



Camp AkeelaSM Circular



A Letter From The Directors

With spring officially here (after what felt like an endless winter in Philadelphia!) we are starting to plan for our transition from our winter home to our summer home. We wrote about this in last year's spring newsletter as well, but we think the message is extremely important to share again. Everyone gets anxious about camp - including us! Whether you are a new camper and you are nervous about being away from home for two or four weeks, or you are the parents of a veteran camper hoping that you have remembered to complete all of your camp forms, there is a LOT think about in preparation for camp. We want to share with you some tips to make the transition into camp easier for campers and families:

- 1. Talk about camp...a lot!** One of the most helpful ways to prepare for an experience like going away to summer camp is to discuss it beforehand. Once May rolls around, the majority of our dinner conversations are about how to make this summer even better than last! We are sure that there are lots of questions and many of those questions can be answered by looking through our website, handbook, or welcome letter! If there are unanswered questions you can always email Dave (dave@campakeela.com) or Katie (katie@campakeela.com) and they will be more than happy to answer.
- 2. Make to-do lists!** Before we met, Dave never utilized to-do lists in his planning for things. This made him feel unprepared and "scatter-brained" during times of transition. Luckily, Katie came along and showed him the magic of "the list" and his approach to planning has been forever changed. Before we start any big transition we sit down and write out all of the things we have to do to feel prepared, give each thing a "complete by" date, and then we get to work. We've made this easier for you by including a pre-set packing list in our handbook!
- 3. Start packing early!** While this suggestion is more aimed at our camp parents, and it is more difficult for some people than others due to busy end-of-school schedules, we find that the earlier you can start to pack, the more prepared you feel for camp in general.
- 4. Connect with your Pen Pal!** In just a few weeks, we will be sending all of our parents contact information for the parents of other campers. We strongly encourage each family to take advantage of the pen pal program as a way for campers, both new and returning, to get to know someone prior to arrival at camp. Email is great, but phone calls, FaceTime, or Skype calls are ever better. This makes the first couple days of camp even easier as there is a familiar face there for everyone!

Again, if you (campers OR parents) are feeling nervous or anxious about the upcoming summer, know that you are not alone. Also, know that once this experience is over, campers are going to feel a newfound sense of independence, confidence, and personal achievement that will make the nerves but a distant memory!

We are so excited to see everyone very soon!

Love,

Dave *Katie*

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2018 DATES

FIRST SESSION:
June 19 - July 1

INTER-SESSION:
(for double session campers only)
July 1 - July 2

SECOND SESSION:
July 3 - July 15

Winter: 314 Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bala Cynwyd PA 19004

Summer: c/o Lawrence University, 711 E. Boldt Way, Appleton, WI 54911

1-866-680-4744 • campakeela.com

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 the bus to camp from the Chicago suburbs,, 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 to camp is about 3.5 hours, and you will bring lunch with you from home for the bus ride to camp.

Those of you flying to Chicago 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 3.5 hours to get to Akeela from the airport, too. If your parents are driving you to camp, you will be dropped off at between 1:00pm and 2:00pm. Your counselors will be there to meet you at your car and help you carry your luggage up to your room. You, your parents, and counselors will go to your dorm room, maybe meet some other bunkmates who have already arrived, and put your stuff down in your room. 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 campus looks like and enjoy some planned activities with your bunkmates. You might take a tour or play some games.
- 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, Catarina, will give you a small preview of her 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 group 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 bunkgroup at the same table, just like you will for all your meals at camp! Evening Meeting will be at the amphitheatre and you'll get to hear from Dave and Katie, 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 Dave or Katie 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!

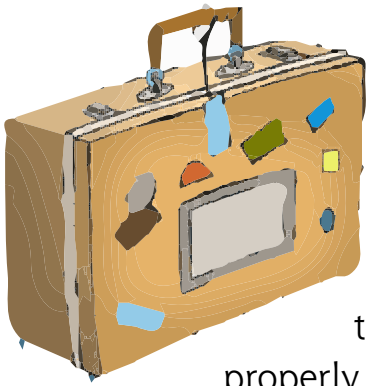
Many campers worry that they might be sad or homesick on the first night of camp. That is very normal. All of your counselors will be right in the dorm with you to help you. In addition to talking to them, you might want to look at photos from home, write a letter to your family or read a book. We know 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 for an amazing summer. See you soon!



