



Camp AkeelaSM Circular



A Letter From The Directors

Happy spring, friends! This is the most exciting time of year for us, as our move to camp is only about a month away. We, along with Kevin and Margo and Julia, are very excited to see many of you at our Open House (June 12th) and even more of you when the camp sessions start in late June and July!

While we're all looking forward to being up on Miller Pond, we also feel a bit anxious about our transition. Debbie especially always gets "butterflies" in her stomach when she leaves home. When she was a camper, she always got a bit homesick when she went to camp and, even now as a grownup, she still feels nervous about the first few days of camp. We want our campers to know that all of these feelings – being excited, nervous, sad, anxious – are all normal and once at camp, our community will be there to support them. Debbie can attest to the fact that after the initial settling-in period, camp feels like a second home and time flies by faster than we'd like!

Many people ask us what we do during a typical day at camp ... and our answer is that "it depends"! Between June 5th and the 12th, we'll welcome the first wave of staff who will be moving up to camp to be a part of our "pre-camp" crew readying the physical site. Eric and Kevin spend a great deal of time supervising that work and supporting our newly arrived staff members. Debbie spends her first week at camp making final preparations for staff training, settling in the Sasson family and welcoming staff to camp. On the 11th, our Leadership Team will arrive and we start orientation for our Program and Head Counseling teams. We'll spend time building our own sense of trust and community while we work on specific training goals. Finally, the cabin staff will arrive on June 16th and will we then be leading our full Staff Orientation & Training right up until the moment we've all been waiting for: campers' arrival!

During a typical camp day, we spend as much time as possible on campus with our campers and staff (which is why it's almost always our fantastic office staff that answers the phone during the camp season). Our primary responsibility - and our favorite thing to do - is to make sure everyone at camp is safe and happy. One of the most wonderful aspects of our job is that we never know exactly what each day will bring; we make ourselves available to the people who need us most at any given moment. That includes those of you at home who have trusted us with the care of your children! You should expect to hear most often from your camper's Head Counselor, who will call with updates and concerns, and will return your incoming phone calls. However, you can always feel free to send us an email or call the office and ask to leave a message for Debbie or Eric. We generally return parent phone calls in the evenings, after our campers are in bed.

We can't wait to kick off the summer of 2016, Akeela's ninth summer and the best one yet!

Debbie *Eric*

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2016 DATES

FIRST SESSION:

June 25 - July 18

SECOND SESSION:

July 21 - August 13

VISITING DAYS:

July 18 & August 13

FAMILY CAMP:

August 15 - 21

What to Expect on the First Day of Camp

Dear Akeela Camper,

Summer is almost here and we hope you are excited about camp, even if you're also feeling a little nervous about it. Many kids go away for part of the summer. Some visit family, some go on teen travel or community service programs, and some go to sleep-away camps. Almost everybody worries about how they will like a place that's new to them. It's OK to feel that way and we're here to help make your transition to camp as easy and smooth as possible. We think that one way to do that is to help you know what to expect ...



If you're taking one of the camp buses to camp, you and your parents will meet some of our counselors at the bus pick-up location. They will be there to welcome you and to introduce you to other campers. They will help you find a seat on the bus with a new friend and will be there to answer any questions you might have. The travel time from NY is approximately 5 hours and the time from Boston is approximately 2.5 hours. You will bring lunch on the bus and there are bathrooms on both buses!

Those of you flying to Boston on Opening Day will be met at the airport by Akeela staff members. They will be there to greet you and to introduce you to other campers who have also flown in! You and your new friends will be driven by our staff in a camp van directly to camp. It will take approximately 2.5 hours to get to Akeela. If your parents are driving you to camp, you will be dropped off at 1:30. Your counselors will be there to meet you at your car and help you carry any last-minute items you have brought with you that day. You, your parents, and counselors will go to your cabin, where you'll see all of your belongings have been unpacked and organized for you so you can easily find your bed. You'll then say goodbye to your family and begin your camp adventure!

