT DISCOUNT



Being a returning camper is incredibly special – seeing all your old friends, knowing how to get from place to place on campus, and being a leader and role model for new campers. We already have a good number of last year's campers re-enrolled and we hope that number continues to grow. Don't forget to take advantage of our early enrollment discount – sign your camper up by Sunday, October 15 at last year's prices! If you have any questions, please contact Dave ASAP at dave@campakeela.com or 866-680-4744.

BIRTHDAYS...

Fran Bonatti, Aug 9 (11)
Kamryn Smith, Aug 9 (14)
Luke Turner, Aug 10 (12)
Robert Ware, Aug 11 (13)
Alexander Provenzano, Aug 19 (18)
Jeremy Thompson, Aug 22 (18)
Gavin Monahan, Aug 28 (17)
Jordan Kronemer, Aug 29 (16)
Brian Solomon, Aug 31 (15)
Alec Tongour, Sept 19 (15)
Maxwell Brierly, Sept 20 (17)
Zachary Sosnow, Sept 20 (14)
Logan Bush, Sept 25 (15)
Ben Ullyot, Sept 28 (16)
Taylor Smith, Oct 6 (17)
Samuel Butler, Oct 8 (16)
Sawyer Princl, Oct 9 (11)
Tess Stenger, Oct 23 (16)
Jacob Braunstein, Oct 25 (13)
Nathan Orlando, Oct 26 (15)
Matteo Giazson, Oct 30 (15)
JJ Bonatti, Nov 7 (9)
Matthew Nesci, Dec 2 (16)
Morgan Ellens, Dec 5 (15)
Anna Pratt, Dec 12 (16)
Eva Tonneson, Dec 29 (11)



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAMP







2017
An
AMAZING
summer!