A note about...

BAGGAGE

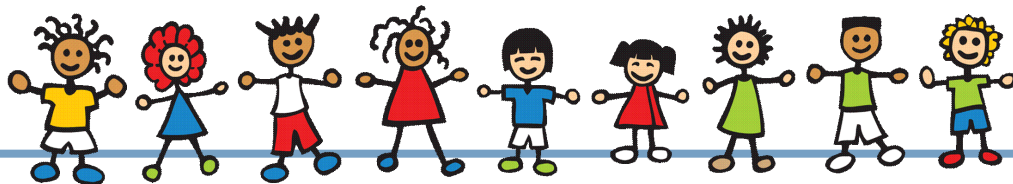


Just a reminder at our Wisconsin site **we do not require baggage to be shipped to camp before the session begins.** However, if you would prefer to do that, please make delivery arrangements through USPS, UPS Ground or FedEx Ground and try to schedule arrival no more than 1-2 weeks before the session starts. When you do make these delivery arrangements, it is crucial that your camper's luggage is properly addressed, so please send to the following address:

**Camp Akeela - attn: (CAMPER NAME)
c/o Lawrence University
711 E Boldt Way, Appleton, WI 54911**

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).



GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

One of the things that new camper families are always fascinated by is how far some of our campers and counselors come to spend time with us during the summer! We are so excited about our geographically diverse community this year...

Here's the entire list, as of the end of mid-May, of where our Wisconsin campers are coming from this summer: California, Colorado, Kentucky, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Washington DC, Wisconsin, Australia, Azerbaijan, and Guatemala



CAMP FORMS

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

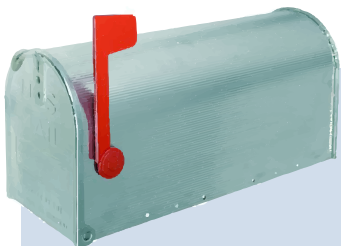
TO ACCESS THEM:

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 (until June 1... **AFTER JUNE 1, FORMS MUST BE SCANNED AND EMAILED TO DAVE@CAMPAKEELA.COM**). Please note that the Physician's Examination Form requires a physician's signature. 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 Land's End flyer, 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 either your roommate or one of the other members of your bunk group. (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.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

(EITHER BEFORE CAMP OR WHILE WE'RE AT CAMP!)

Ava C, May 20
Mary B, May 30
Lilia C, June 3
Emil J, June 7
Madilyn D, June 8
William H, June 14
Emmett K, June 18



STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Cecilia W, May 22
Molly P, May 22
Emily R, June 11
Kayla S, June 27

Camp Directors: A Day in the Life

Many people ask us what we do during a typical day at camp ... and our answer is that "it depends"! From June 9th - June 12th, we'll be spending time with our Senior Staff during our Senior Staff training. Dave works most closely with Catricia, our Program Director, Guy, our Trip Director, and Preston, our Art Director, in preparing to make our activities and trips fun, dynamic, and engaging. Katie spends a lot of that time with our Head Counselors, discussing and planning ways to most effectively train and supervise our staff of fantastic counselors! There is a lot of whole-group collaboration that is packed into those three days and we'll spend time building our own sense of trust and community while we work on specific training goals. On June 12th, we then welcome all of our counselors and specialists to camp for the start of 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 (rather than in the camp office, which is why we rarely answer 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 Katie or Dave. We generally return parent phone calls in the evenings, after our campers are in bed.