- Regardless of how you get to camp, here's what you can expect to happen the rest of that first day:
- You will have a chance to see what camp looks like and enjoy some planned activities with your bunkmates. You might take a tour, play some games, or jump on the jumping pillow.
- You'll also meet our nurses so that they can give you a quick "health check" to make sure you're healthy!
- Our great Chef, Douglas will give you a small preview of his culinary expertise and provide a delicious snack for you and your new friends to enjoy.
- There will be some time after everyone arrives for each bunk to start spending some time together before we meet for dinner. This is a great time to get to know your bunkmates and counselors, and talk about "bunk expectations," so you know what to expect from each other.
- We will all have dinner and Evening Meeting together as a community. You'll eat dinner with your cabin, just like you will for all your meals at camp! Evening Meeting will be at the amphitheatre and you'll get to hear from Eric and Debbie, and have a chance to make announcements about the new friends you've already made!
- Then it will be time for our opening campfire and evening snack. We'll sing songs and do skits as a community by the fire. It's one of our favorite parts of camp!
- Before bedtime, you will preview the next day's schedule and then Debbie or Eric and your Head Counselor will stop by to say good night. Before you know it, your first day will be over and we will all be getting ready for bed!

Many campers worry that they might be sad or homesick on the first night of camp. That is very normal. All of our counselors will be right in your bunk with you to help you. In addition to talking to them, you might want to look at photos from home, write a letter to your family or read a book. We know that after a short time, you will be having such a great time at Akeela, it will feel like your second home.

We can't wait to see you at camp. Many of you will be joining us for our Open House on June 12th. If you're not able to attend Open House, you'll be able to see photos of the event on the camp website. We're so excited for an amazing summer at Camp Akeela. See you soon!



Coming to Akeela this summer...

Just a few new and exciting things to look forward to at camp this summer

We can't wait to unveil our ropes course's newest feature: a multi-sided climbing tower. One side is a traditional climbing wall, with routes set up to challenge everyone at Akeela. On the other side is a "vertical playpen" in which climbers ascend through various obstacles such as a hanging ladder, 4x4 bars, tires, and hanging ropes.

We're replacing both basketball hoops with new poles, backboards and height-adjustable rims, which will make basketball even more fun this summer!

Horseback Riding was a new program in 2015 which earned rave reviews. We're continuing to partner with the folks at High Horses Therapeutic Riding, who are thrilled to share their expertise with a new crew of Akeela campers!

Last summer, our oldest campers enjoyed much more choice in their daily schedule than in previous summers. Because this was such a great change and was met with enthusiasm by our teenage campers, it's something we're continuing and expanding this summer.

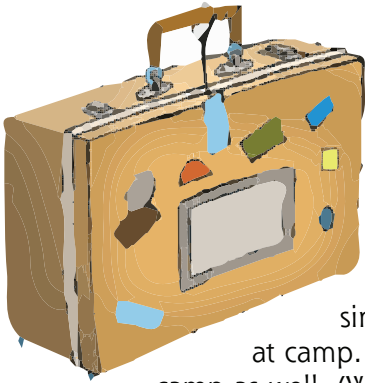
Michael Hunter's Mixed Martial Arts specialty activities have been so popular the last few summers that we've hired Michael back as full-time specialist. That means he'll be offering Martial Arts as a regular program, to be enjoyed by everyone at camp!

The intrepid teenagers (finishing 11th and 12th grades) in our Beyond Akeela program are getting ready for amazing trips this summer. Their itinerary will take them to Boston, the Maine coast, Quebec City, Montreal and Burlington. Along the way, they'll forge great camp friendships while getting prepared for life in college. Check it out at beyondakeela.com.

One of our new counselors, Jerry, is looking forward to offering a hip-hop dance specialty at Akeela. Having heard his ideas for the program, we have no doubt that it's going to be fantastic!

A note about...

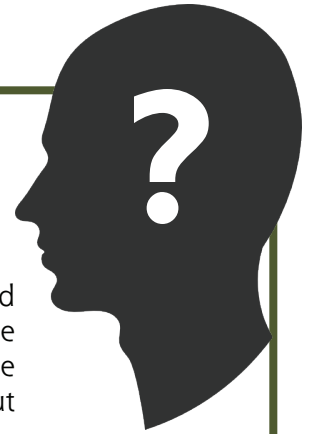
BAGGAGE



Please remember that **ALL** baggage must be sent to camp before your camper arrives. Baggage should arrive four days before the start of your camper's session. Our official camp baggage company, R&B, now provides service nationwide. We encourage you to use their services!

