



# Camp Akeela Circular



## News From The Directors

Dear Camp Friends,

We sometimes feel like you must think we're a broken record – we often find ourselves saying the same thing, but we truly mean it. We could not be prouder of our campers! We had such an extraordinary summer. We had another incredible staff who created meaningful, challenging and fun experiences for our campers. We had amazing, fun-loving, bright and kind campers who pushed themselves to be their best and who grew and developed beyond our expectations. We had lots of sunshine and a lot of laughs. We had a wonderfully successful new travel-based Beyond Akeela program! We, as always, feel incredibly lucky to do what we do.

As you will read in this newsletter, we are creating more opportunities this year for our campers and their families to build on our community outside of the summer months. It has always been our dream to have Akeela reach beyond the traditional camp season and act as a way for families to stay connected throughout the year.

On November 1st, we will be opening enrollment to new campers, at which point we will no longer be able to guarantee a space for returning campers. Please send us your enrollment form and deposit before October 31st in order to hold your child's space for 2015.

We're looking forward to a wonderful year with our Akeela family!

Fondly,

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Program Updates .....2
- Blayne's Bulletin .....2
- Winter Weekends .....3
- Summer '14 Memories ...4
- Beyond Akeela Recap .....4

### 2015 DATES

FIRST SESSION:  
June 27 - July 20

SECOND SESSION:  
July 23 - August 15

VISITING DAYS:  
July 20 and August 15

FAMILY CAMP:  
August 17 - August 23

### 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!

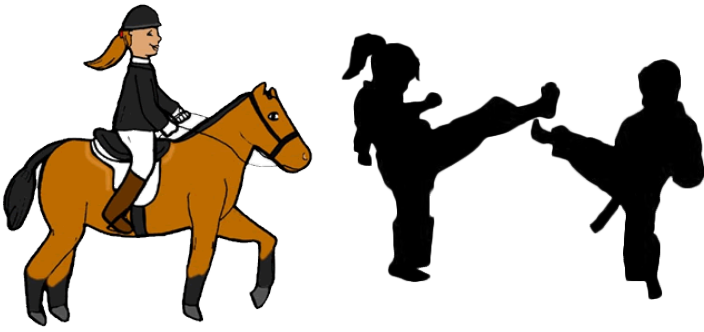
Parents: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/akeelaparents14](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/akeelaparents14)

Campers: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/akeelacampers14](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/akeelacampers14)

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



# Program Updates



We are thrilled to announce that there will be some exciting additions to our program this summer! We are currently working on collaborating with a local therapeutic horseback riding program so that our campers will have the option to take riding lessons (off-site, for an additional fee). More information will follow! In addition, we hope to add Martial Arts to our regular program so that everyone will have an opportunity to learn the skills and discipline associated with this very popular activity. We will also bring back our stained glass program which was offered with great success during our 2009 summer!

## Attention Older Campers!

One of the most exciting changes that we're planning for 2015 affects our oldest bunks (primarily campers who have completed grades 9 and 10). They will have many more opportunities for choice in their activity selection. In addition to their two daily Specialty Periods, some of the activities that were previously assigned to their cabin groups will be presented as choices. For example, three bunks may be scheduled for art, woodshop and ceramics in a given time slot (activity period 1, 2 or 3), allowing each individual camper in those cabin groups to choose which of those three activities he/she would like to join.

Like any change at camp, this is one that we are making with great care and deliberation. One of Akeela's core beliefs is that a significant portion of each camper's day is spent with his/her bunkmates and counselors. That time allows cabin groups to bond like families and also creates an important consistency in staff-to-camper interactions. Likewise, we believe that the first three periods of each day are a great way to expose campers to all the activities Akeela has to offer. Every summer, we witness countless campers discover a passion for an activity that they may never have tried if camp had an all-elective program. We are staying true to all of these elements, while also recognizing that older teenagers want and deserve more independence and responsibility.

## Blayne's Bulletin

Site managers Blayne and Kenny Hill are always working to keep Akeela beautiful and safe. They've also done a tremendous amount of building, renovating and landscaping over the past 7 years. This off-season will be a particularly busy one for them! Their big project this fall and winter is the construction of our new 2800 square foot lodge. It's located where the Chimney was, overlooking the library lawn and Miller Pond. They're making great progress and we are excited to start using this beautiful new space this summer for indoor activities, rainy day gatherings, movie nights, and much more!



# Announcing Akeela Winter Weekends

## For Campers ...

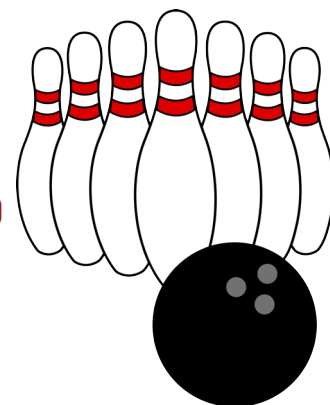


We're getting the gang back together for a winter weekend reunion! This will be a wonderful opportunity for our campers to reconnect and have fun with their Akeela friends.

**When: January 9th (evening) to January 11th (mid-afternoon)**

**Where: The Lodge at Camp Winadu in Pittsfield, MA**

**Who: 2014 Campers who are currently in grades 6-11**



We're tentatively planning on outings for bowling and ice skating, plus lots of time to play games and hang out with friends. Our amazing staff will be there to supervise and ensure that campers have a wonderful weekend.



Enrollment forms with more details will be available soon so you can reserve your spot. Space is limited!

## ... And For Parents Too!

Simultaneous to the Camper Retreat, we will also be hosting a PARENT ONLY RETREAT in nearby Lenox, MA at Cranwell Resort and Spa: [www.cranwell.com](http://www.cranwell.com). It's a beautiful location with amazing facilities. The weekend will be a time to relax, play and share with other adults with whom you likely have a lot in common. If you think you and/or your partner might be interested, please call (866-680-4744) or email ([debbie@campakeela.com](mailto:debbie@campakeela.com)) us as soon as possible. If you're on the fence, please allow us to put you in touch with anyone who has attended Akeela Family Camp ... they'll be more than happy to tell you what a unique opportunity this is!



# 2014 SUMMER MEMORIES



Summer 2014 was the first summer we took the Beyond Akeela program on the road, and we are so happy with the results! Campers travelled through New England from Boston to Maine, into Canada from Quebec City to Montreal, to the Adirondacks, and back to Akeela. They navigated new places and new cultures, prepared food for themselves, did their own laundry, dedicated themselves to community service, and developed great friendships ... all while having lots of fun! We are very proud of the campers who led the way this summer, and can't wait for the next group of Beyond Akeela campers to break new ground!



Beyond  
Akeela