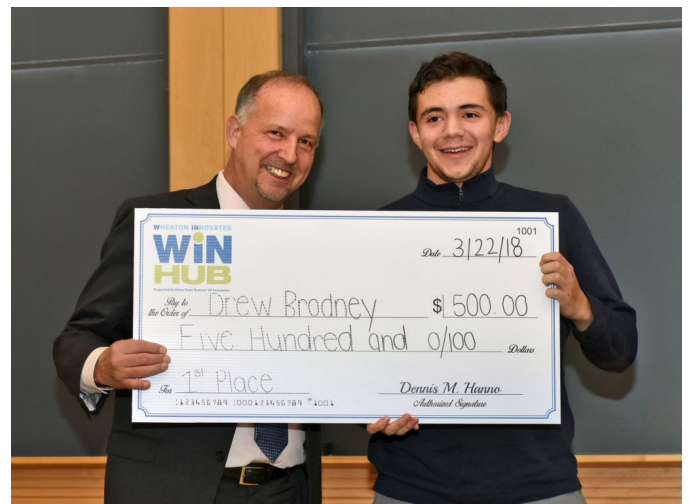
We can't wait for summer 2018 to get underway!



ALUMNI NEWS

Two of our recent alumni, Kate G (Akeela 2012-2016) and Drew B (Akeela 2010-2014), attend Wheaton College in Massachusetts. Wheaton recently hosted an innovation competition in which students answered the question: "What would you do to improve the world, if you had \$1 million?" Competitors presented a 3-minute pitch to a panel of social entrepreneurs who asked questions and then judged each idea.

We're proud to say that Drew not only entered the competition, but he won the first-place prize! He presented a plan to develop an organization that will assist teachers in successfully serving students with special needs. Way to go, Drew!



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 through scenic Appleton, a guided kayaking excursion down the Fox River, and an overnight camping trip to beautiful High Cliff State Park.

Details, prices and registration instructions for all of these optional programs are included in the online form. Spots are filling up quickly, if you're interested please get us your trip and/or riding registration forms soon!



MORE INFO ABOUT OUR WEEKLY TRIPS:

While our optional add-on trips are an amazing added bonus for our campers who choose to participate, we are thrilled about some of our new weekly off-campus trips in which ALL campers will participate! This year, the first trip day of each session will be a full-camp trip back to Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve! Bubolz just completed the construction of a \$5.5M building that will house cool exhibits for our campers to explore before or after our hike! In the second week, campers will have the option of the following three trips:

NEW ZOO ADVENTURE PARK HIGH ROPES COURSE

On this trip, campers will be able to participate in a variety of high ropes challenge activities under the supervision of Akeela staff and certified staff at New Zoo Adventure Park. An "outdoor adventure" trip in the truest sense!



PLAMANN PARK

At this local park campers will be able to swim in the lake, play frisbee golf, or see some farm animals at the barn! This trip is a very relaxing afternoon off camp!

FOX VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY

We are so excited this year to be working with the Fox Valley Humane Society to do some volunteer work at the local animal shelter. Campers will get a guided tour of their facility, learn about what a humane society does, and of course, play and hang out with lots of cute rescue animals!



PARENT COMMUNICATION AT AKEELA

A few things to expect this summer regarding communication from head counselors (Lauren and Joe), nurses (Molly, Annie, and Ally), and Katie and Dave:

FIRST DAY CALLS

If this is your child's first summer at Akeela, you will receive a call from a camp director or senior 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.

CALLS FROM YOUR CAMPER'S HEAD COUNSELOR

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.

ONLINE PHOTO GALLERY

We post as many photos as we can each day and do our best to capture each camper as often as we can. (To see these photos, you'll log on to our protected parent portal.)

DAILY NEWS

Posted online every day, you can read about daily camp happenings, special events and announcements from our Evening Meeting.

CALLS FROM THE HEALTH CENTER

If your child spends the night in the Health Center or makes a trip to the doctor, you will be notified by our nursing staff.

EMAIL REMINDERS FROM CAMP

Please check your email regularly throughout the camp session, as we frequently send reminders from camp!

MAIL FROM CAMPERS

While campers are not strictly required to write home, we do encourage them to do so!

