



# Camp Akeela Circular



## A Letter From The Directors

As we work on all of the camp forms for Margo, our 10-year-old daughter who will be going to her own sleepaway camp this summer for 7 weeks, we want to acknowledge that sending your child away to camp is a lot of work! Of course, there are the doctor's appointments, the prescriptions that need to be called in, the shopping, packing and organizing! And, there's also the emotional work that needs to get done as well and we can't underestimate that!

Preparing your child emotionally for camp takes time and energy - a positive energy. Pushing through our own fears and worries about sending our camper away needs to be a priority so we can meet our child with a "clean slate". Our children need to feel our optimism and confidence that going away to camp will be a life-changing experience - one that will enable them to become more independent, more confident and will hopefully be a place that opens them up to meaningful friendships that will last a long time. All of our campers are intuitive and if they sense that we're afraid about this very big transition, they will take on that worry themselves.

Some advice for those of you who are worried and anxious about camp this summer:

- Write it down! Take some time during the day (Not right before bed or you'll never be able to fall asleep!) to write down anything that's making you feel anxious. Writing your worries down will allow you to acknowledge them and either use your notes to address the concern or let it go.
- Call us! If you're concerned about something, maybe we can help. Sometimes, more information is helpful in minimizing our fears.
- Breathe! Go for a walk or take 10 minutes with a cup of tea to just relax. How often do you allow yourself to take time for just yourself? It's important and it's helpful.
- Read *Homesick and Happy!* Remember that book we sent you when your child enrolled? Pull it out and re-read it. It's really helpful... and, reading will help you take your mind off of your own worries.

By the way, this is great advice for your anxious camper too! We're very excited to see your child up at camp soon - sooner if you'll be joining us for our Open House next month! Your camper's Head Counselor will be calling you in early June to chat about anything that's on your mind so feel free to start a list now that you can email her or call her about once our team is all up in VT. Enjoy your Spring and we'll see you soon!

Fondly,

Debbi Eric

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## 2019 DATES

OPEN HOUSE:  
June 15

FIRST SESSION:  
June 26 - July 19

SECOND SESSION:  
July 22 - August 14

VISITING DAYS:  
July 19 & August 14

FAMILY CAMP:  
August 16 - 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 2:00. 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, 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 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 your 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 15th. 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!



# CAMP FORMS

Camp forms are available online and are due soon!

## TO ACCESS THEM:

1. Go to the camp home page, [campaakeela.com](http://campaakeela.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, scanned (e.g. with CamScanner or DocScanner apps) and uploaded through your Forms Dashboard. **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 Lands' End flyer, and information about LabelDaddy, our recommended method for labelling campers' belongings. 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!

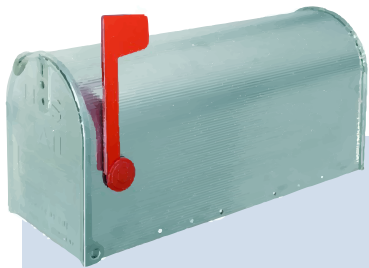
## Open House

Reminder - Please RSVP



We hope to see many of you at this year's Open House on Saturday, June 15th between 10AM and 2:00PM. 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!



## 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.



***A note about...***

## **BAGGAGE**

Please remember that **ALL** baggage must be sent to camp before your camper arrives. Baggage should arrive at least three days before the start of your camper's session. If you're coming to Open House on June 15, or are close enough to drive bags to camp on another day, you're welcome to drop them off. Otherwise, please check out the information we sent about R&B Camp Baggage, or make delivery arrangements through USPS, UPS Ground or FedEx Ground.

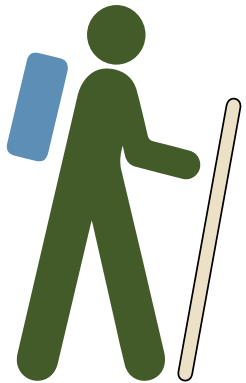
## **OPTIONAL OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TRIPS, HORSEBACK RIDING AND TENNIS LESSONS**

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



We're also ecstatic to be working with High Horses Riding Center yet again. Their professional PATH certified therapeutic riding instructors continue to provide a fantastic, fun and safe program to Akeela's hippophiles!