If R&B is not right for your family, feel free to use UPS or FedEx Ground, or simply drop off your campers bags at camp at least three days prior to their arrival at camp. We will be happy to assist you in having your child's bags shipped home AFTER camp as well. (We ask that you bring your credit card with you on closing day so that we can use that information in arranging a delivery back to your home.)

WHAT ARE HEAD COUNSELORS?



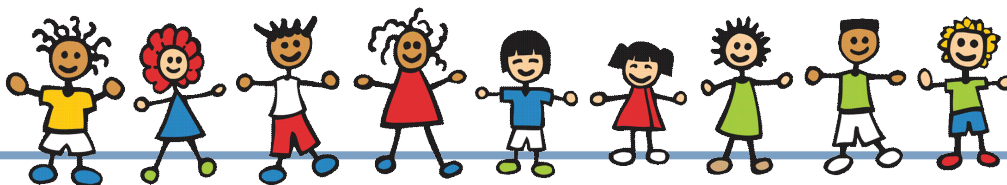
Lots of people get confused about the actual role of these important leaders in our community. Perhaps it's the title that's misleading ... Head Counselors are not the wonderful staff members who live in your child's bunk. Those are Cabin Counselors and Specialists. Our Head Counselors are adults who live in our community and who supervise between 2 and 4 cabins. They oversee the well-being of the campers and staff in those bunks and are the primary "point person" for you to call when you have a question about your child's success at camp.

Our Head Counselors spend all day out in camp with their campers and staff, providing ongoing support and feedback. They check messages a few times a day and return parent calls (usually in the evening). They are a wonderful resource to us as camp directors and serve as our eyes and ears, as we cannot be everywhere at once! While we oversee the entire community (120 campers and close to 100 staff members), the Head Counselors focus on their 4 cabin groups.

Please let us know if you have any questions about your child's Head Counselor this summer. (You will find profiles of our Head Counselors later in this newsletter.)

How We Assign Counselors to Bunks

Often, parents and campers ask us who their counselors will be for the upcoming summer. Something you may not know about is how we decide which staff members will work with which campers. We actually don't determine counselor placement until 4 or 5 days before campers arrive. We first take time to get to know each staff member, see how they work with others, get a sense of their strengths and actually take the time to ask THEM with which age group they feel most passionately about working. Only then does our Senior Staff assign staff members into co-counselor groupings and assign them their bunks. It is probably the day the staff look forward to the most during their training. We will post an online news item with photos of the staff members who will be working most closely with your camper(s).



CAMP FORMS

Most of this year's camp forms are available online only.

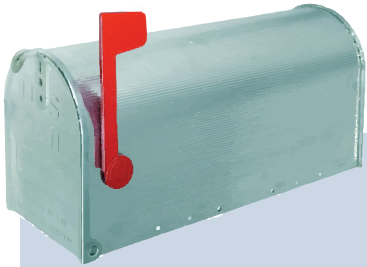
TO ACCESS THEM:

1. Go to the camp home page, www.campakeela.com
2. Near the top right corner, click on "Parent Log In"
3. If you don't know your password, click on "Retrieve/Set Password" and enter your email address; it will be sent to you.
4. Log in and click on "Forms and Documents"

Forms with a computer icon are to be completed and submitted online. Those with a downward facing arrow are to be printed, completed and mailed back to the camp office (as of June 1, to our Vermont address, please). Please note that the Physician's Examination Form requires a physician's signature AND the "As Needed" Medication Form requires a physician's signature IF your camper takes "as needed" medications not listed on the form. If you haven't already made a doctor's appointment, please do so right away. (These forms don't necessarily require an additional physical if your child has had one within 12 months of their arrival at camp; however some physicians won't sign the form based on a previous physical.)

In addition to these online forms, you should have received in the mail: a Parent Handbook (with packing list), the Amerasport catalog, and a flyer from our preferred label retailer. Please be sure to look carefully at these items.

We know you understand that all of this information is collected to ensure that your child has a safe and rewarding summer at camp. Thanks for your cooperation and let us know if you need any help!



PEN PALS

It's really helpful to know someone before you arrive at a new place. A few weeks before your camp session begins, we will send you the email address and phone number of one of your bunkmates. (It will get sent to an adult in your house and he/she will share that information with you.) We know that it's not always an easy thing to do, but we ask that you please make contact with your pen pal so that everyone at camp feels connected to someone else.

NOTE TO PARENTS & GUARDIANS:

If you would NOT like us to share your contact information with other camp families, please call or email us right away to opt out of the Pen Pal program.