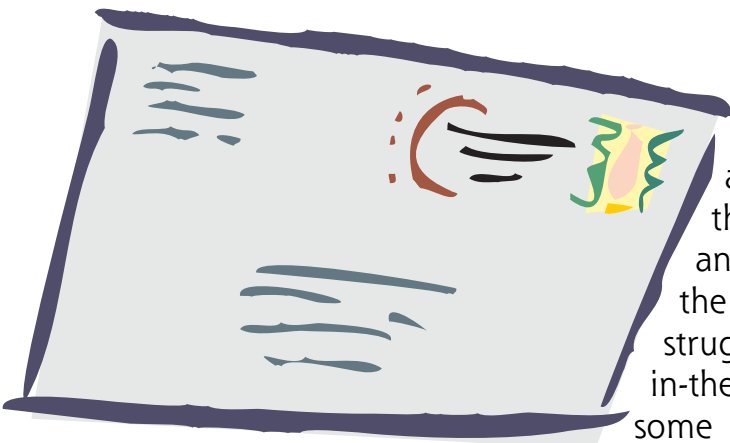
COMMUNICATION AFTER CAMP

In September, you will receive a brief report from us summarizing our staff's feedback of your child's time at Camp Akeela.

PLEASE CALL!

Please don't ever hesitate to call your child's head counselor -- or Katie or Dave -- if you have any concerns. While we are frequently out in camp during the day, we always check our messages and return calls as quickly as possible.

CAMPER MAIL



We will do our best to encourage your child to write letters home. This is often not an easy task as there are a lot of distractions during the day. You can make this process easier for your camper by pre-addressing and stamping a few letters and **SHOWING** your camper the stationary you have packed. If you have a child who struggles with writing, please consider writing a "fill-in-the-blank" letter or buying one pre-made (there are some on Amazon if you search for "camp stationary").

INTRODUCING TRIP DIRECTOR GUY CECELSKI

With so many new and exciting program offerings at Akeela this year, we have added a new Senior Staff role that will help allow both our on-campus program and our off-campus trip program to be taken to the next level. While Catricia will be keeping her focus on the on-campus programming as our Program Director, we are thrilled to introduce Guy Cecelski as our Trip Director:



Guy Cecelski

Trip Director

Guy worked at Akeela in Vermont as a boating instructor in 2014. He had a blast that summer spending time on and off the waterfront with staff and campers. Now he looks forward to leading campers and staff on numerous off-campus adventures. He will mostly be responsible for organizing and coordinating off-campus trips and will join campers and staff on each of the excursions to ensure that they run smoothly and everyone has fun! He will also be a very active member of our community while on campus, as well! Guy has a passion for working with children and for adventure and is excited to step into a role that combines both of those.

He was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina. He grew up loving to play soccer, kayak, camp and anything else that would get him outside and moving. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor's Degree of Psychology and Sociology in 2016. After that, he stayed in school at UNC-Chapel Hill and just graduated with his Master's in Social Work. Guy has experience working with children, adolescents, and their families in a variety of ways but his specialties are focused on addressing mental health, behavioral problems, and working with individuals experiencing homelessness and/or poverty. After camp, he hopes to find a job where he can continue helping and supporting people during difficult times.

Favorite Book: Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace

Place I'd like to Visit: Australia

Favorite Camp Food: Corndogs

POISE-A-THON

We are delighted to announce our second annual (in Wisconsin, and eighth annual for Akeela overall) Camp Akeela POISE-a-thon. This will be a fun and exciting community service project put on as one of our evening activities in each of our two camp sessions.

Campers will choose their method of participation
- running, shooting hoops, archery, or swimming
- all of which will help raise money in support of a great cause.

Pledge forms can 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 (preferably grey or white) ordered from Land's End. Everything else on the Land's End website – while wonderful products – is optional.

WELCOME NEW CAMPERS!

