



# Camp Akeela<sup>SM</sup> Circular



## A Note From The Directors

Dear Campers,

We can't believe how quickly time has passed. It seems like yesterday that we were all at camp singing "Friends, Friends, Friends" on the shores of Miller Pond. Suddenly, the trees are changing colors here in Philadelphia and we're wearing our sweaters. We thought this was a great opportunity to remind you of some of your amazing successes at camp this past summer. Sometimes, after something has ended, it's hard to remember all of the great feelings you had about it and what you learned. While at Camp Akeela...

- ☒ You made your own bed EVERY DAY!
- ☒ You helped clean your bunk EVERY DAY!
- ☒ You helped with "dining hall duty" with your bunk.
- ☒ You participated in meal-time discussions with your bunkmates and counselors.
- ☒ You participated in activities, even new things that made you uncomfortable.
- ☒ You considered the feelings & needs of the rest of the community.
- ☒ You survived without electronics or internet access for three and a half weeks!
- ☒ You made connections with other campers.
- ☒ You spoke at an Evening Meeting or were recognized at an Evening Meeting.
- ☒ You went on a hike every week.
- ☒ You left the comfort of your home and your family to be at Akeela.

We hope you take this opportunity to think back on your time at camp and remember your friends. You should know that they are thinking of you, too! We think it would be a great idea to email or call your friends from Akeela. You might tell them about your new teacher, your activities outside of school and anything you're doing for fun. Maybe you'd like to send them a picture of you in your Halloween costume!

As always, we're thinking of you with great fondness and can't wait to be together again at camp.

Love,

*Debbi* *Eric*

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## 2020 DATES

VT FIRST SESSION:  
June 27 - July 20

VT SECOND SESSION:  
July 23 - August 15

WI FIRST SESSION:  
June 29 - July 11

WI SECOND SESSION:  
July 12 - July 24

BEYOND AKEELA  
FIRST SESSION:  
June 29 - July 17

BEYOND AKEELA  
SECOND SESSION:  
July 20 - August 7



# Ben's Banter

G'day! After having a couple of months to reflect and learn from our incredible 2019 summer, I am already brainstorming new and exciting additions to introduce next summer!

Something I loved this summer was seeing the enthusiasm and excitement generated by our special event days like Akeela is a Circus and Akeela Woodstock Festival. I welcome the challenge of striving for 2020 special events that are even better!

Additionally, our trips out of camp (canoeing, biking and camping) were so popular that I can't help but think of how we can do more. So, I am putting together next year's program to include more and different outdoor adventure trips to ensure as many campers as possible can try something new!

Personally, I acclimating well to Philadelphia; falling in love with the history and food especially! However, being from Australia, I am a little wary of how cold winter will be! (I'll let you know how I'm coping in our next newsletter.) Until then, I will be working away on all new exciting evening activities, special event days and helping organize our Winter Weekend, where I am hoping to see many familiar faces!



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

A huge thank you to all of you that completed the camper or parent survey. We spend much of our time in the fall reviewing all of your feedback and implementing improvements to camp. We firmly believe that Akeela can become even more amazing every year with your help and consideration.

We noticed that in a number of surveys, there were suggestions for more opportunities to do activities such as Dungeons & Dragons and LARPing (Live Action Role Playing). Our Program Director, Ben, is already starting to plan next year's program and is building in even more of those -- and other of your favorite -- activities.

Additionally, our Teen Time program has run so well the past few summers that we have decided to expand it. With your encouraging feedback we are adding more to the program. We will release more details in upcoming newsletters, but older campers can expect more choice, independence and leadership opportunities.

thank  
you!



# AKEELA WINTER WEEKEND...

We are thrilled to announce we will be hosting our 6th annual Winter Weekend in January 2020! This fun event is a great chance for campers to reconnect with one another and to get a much-needed winter dose of Akeela magic!

When: January 11 – 12 2020

Where: The Lodge at Camp Winadu in Pittsfield, MA

Who: 2019 campers who are currently in grades 6–11

\*\* Day camper option available to all 2019 campers



Program includes winter activities at Camp Winadu, 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 will be available soon on our website. Be sure to reserve your camper's spot, as space is limited and will fill up quickly!

## Camp in the Fall!



Get ready for new tennis courts!



The Main Lawn in mid-October



Anybody recognize this building?





# Our Growing Akeela Family

Congratulations to Kevin and Kristin Trimble (directors of our WI camp and Beyond Akeela) who welcomed their twin boys, Arlo and Simon, in June. The boys are doing well and are keeping their parents quite busy! Kevin and Kristin are enjoying their new role as parents and we think they're doing a pretty spectacular job! We're so excited to watch the boys grow up at camp!



## POISE-A-THON RESULTS

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 \$16,000 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](http://www.poisescholarship.org) to make your contribution. Thanks!



POISE

## Come and see us!

We'd love to see you in person! Here are some of our upcoming travel plans:

- **Aspen Conference with Jed Baker and Alex Plank**  
Sunday, October 27th (Somerset, NJ)
- **AANE's Daniel W. Rosenn Connections Conference**  
Saturday, November 16th (Marlborough, MA)
- **Winter Weekend:** for Vermont campers currently in 6th - 11th grades  
January 11-12 2020 (Pittsfield, MA)

*See you there!*

# UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

## CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Kyra A, October 2  
Lucinda M, October 3  
Henry D, October 6  
Jack K, October 8  
Samantha P, October 11  
Chloe M, October 19  
Elliot S, October 21  
Amanda C, October 28  
Olivia M, October 31  
Aidan T, November 1  
Anatoly K, November 1  
Veronica D, November 2  
Margo S, November 3  
Jose B, November 7  
Hannah K, November 8  
Ryan B, November 8  
Anthony D, November 11  
Nells L, November 13  
Lily W, November 17

Rider D, November 17  
Andreas K, November 18  
Samuel K, November 18  
Jaden T, November 24  
Elliot K, November 25  
Benjamin G, November 29  
Jackson B, November 30  
Michael K, November 30  
Jared T, December 3  
Alexander K, December 4  
Max S, December 6  
Benjamin B, December 7  
Jude H, December 12  
Bennett F, December 15  
Julia B, December 18  
Matthew D, December 20  
Christopher A, December 22  
Jack C, December 22



## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Kevin H, October 10  
Amberlee C, October 14  
Darragh O, October 17  
Amelia L, October 18  
Rodrigo A, October 19  
Turner H, October 24  
Andrea N, October 28  
Akasha W, October 28  
Danielle L, October 30  
Shannon F, November 1  
Lindsey J, November 3  
Daniel L, November 4  
William T, November 4  
Brianna L, November 12  
Francisco M, November 12  
Bryn R, November 15  
Gabriel M, November 16  
Tatiana S, November 19

Zoe T, November 27  
Lauren K, November 29  
Eric S, December 4  
Haris I, December 5  
Jesus Q, December 7  
Luis Angel S, December 15  
Kristin T, December 19  
Louise W, December 29  
Lev M, December 31



## *In memoriam*

It is with great sadness that we share with you the news that Blayne Hill, our friend and our Site Manager, passed away earlier this month. Many of you likely remember what a special man Blayne was: able to build or fix just about anything, kind and compassionate, a loyal friend and a true partner to us since the beginning of Akeela in 2007. Blayne was responsible for building most of the camp's buildings and program areas; his talents, vision and dedication have left a lasting mark on Akeela. We will miss him dearly, both personally and professionally. We're sure you will agree that his passing is a terrible loss to our community.