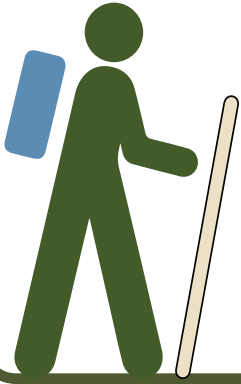
Open House Reminder - Please RSVP



We hope to see many of you at this year's Open House on Sunday, June 12th between 10AM and 4PM. Please note that you do not need to arrive exactly at 10AM. In true open house fashion, there will be on-going tours and activities taking place all morning, including an optional Q&A with Debbie and Eric at 11:30. At noon, we'll enjoy a big BBQ lunch together on the main lawn. After lunch, everyone is invited for a few "work projects" to help get camp ready for opening day! This is a great opportunity to meet other camp families, for your campers to see their new bunks, and for new campers to get oriented to the camp setting.

To RSVP for this event, please complete the online form available on the Forms page of the Current Families section of our website.
Thank you!

OPTIONAL OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TRIPS



Campers looking for a little extra adventure in their summer can sign up (in advance, with parental permission) for one or more optional Outdoor Adventure Trips. Each session, we are offering a bike ride along a scenic rail trail, a canoe trek down the Connecticut River and an overnight camping trip.

Details, prices and registration instructions were included in the online form. Spots are filling up quickly, if you're interested please get us your trip form soon!



GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

For the past 7 years, we've published articles listing all of our campers' home states. Each summer, we found that our campers represented more than 20 US states and several other countries as well. We're proud of Akeela's diversity so we counted again this year ... and we got a similar result: 24 states (including the District of Columbia) and 4 other countries!

Here's the entire list, as of the beginning of May: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington D.C. We also have campers coming from Canada, the UK, Ireland, and Norway.



POISE-A-THON

We are delighted to tell you about the sixth annual Camp Akeela POISE-a-thon. This will be a fun and exciting community service project offered as a special event in each of our two camp sessions.

Campers will choose their method of participation, all of which will help raise money in support of a great cause.

Details and pledge forms forms will be mailed out soon, and can also be found on the Forms Dashboard via the Parent Log In today! Donations in support of your child's participation can be made directly to POISE at:

www.poisescholarship.org



POISE

CLOTHING ORDERS

Camp Outfitter's by Land's End is ready for your orders! Land's End tells us that it takes 5-7 days to process orders. Please allow enough time to receive and label your items before camp begins. Our "store" can be found at: <http://business.landsend.com/store/campakeela/> click on "show packing list" to see the camp items available.



We also want to clarify that campers are only required to have ONE t-shirt (grey or white) ordered from Land's End. Everything else on the Land's End website – while wonderful products – is optional.

WELCOME NEW CAMPERS!

One of our favorite parts of camp is having so many campers return summer after summer. We love what that tells us about how they feel about each other, our staff and the Akeela community. At the same time, nothing excites us more than being able to share the Akeela experience with first-time campers. Soon, there will be no distinction between "old-timers" and "first-timers", as we all become one community. In the meantime, we wanted to welcome the following campers to the Akeela family:

FIRST SESSION

Erik A, Marblehead, MA
 Avery A, Coral Gables, FL
 Aidan B, Castleton, VT
 John Paul B, Miami, FL
 Charlotte B, Ridgefield, CT
 Hannah B, Ridgefield, CT
 Jason B, Medway, MA
 Lauren B, Newington, NH
 Luke B, Alexandria, VA
 Andrew C, New Orleans, LA
 Jack C, Larchmont, NY
 TJ C, Ridgefield, CT
 Thomas C, Orlando, FL
 Amelia D, Northboro, MA
 John D, Winchester, MA
 John D, Wilmington, DE
 Halle E, Highland Park, IL
 Ben E, Vero Beach, FL
 Aidan F, Waban, MA
 Ilan F, Westport, CT
 Alexis F, Chappaqua, NY
 Henry G, Santa Monica, CA
 Spencer G, Newton, MA
 Alexander G, Weston, MA
 Brendan H, Norwood, MA
 Alex H, Melrose, MA
 Payton H, S Weymouth, MA