Lastly, we are again offering semi-private tennis lessons with Coach Richard. Each participant will be paired with one other camper and receive 5 half-hour lessons. This extra time on the court with individualized instruction is sure to inspire a life-long love of tennis.

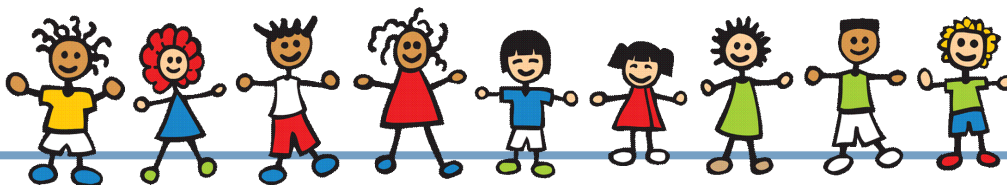


Details, prices and registration instructions for all of these optional programs are included in the online form. Spots are filling up quickly, if you're interested please get us your trip and/or riding registration forms soon!

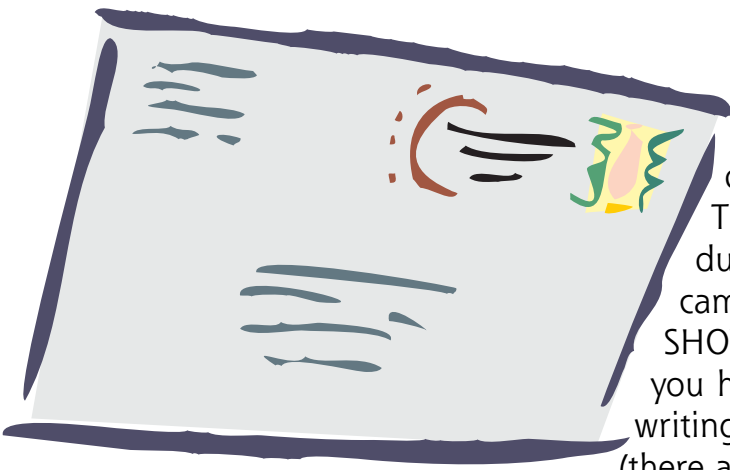


## **How We Assign Counselors to Bunks**

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).



# CAMPER MAIL



As we mentioned in our opening letter, we know how hard it is not to hear directly from your camper. 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").

## GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

For the past 12 years, we've published articles listing all of our campers' home states. Each summer, we found that our campers represented more than 25 US states and several other countries as well. We're proud of Akeela's diversity so we counted again this year ... and we got an incredible result: 34 states and 8 other countries! (We included campers in our Vermont, Wisconsin and Beyond Akeela programs.)

Here's the entire list, as of late April: Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Washington D.C., Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin. We also have campers coming from Canada, Guatemala, England, Ireland, Spain, Japan, Azerbaijan and Indonesia.



## POISE-A-THON

We are delighted to announce the ninth 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.

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](http://www.poisescholarship.org)



POISE

## CLOTHING ORDERS

Camp Outfitters by Lands' End is ready for your orders! Lands' 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 Lands' End. Everything else on the Lands' End website – while wonderful products – is optional.

# PARENT COMMUNICATION AT AKEELA

We can't talk about communication without first introducing you to our summer assistant director, Rob Glyn-Jones. Rob lives in the north of England, although he has spent the last twenty-four summers working at American summer camps. In 2010, he joined Camp Akeela as a head counselor and had an immediate and profound impact on the Akeela campers and staff. In 2015, Rob moved over to the program side of camp life, in the position of program director. Beginning in 2017, Rob pioneered the role of communications director for Akeela. In that capacity, he works closely with Debbie, Eric and the head counseling team to continually improve how we communicate with families about all of the successes their campers are enjoying at camp!

A few things to expect this summer from Rob, Debbie, Eric and the rest of our head counseling and communications teams:

## 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! Since we are in a small, rural town, a letter may take up to 4-5 days to reach you.

## CAMPER CALLS

Parents may elect to schedule one phone call with their child during the camp session. As in other areas of camp, we believe in doing what's best for each camper. In some cases, that may include NOT speaking to their parents while at camp.