We are so excited to announce that over 90% of our campers who were with us during our first year of camp in 2017 are returning for their second summer in 2018! 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. We also have a few campers this year who are new to our Wisconsin site, but are veteran Akeela campers at our Vermont site! 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

Addison M, St. Louis, MO
Austin P, Chicago, IL
Brendan O, Kearney, MO
Charles M, Rice Lake, WI
Charlie H, Highland Park, IL
Deija R, Venice, CA
Elena Q, Clarendon Hills, IL
Ella V, Denver, CO
Emil J, Crystal, MN
Gabriel S, Greenfield, WI
Ian J, Rosemount, MN
Jack G, Wauwatosa, WI
Jack K, Leesburg, VA
Jack S, Western Springs, IL
Jared B, Glenview, IL
Jason M, De Pere, WI
John K, Oak Park, IL
Jordan G, Ridgewood, NJ
Justin T, Chicago, IL

Keeghan D, Casey, IL
Leo H, Highland Park, IL
Lucas T, Wheaton, IL
Mary B, Azerbaijan
Max S, Chicago, IL
Melody R, Detroit, MI
Michael K-F, Boston, MA
Miranda G, Washington, DC
Nathan K, Downers Grove, IL
Peter M, Cincinnati, OH
Walker L, Carthage, MO
Will D, Lake Mills, WI
Zev W, Vernon Hills, IL



• SECOND SESSION

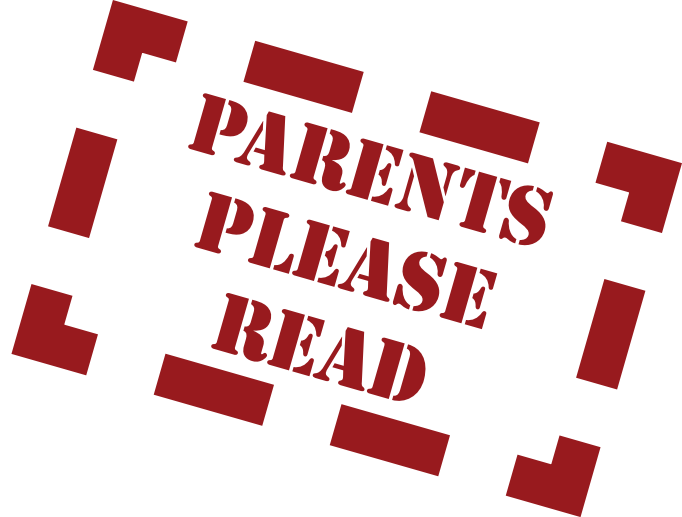
• Benjamin V, Las Vegas, NM
• Cadie K, Naperville, IL
• Casper L, Austin, TX
• Charlie H, Highland Park, IL
• Cian W, Phoenix, MD
• Decker B, Pacific Palisades, CA
• Ella V, Denver, CO
• Gabriel C, Chicago, IL
• Griffin R, Ardmore, PA
• Harrison M, Chicago, IL
• Jack G, Wauwatosa, WI
• Justin T, Chicago, IL
• Katina P, Troy, MI
• Leo H, Highland Park, IL
• Lilia C, Winona, MN
• Madilyn D, Northbrook, IL
• Meghan P, Garden City, MN
• Melody R, Detroit, MI
• Mya M, Chicago, IL

Nelson S, West Des Moines, IA
Ricky R, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Rider D, Evanston, IL
Ruby B, Pacific Palisades, CA
Trinity R, Petoskey, MI
Tyler A, St. Charles, IL
Will D, Lake Mills, WI
Zachary H, Arlington, VA



SEE YOU SOON!

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 (DOUBLE-SESSION CAMPERS ONLY)

Campers who are staying for both sessions can bring spending money for the gift shops and concession stands at Noah's Ark Waterpark in the Wisconsin Dells. We recommend not sending your camper with any more than \$30, as all of the necessities on the trip (food, camp snacks, lodging, etc.) are included in tuition.

CAMPER PHONE CALLS (DOUBLE-SESSION CAMPERS ONLY)

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 and phone calls are **only available for our double-session campers**. If your child is staying for two sessions, 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 sessions. 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 morning 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 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.