



2019 Staff Newsletter

Friendship ● Community ● Growth ● Pride ● Fun

WELCOME TO BEYOND AKEELA!

We are so excited to welcome you all to our community this summer. Your passion, enthusiasm, skills and experience separated you from a large pool of applicants and we cannot wait to meet you in person to get the ball rolling on Summer 2019. Not only are we committed to providing "the most incredible, life changing summer experience on the planet" to our campers, we are also committed to the professional growth of our staff members. We know that in working with us this summer you are putting your own professional goals in our hands. One of our goals for the summer is to support your professional growth throughout the summer!

In light of this goal, we know your summer orientation is a key part of creating an incredible camp experience for you. The time we'll spend together during staff orientation will be a lot of work but lots of fun, too! Our focus will be helping you feel confident in your role this summer, while also building a staff community that, together, will have a profound impact on the lives of our campers.

Thank you for sharing your expertise with us this summer. We cannot wait to see the amazing work you will do in our community!

Fondly,
 Kristin

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MEET KEVIN & KRISTIN



Kevin and Kristin live in Philadelphia, PA with their dog, Laney. Kevin has worked at Akeela for nine summers, he started in 2009 as an accounting intern, and has spent his other summers as a Program Director, Head Counselor, and Beyond Akeela Director. In October 2013, he joined Akeela's full-time staff as Assistant Director. He is responsible for everything Akeela in Wisconsin, including camper and staff recruitment, program planning, staff training, and parent communication. Kevin grew up in Palo Alto, CA before attending Wake Forest University for his accounting degree. As you can tell, accounting didn't end up



being his true passion in life, and now lives and breathes Akeela every day. When he's not working on camp stuff, Kevin enjoys playing basketball, golf, and bingeing a variety of podcasts about sports and economics.

Kristin joined the Akeela team in 2015 as a counselor, and has spent every summer since engaged in the Akeela community, including a role as the Beyond Akeela Head Counselor. When she's not at camp, Kristin is a school & mental health counselor at a performing arts high school in Philadelphia. She obtained her graduate degree in Counseling Psychology from Temple University, and has focused her career on high school aged students. Kristin is a Wisconsin native, and enjoys being able to spend time with her family when she's back at camp in the summer. When she has time away from work and camp, Kristin enjoys playing in a local volleyball league (with Kevin!), exploring Philadelphia, and finding new recipes to try at home!

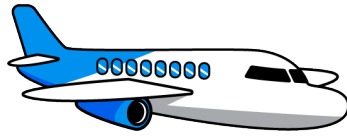
STAFF PACKING & TRAVEL

Here is a guideline of what our staff members should bring to camp with them:

- 6-8 t-shirts
- 2 long-sleeved t-shirts
- 2 pair of jeans/sweatpants
- 3 pair shorts
- 2 sweatshirts
- 1 pair sneakers
- 8 pair underwear
- 8 pair athletic socks
- 1 pair hiking socks
- 1 inflatable sleeping pad (camping)
- 1 sleeping bag (camping)
- 2 towels (for shower and swim)*
- 1 shower caddy with toiletries
- 2-3 bathing suits (WOMEN: 1 piece suits only!)
- 1 pair flip flops/sandals/Crocs
- 2 hats with brim
- 1 lightweight jacket
- 1 rain jacket/poncho
- 1 small backpack
- 1 flashlight
- 1 water bottle/canteen
- 1 watch

***Remember when packing that you'll be on the road for about a week and a half, so don't overpack!**

STAFF TRAVEL



Please complete the online Staff Travel Form, on the forms dashboard of the staff log-in page. You can access that through the our website (beyondakeela.com). Please submit this form no later than May 25th.

Arrival: Your expected arrival date to camp is June 17th. Please plan to fly into or meet at Chicago O'Hare airport no later than 1pm.

Departure: Your expected departure date from camp is August 2nd. Please plan to fly out of Chicago O'Hare airport that afternoon no earlier than 3pm, as you will be helping Beyond Akeela campers get to their respective flights home that day.



A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT VALUABLES



We discourage staff from bringing valuables or large amounts of cash to camp. While we have absolutely no concerns about theft, camp life is not necessarily friendly to valuables; things tend to get wet, damaged or misplaced.

We can not be responsible for articles such as cameras, iPods or laptops that are stored in camp buildings. We do provide a safe in the camp office to lock up passports, airline tickets and other small valuables.

Wisconsin Weather

Expect sunny skies and warm weather for most of your time at camp. July is the warmest

month of the year in Wisconsin, and it is typically in the low 80's during the days, and dips in the 60's in the evening. Rain will still hit camp, so come prepared with some rain gear!



AKEELA GEAR

In the past, staff member have told us that they would like to purchase Akeela logo'd clothing. This year, we are working with a clothing company called Camp Outfitters by Lands' End.

To order, go to <http://business.landsend.com/store/campakeela/> and click on "Packing List". Please call Lands' End's camp business (1-800-995-8711) if you have any questions. Of course, you'll have a staff T-Shirt waiting for you at camp, so no purchases are required for staff.

Fun with Forms!