Jordan J-M, Plainfield, NJ
 Jeffrey J, Mount Vernon, VA
 Sam K, Roslyn Heights, NY
 Ethan K, Stamford, CT
 Jacob K, Newton, MA
 Alexander K, Concord, MA
 Zander L, Waukee, IA
 Connor L, Marblehead, MA
 Tomas L, Potomac, MD
 Chris M, Cincinnati, OH
 Talia M, Los Angeles, CA
 Cal M, Columbia, SC
 Dolan M, Hingham, MA
 Ryan M, Wilton, CT
 Jacob O, New Canaan, CT
 Nina P, Columbus, OH
 Michelle P, New York, NY
 Andrew P, Palm Beach, FL
 Shaun R, Montreal, QC
 Vince R, Hermosa Beach, CA
 Otelia S, Brookline, MA
 Mikaela S, Scarsdale, NY
 Olivia S, Sudbury, MA
 Tyler S, Cambridge, MA
 Jared S, Ambler, PA
 Sienna V, Medford, MA
 Ned Z, Boulder, CO

• SECOND SESSION

• Spencer B, Houston, TX
 • Derek B, Weston, FL
 • Jackson B, New York, NY
 • Jared B, Glenview, IL
 • Donovan C, Norwood, MA
 • Noah D, Los Angeles, CA
 • Christopher G, Marblehead, MA
 • Eitan J, Bethesda, MD
 • Benjamin J, Mountainside, NJ
 • Marcus J, Cincinnati, OH
 • Reese K, Sudbury, MA
 • Charlotte K, Bethlehem, PA
 • Alex K, Sleepy Hollow, NY
 • Catherine M, Lexington, MA
 • Lucas M, Toronto, ON
 • Christopher M, Lexington, MA
 • Ben M, Shrewsbury, MA
 • Gavin M, Grosse Pointe Park, MI
 • Marielle M, Nashua, NH
 • Ian M, Ridgefield, CT
 • Charlie N, Penn Valley, PA
 • Jack O, Hingham, MA
 • Jamie O, New York, NY
 • Michelle P, New York, NY
 • Owen P, Hyde Park, VT
 • Jack R, Holliston, MA
 • Ian R, New York, NY

Jeremy R-T, Washington, DC
 Benji S, New York, NY
 Sam S, Chevy Chase, MD
 Sophie S, Wayne, PA
 Rory S, Amherst, MA
 Lily W, Needham, MA



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Ian R, May 5	Asa K, May 22
Brooke M, May 6	Jacob N, May 24
Jake N, May 6	Kyle B, May 25
Sam K, May 6	Sara P, May 25
Yoni B, May 6	Thomas H, May 28
Luke P, May 7	Ben E, May 29
Jason B, May 9	Emma P, May 29
Halle E, May 11	Peter M, May 29
Marcus J, May 12	Ilan F, May 31
Mariah C, May 12	Marielle M, May 31
Andy T, May 15	Ben R, June 1
Cal M, May 17	Wyatt M, June 1
Carter L, May 17	Cole M, June 3
Charlie C, May 18	William R, June 3
Austin G, May 19	Dolan M, June 5
Luke B, May 19	Gideon L, June 5
Lydia K, May 19	Allison O, June 6
Michael R, May 20	Joseph T, June 6
Xany P, May 22	Joshua K, June 9

Spencer S, June 9
 Darian B, June 10
 Jacob G, June 10
 Joe S, June 11
 Lucas B, June 12
 Jonah L, June 13
 Sabrina S, June 16
 Erik A, June 20
 Marshall G, June 20
 Ryan M, June 20
 Henry B, June 21
 Petra R, June 21
 Danny G, June 22
 Jordan J-M, June 22
 Riley D, June 27
 Sienna V, June 29
 Ethan K, June 30
 Nicholas L, June 30

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Kate B, May 8
 Jaime B, May 10
 David L, May 22
 Dara G, May 25
 Angie C, May 26
 Jamie P, May 26
 Catherine C, June 1
 Miranda S, June 2
 Jordan B, June 3
 Debbie S, June 7
 Henry B, June 7
 Chef Doug, June 11
 Gregory W, June 11
 Mallerie S, June 14
 Nicholas K, June 19
 Oli B, June 20
 Hugh M, June 27



INTRODUCTIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

We would like to introduce you to our wonderful Leadership Team at camp this year, which includes our Head Counselors, Program Directors and Head Nurse. These professionals provide support to our amazing counselors and specialists and also directly work with our campers throughout the summer. The Leadership Team will be your go to people for hearing about your camper's amazing summer!



