



2019 Staff Newsletter

Friendship ● Community ● Growth ● Pride ● Fun

WELCOME TO CAMP 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,

WHAT'S INSIDE	
Staff Packing List.....	2
Arrival Dates.....	2
Staff Travel Info.....	2
Weather.....	2
Valuables.....	2
Akeela Gear.....	3
Who Will I Work With?.....	3
Pay/Time Off.....	3
Fun with Forms.....	3
Resources.....	3
Specialists.....	4
Communication at Camp.....	4
Staff Families.....	4



MEET KEVIN & MIKE



Mike Deuschman hails from Wakefield, Rhode Island, where he lives with his wife, two children and their dog, Dexter. Mike began working for Camp Akeela in 2010 as a cabin counselor. That summer, he met and fell in love with the camp nurse, who became his wife 3 years later. Mike has worked as a head counselor at Akeela off and on for the past 8 years. He is known for his energetic Richard Simmons impression and signature bushy red beard! When he’s not working at camp in the summer, Mike is the Assistant Dean and Athletic Director at a boarding school for kids with learning differences in Rhode Island called Middlebridge School.

Kevin Trimble 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. Kevin, too, met his wife at camp in 2015, and they live with their dog, Laney, in Philadelphia. Kristin will also be at camp this summer directing the Beyond Akeela program!

STAFF PACKING & TRAVEL

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

- 10-12 t-shirts
- 2-3 long-sleeved t-shirts
- 3-4 pair of jeans/sweatpants
- 5-8 pair shorts
- 2 sweatshirts (1 hooded)
- 2 pair sneakers
- 7-10 pair underwear
- 7-10 pair athletic socks
- 1-2 swim towels
- 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 fleece jacket/heavyweight jacket
- 1 rain jacket/poncho
- 1 pair rain boots
- 1 small backpack
- 1 flashlight
- 1 water bottle/canteen
- 1 watch

***Camp will provide bedding and towels on campus at Lawrence.**

IMPORTANT STAFF ARRIVAL DATES

Senior Staff Arrival:

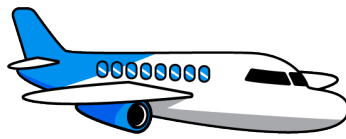
Friday, June 14

All Staff Arrival:

Monday, June 17

**If you have any questions about your arrival date, please contact Kevin ASAP*

STAFF TRAVEL



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

Your expected arrival date is the start date listed on your contract. Camp Vans will be available from Chicago O'Hare Airport on June 17th, departing no later than 2:00pm. Staff members are asked to PLEASE schedule flights landing no later than 1:00pm at O'Hare for your arrival.

If you are planning on driving to camp, you will receive an email with directions and the best address to input into your car navigation system. For your return trip, you will leave camp on July 19th, the last day of second session. If you plan to fly home, part of your responsibilities will be assisting campers departing on flights in getting to their gates and taking off before leaving for your own gate. More details on these logistics will be discussed at camp. Please schedule your return travel on July 19th departing NO EARLIER than 4:00pm CST.

Wisconsin Weather



While most days at camp are warm and beautiful, it can get quite cold at night

and in the early morning, especially in mid June. We highly recommend that you bring warm clothes, such as sweaters, jackets and pants. Also, don't forget your rain gear!



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.

Fun with Forms!

There are some forms we'd like you to complete before your arrival! Log on to campakeela.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

"Who will be my co-counselors this summer? Which age group will I work with?"

Have these thoughts crossed your mind?

We like to get to know our staff better before we make the important decision of placing counselors in a bunk group and teaming them with co-counselors. This is a complicated process and many factors are considered, including your input. After we have the chance to get to know each of you a little better and see the staff interact as a group, we will have a much better idea of where we believe you will be successful. The overriding goal is that you are placed where you will have the most success and where you can best help campers thrive. Most likely, you will be thrilled with your placement. If you have any questions or concerns about staff placement, please don't hesitate to ask.

Pay at Camp

You will be eligible to receive cash advances several times, evenly spread throughout the summer. Your remaining pay will be delivered at the end of the summer in the form of a check.



Akeela Gear



In the past, staff members 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.

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"



Time Off

You're going to work a lot at camp, 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 one of the five activity periods off each day, and you will either have an additional hour off during the day or have the night off. You will also have three, pre-determined days off from camp with a group of staff members.

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!

Staff Electronics Policy

WiFi is available all throughout campus with a private, Akeela-specific login. As we discussed during the interview process, the expectation is that cell phones, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices are never out and being used around campers. You are free to use them during your time off!

Being in an urban setting at camp provides many benefits, and also challenges us to think more about our own electronics usage as a staff. Part of what makes camp such a special place for campers AND staff is the removal of our phones and internet access from our every day lives. It takes a lot more intention from all of us to create the feeling of summer camp magic on a college campus with so many distractors available to us. We're excited to take on that challenge with you, and hope that you'll help us "practice what we preach" by limiting your cell phone use this summer and remaining present with us at camp!

Your Akeela Staff Family



We're excited to get to know each other once you arrive in Wisconsin. One of the ways we do that is through our "staff families". Staff families are groups of staff members, returning and new, that will be together a lot during staff orientation. This way, you'll have a designated group of people when you arrive that you can get to know better! When you arrive at camp, you'll receive a family identifier.

Family Announcements coming soon: stay tuned!

Calling all Specialists!

Camp is just around the corner and it's time to start thinking about your program areas. We hope you are starting to get lots of great ideas about how to make your activity periods the best they 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 for each program area during orientation. Catricia, our Program Director, will spend time working with you throughout staff orientation to help you plan your program and come up with new ideas. If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns before then, don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call Kevin at 866-680-4744 or send him an email at kevin@campkeela.com. We'll get you in touch with Catricia!