There are some forms we'd like you to complete before your arrival! Log on to beyondakeela.com and use the Staff Log In in the top right corner to access the following forms:

- Health History Form** - We want to make sure we keep you healthy this summer!
- Staff Travel Form** - So we know when and where to pick you up!
- Staff T-Shirt Form** - You're going to need an Akeela T-Shirt to show your Akeela Pride in when the kids arrive!
- Staff Photo** - It helps us remember all your smiling faces!
- I-9 Documentation** - This will help us pay you for the summer!
- Certifications** - Already have a LGT, WFA or Ropes Certification? Please upload them for us!
- Driver's License** - Only domestic staff over the age of 21 need to complete this form

Pre-Orientation Resources

Some staff members have asked us to share our favorite Asperger's resources. Here are a few books and films that we've found helpful:

Asperger's Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals* - Tony Attwood

It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend - Richard Lavoie

Aspergirls: Empowering Females with Asperger Syndrome - Rudy Simone

*We think this is the best overview and a quick read.



"Temple Grandin"
"Autism, The Musical"
"Billy the Kid"
"Today's Man"



A Typical Day with Beyond Akeela

Wake Up & Morning Prep (8:00am - 9:30am)	Campers are responsible for getting themselves to the campus dining hall on time for a group breakfast and morning meeting. After breakfast, they head back to the dorm to prep for their day of camp.	Downtime (4:30pm - 6:00pm)	Beyond Akeela ensures our teens have enough downtime to get the rest they need. More active options are also available each day, as campers can use the Lawrence University exercise facility and other activity areas at Lawrence during this time.
AM Activity (9:30am - 12:00pm)	Activities include: Community service, ropes course, hikes, beach trips, scavenger hunts, camper planned days, camp activities, college visits, and more!	Dinner (6:00pm - 7:00pm)	Roughly half the nights a few campers prepare dinner for their small group. They plan a menu, head to the grocery store, and prep the meal as a team with as needed support from the staff. Dinner on other nights are out at restaurants or at the campus dining hall.
Lunch (12:00pm - 1:00pm)	Pending the day, lunches are a mix of pre-packed lunches to eat out of camp picnic-style, lunches in the Lawrence University dining hall, and an occasional lunch out at a local restaurant.	Evening Meeting (7:00pm - 7:30pm)	As a community, you'll review the day, preview the upcoming days ahead, and recognize campers for their successes at camp. Some nights we'll do Evening Meeting with the whole Akeela community in Wisconsin.
PM Activity (1:00pm - 4:30pm)	Activities include: Community service, ropes course, hikes, beach trips, scavenger hunts, camper planned days, camp activities, college visits, and more!	Evening Activity (7:30pm - 9:30pm)	Evening activities range from nights out for bowling or a minor league baseball game, to engaging activities related to job searching and money management lead by staff.

Time Off

You're going to work during Beyond Akeela, and you're going to work hard! We know that keeping you rested and energized is essential to your role at camp. You can expect to have two days off each camp session. We will work with you to provide daily time off as often as possible. We ask for your flexibility and understanding with this, as Beyond Akeela is not your typical camp program!

Pay at Camp

You will be eligible to receive a portion of your travel allowance when you arrive at camp. If you would like to receive a cash advance on your salary mid way through the summer, please let us know ahead of time. All remaining compensation will be provided in a lump sum check at the end of the session.



COMMUNICATION AT CAMP!



Ready to get pumped up for Akeela 2019? Curious about camp?

Log on to our Akeela Staff 2019 Facebook Group!

Check the group often for updates, important information, and answers to all of your burning questions! We use Facebook as a way of keeping in touch with you and for answering "Frequently Asked Questions". For returning staff, Facebook is a great way to meet all of our new staff members and help them prepare for an amazing summer! New staff, be sure to utilize returning staff members who can help answer most of your questions! We also post camp related stories and photos on our Camp Akeela Facebook page. "Like" us to get all the updates!

Internet

We have wireless internet available for staff use in the Staff Lounge at camp. During our trips, we cannot guarantee WiFi access at all our destinations. If you wish to bring your own laptop for your time off, you're welcome to do so.

Mail

If you need anything mailed to camp, please use the address below:

Your Name

Beyond Akeela
c/o Lawrence University
711 E. Boldt Way
Appleton, WI 54911

**Keep in mind that we are away from camp during various stretches of the summer. Please let Kevin & Kristin know when you're expecting mail to discuss the best delivery method.

Phone

Please tell your friends and family that you won't be able to take phone calls during the camp day, unless it's an emergency. We will use our phones during the summer as a means to communicate with one another. It is imperative that your phone is always full of battery, especially before we leave camp for any trips.

While it's important to have your phone around for communication with other staff, it's equally imperative that it is not used for social media or other personal needs in excess while you are "on duty" at camp. The teens we work with can't have their own phones!

Life Skills Infusion

Camp is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about program ideas. Part of your role this summer will be to facilitate guided activities for our campers that have a focus on various post secondary life skills. These skills include cooking, college readiness, healthy living, and interviewing skills among others. We hope you are starting to get lots of great ideas about how to make the Beyond Akeela experience the best it can be. Start writing these down – and don't be afraid to think "outside the box" about new and exciting ways to teach campers lifelong skills. We also invite you to bring any tools, guides or teaching aides you might have to help you deliver a fantastic program.

You'll learn a lot more about our program, the schedule and goals during orientation. We will spend time working with you throughout staff orientation to help you plan different ways to infuse life skills curriculum into the every day program of Beyond Akeela. If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns before then, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call Kevin & Kristin at 866-680-4744 or send them an email at kevin@campakeela.com.