Kevin Trimble

Head Counselor

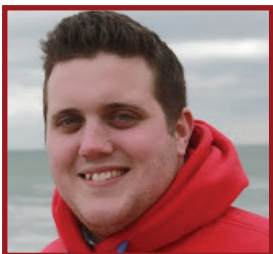
Kevin Trimble lives in Philadelphia and is going into his seventh summer at Akeela. He started in 2009 as an accounting intern, and has spent his other summers as a counselor, Program Director and Head Counselor. In October 2013, he joined Akeela's full-time staff as Assistant Director. He is responsible for finding and hiring the amazing counselors who work with your campers. Kevin also helps with camper recruitment, program planning, staff training, communication with camp families, and everything else that goes into making Akeela run smoothly.

Kevin is from Palo Alto, California. He played basketball at Palo Alto High School and was a member of the 2006 State championship team. He then went on to graduate from Wake Forest University with a bachelors and masters degree in Accountancy. After spending a year at Ernst & Young, the call to return to camp was too strong to ignore. He left his young accounting career behind to follow his passion here at Akeela. When he's not working on camp stuff, Kevin enjoys playing basketball and traveling to see friends.

Favorite Book: *The Book of Basketball* by Bill Simmons

Place I'd like to Visit: Greece

Favorite Camp Food: Chicken Patties



Dave Baker

Head Counselor

Dave Baker currently lives in Narragansett, Rhode Island, where he teaches Math and English at Middlebridge School. This will be his seventh summer at Akeela, where he has been a cabin counselor, golf specialist, Assistant Head Counselor, and Head Counselor. He also met his wife, Katie, at Akeela in 2011! When he was nine-years-old he went to his first sleep-away camp and went back every summer until he was 16; he attributes his time as a "camp kid" to his current love for all things summer camp!

Dave is a native of Vermont, growing up in St. Johnsbury. He graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH, in December of 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Middle Childhood Education. During the "off-season" Dave enjoys coaching the varsity basketball team at Middlebridge, playing golf, cheering for (and debating with Kevin about) Boston sports teams, and spending time with his family.

Favorite Book: *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

Place I'd like to Visit: Augusta, Georgia (to go to The Masters)

Favorite Camp Food: Challah



Katie Baker

Head Counselor

Katie Baker lives in Narragansett, RI, with her husband Dave, and their dog, Rudy! There, she works as a Lead Behavior Therapist at Momentum Behavioral Health Services. She recently earned her Master's degree in Behavior Analysis from the University of Cincinnati after completing her undergrad at Miami University in Oxford, OH. This will be Katie's sixth summer at Akeela, where she has held the roles of cabin counselor, Beyond Akeela Advisor, Assistant Head Counselor, and Head Counselor.

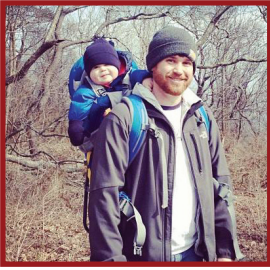
In December 2015, Katie was part of a team that traveled to Chandigarh, India with the Global Autism Project to work with kids with autism and train teachers on how to use Applied Behavior Analysis in a school. At the 2016 ACA Tri-State Camp Conference, she presented on how to use the principles of behavior analysis in a summer camp setting. Her favorite thing about camp is seeing how much the campers change over such a short period of time, and she is thrilled to be coming back to Akeela to continue watching those campers and friendships grow!

Favorite Book: *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

Place I'd like to Visit: Ireland

Favorite Camp Food: S'Mores

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM continued from previous page



Michael Deutschman

Head Counselor

Mike Deutschman currently lives in Wakefield, Rhode Island and works as the Assistant to the Dean's Office at Middlebridge School. This is Mike's 5th summer at Camp Akeela, coming back after a year off to enjoy the birth of his daughter. Mike is thrilled to return to the head counseling team and looks forward to seeing old and new friends. Coming to camp along with Mike will be his wife Naomi (Akeela's Head Nurse), his son Noah, his daughter Quinn, and their dog Dexter.

Mike grew up in Southeast Minnesota where he attended the University of Minnesota and graduated with a degree in Child Psychology. He has spent the last 8 years working with children on the autism spectrum in various therapeutic and academic settings. In the fall Mike enjoys coaching the Middlebridge School basketball team, teaching students the values of teamwork and friendship beyond the court. When he's not working Mike likes to play any type of game, whether it be sports, cards or video games.

Favorite Book: *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

Place I'd like to Visit: New Zealand (to walk the trail to Mordor)

Favorite Camp Food: Chicken Patties



Mallerie Sailer

Head Counselor

This will be Mallerie's second summer at Camp Akeela and she is overjoyed to be returning to the Akeela community! Professionally, Mallerie is passionate about working with children and families and therefore, is looking forward to getting to know the campers and their families this summer. When Mallerie isn't focused on her career, she enjoys spending time with friends and family and taking regular trips to Disney World!

Mallerie lives in Titusville, Florida, a small town just east of Orlando. She has a Bachelors of Science degree in Family and Child Sciences. Since receiving her bachelor's degree, she has worked in the fields of childhood development and family education. She has also provided training to other professionals on caring for both children typically developing and those with special needs. Mallerie is currently finishing her third year as a graduate student studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling and looks forward to a career counseling children and families with mental illness and other special needs.

Favorite Book: *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

Place I'd like to Visit: Greece

Favorite Camp Food: Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup



Rob Glyn-Jones

Program Coordinator

Rob Glyn-Jones lives in the north of England, although he has spent the last twenty summers working at American summer camps. Rob started his camp career in 1996 as a counselor at Summit Camp in Pennsylvania. He rose through the ranks at Summit and for eight years was a Unit Leader there. In 2010 he joined Camp Akeela as a Head Counselor and had an immediate and profound impact on the Akeela campers and staff. He has always been drawn to working with children and believes that camp is a fantastic environment for encouraging growth and development – as well as having a great time! Last year, Rob moved over to the Program side of life at camp and has discovered a new love for the complexities of scheduling and trying to make sure that everyone gets their top choices for Specialties!

During the rest of the year, Rob works as an actor and workshop leader. A lot of this work takes him into schools and colleges to facilitate issue-based presentations on a wide variety of topics such as anti-social behavior, bullying, community cohesion and drug issues. In his spare time he enjoys cooking, reading, swimming and watching Doctor Who!

Favorite Book: *The Box of Delights* by John Masefield

Place I'd like to Visit: Nepal and Tibet

Favorite Camp Food: Fajita Night

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE LEADERSHIP TEAM continued from previous page



Greg Walker

Program Supervisor

Greg Walker is currently living in Derby, United Kingdom after graduating from University with a First Class in Childhood Studies earlier this year. This will be Greg's fifth Summer at Akeela and third as a leader of our Program team. He first came to Akeela in 2012 as the Drama Specialist and fell in love with Vermont and the community of Akeela. Greg is looking forward to his new role this summer as the Program Supervisor. When Greg has free time, he loves to watch and play soccer, play online video games and socialize with friends.

Favorite Book: *Danny the Champion of the World* by Roald Dahl

Place I'd like to Visit: San Francisco, CA

Favorite Camp Food: Pizza



Naomi Deutschman

Head Nurse

Naomi Deutschman is originally from Blue Hill, Maine. Growing up, she enjoyed hiking and being outdoors so it was no surprise when she fell in love with the camp lifestyle in 2010, her first summer at Akeela. After a summer away from camp, she is returning for her 5th summer as our Head Nurse and is thrilled to see how much everyone has grown in the past couple of years.

Naomi graduated in 2010 from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She has worked in many different areas of health care, both in the United States and abroad (in the Dominican Republic and Haiti). Most recently, Naomi has spent the last 4 years working as a nurse at Middlebridge School in Rhode Island, where she currently lives with her family. In her free time, Naomi enjoys exploring the world with her husband, Mike, and their children, Noah and Quinn.

Favorite Book: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

Place I'd like to Visit: Greece

Favorite Camp Food: Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

RETURNING STAFF

In addition to our Leadership Team, we have a wonderful group of Senior Staff, Support Staff, and Counselors returning to camp this summer! We love to see returning staff reconnect with each other and their old campers. Here are the familiar faces you'll see this summer!

Adella Sundmark – Drama Specialist

Alana Teague – Swim Specialist

Alex Welych-Miller – Cabin Counselor

Amanda Perry – Ropes Director

Angie Casiano – Line Cook

Caroline McFadden – Art Specialist

Catricia Morris – Cabin Counselor

Celia O'Flaherty – Cabin Counselor

Darwin Garcia Juarez – Prep Cook

David Leach – Aquatics Director

Ed Fogg – Lead Waterfront Specialist

Eli Brown – Cabin Counselor

Henry Balcerak – Waterfront Specialist

Hugh McCloskey – Cabin Counselor

Itzel Camarena – Kitchen Staff

Izzy Freedman – Nurse Intern

Jack Sibley – Waterfront Specialist

Jaime Bautista – Kitchen Staff

Jody Johnson – Beyond Akeela Nurse (2nd Session)

Jordan Byrne – Waterfront Specialist

Jose Cuapio – Prep Cook

Julia Schettler – Arts Director

Kayla Stenstrup – Trip Director

Kevin Scholz – Athletics Specialist

Kristin Wills – Cabin Counselor

Kyle Bennett – Pool Director

Lily Baker – Cabin Counselor

Michael Hunter – Martial Arts Specialist

Nacho Dominguez – Kitchen Staff

Nicky Burdett – Swim Specialist

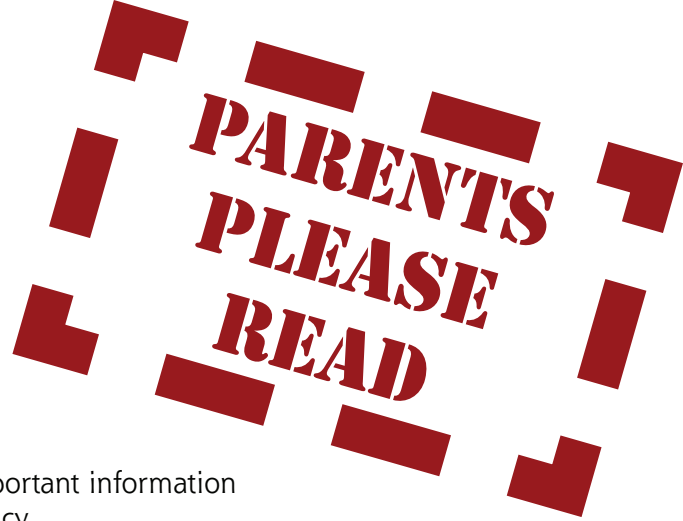
Shamus Anderson – Waterfront Specialist

Stefan Lopez Castro – Sous Chef

Taylor Whitchurch – Swim Specialist

Terry Halpin – Office Phenomenon

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



PARENT HANDBOOK

Please read through our Parent Handbook carefully. It contains important information about everything from first-day transportation to our phone call policy.

SPENDING MONEY

Parents of campers completing grades 7 - 10 are asked to provide spending money for their camper's one-day trip out of camp. We recommend \$20 - \$30 for 7th and 8th graders and \$40 - \$50 for 9th and 10th graders. That can be mailed as a check to Camp Akeela, marked "spending money", given to a bus counselor on Opening Day, or dropped off at the camp office upon arrival.

CAMPER PHONE CALLS

Please note our camper phone call procedures, outlined in the Parent Handbook. The online schedule system will be activated a couple of weeks before the start of your camp session. At that point, you can use the Parent Log In on our website (the same place you go for forms, photos and news from camp) to schedule one phone call during the camp session. Of course, our team of directors and Head Counselors are ALWAYS available to speak with you about how your child is doing at camp. Call any time and leave a message for us and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

SPECIALTY PERIOD SELECTIONS

Keep an eye on your email box for a link to your camper's first week specialty selection form. Specialties are the individual choice periods that take place each afternoon at camp. As a family, you'll be able to send preferences for the two specialties in week 1. Campers will then make their 2nd and 3rd week selections once they're at camp.

PACK AN ITEM FOR TIE-DYEING

Our art staff is planning to offer tie-dye as an activity. Please pack a shirt (or pillowcase, etc.) that you don't mind coming home multi-colored! We recommend labeling this item for our counselors so they can help have it ready for tie-dye day.

***** REQUIRING YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: CAMPMEDS *****

Our medication policies require that ALL daily medicine -- including supplements and vitamins -- be dispensed by CampMeds. 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.

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 or www.campmeds.com. Any other medication (i.e. items administered on an "as needed" basis) must be mailed to camp in its original packaging at least three days 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.