## 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 Debbie, Eric or Rob -- 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.

# 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

Rishi A (5th grade, Media PA)  
Guy A (7th grade, Brookline MA)  
Charlotte B (6th grade, Goldens Bridge NY)  
Emma B (6th grade, Stamford CT)  
Patrick B (9th grade, New York NY)  
Nathan C (4th grade, Dudley MA)  
Jack C (8th grade, Lexington MA)  
Lila D (7th grade, Andover MA)  
Garrett D (8th grade, Westwood MA)  
Rye D (4th grade, Irvington NY)  
Christopher F (8th grade, Edinburgh UK)  
William G (6th grade, Brooklyn NY)  
Lola G (7th grade, New York NY)  
Spencer H (8th grade, New York NY)  
Jack K (6th grade, Sandy Hook CT)  
Anatoly K (10th grade, London UK)  
Ella K (8th grade, Tenaflly NJ)  
Shea L (7th grade, Brentwood TN)  
Olivia M (7th grade, Oak Bluffs MA)  
Landon M (8th grade, Lakeland FL)  
Muir M (10th grade, Altadena CA)

William M (10th grade, Wayne PA)  
Ellie M (9th grade, Darien CT)  
Sriram N (9th grade, Newton MA)  
Nicholas N (6th grade, Mill Valley CA)  
Niamh O (9th grade, Bowling Green KY)  
Linus O (7th grade, Los Angeles CA)  
Samantha P (8th grade, Scotch Plains NJ)  
Maxime R (10th grade, Brooklyn NY)  
Idris R (5th grade, Ronkonkoma NY)  
Isabella R (6th grade, Plymouth MA)  
Henry R (7th grade, Dover MA)  
Hugo S (8th grade, Tokyo Japan)  
Joseph S (9th grade, New York NY)  
Claire S (10th grade, Tampa FL)  
Anna S (6th grade, Berwyn PA)  
Duncan V (7th grade, Westport CT)  
Abigail V (7th grade, Bainbridge Island WA)  
Molly V (9th grade, Thornton CO)  
Emmett W (3rd grade, South Burlington VT)  
Brady W (6th grade, Lynnfield MA)  
Carson W (9th grade, Scottsdale AZ)

## SECOND SESSION

Carolina B (10th grade, Madrid Spain)  
Declan B (6th grade, Atlantic Highlands NJ)  
Benjamin B (9th grade, Wynnewood PA)  
Liam B (8th grade, Reading MA)  
John B (7th grade, Little Rock AR)  
Julia B (7th grade, North Reading MA)  
Frederick B (10th grade, London UK)  
Paolo C (6th grade, Wenham MA)  
Alexa C (8th grade, Cohasset MA)  
Avery C (6th grade, Canton MA)  
John C (10th grade, Hillsdale NJ)  
Kiara D (8th grade, New York NY)  
Henry D (9th grade, Stamford CT)  
Mazel D (8th grade, Jakarta Selatan DKI)  
Lenora F (5th grade, Woodcliff Lake NJ)  
Gianna F (6th grade, Ambler PA)  
Bennett F (5th grade, Newton MA)  
Joshua F (4th grade, Bala Cynwyd PA)  
Gabriel H (8th grade, Newton Centre MA)

Theo H (7th grade, Newton MA)  
Aidan J (8th grade, Brooklyn NY)  
Benjamin K (8th grade, Andover MA)  
Myles K (9th grade, Owings Mills MD)  
Noah L (4th grade, Bagley MN)  
Zachary L (10th grade, Windham NH)  
John L (6th grade, Bronxville NY)  
Oliver M (8th grade, Davie FL)  
Henry P (6th grade, Upper Saddle River NJ)  
Richard P (6th grade, Upper Saddle River NJ)  
Julia S (9th grade, Highland Park IL)  
Samuel S (8th grade, Elkins Park PA)  
Avi S (6th grade, Washington DC)  
Sebastian S (6th grade, Larchmont NY)  
Zachary S (9th grade, Larchmont NY)  
Andie T (10th grade, Wrentham MA)  
Sky W (5th grade, New York NY)  
Aaron W (5th grade, New York NY)  
Jackson W (5th grade, Westport CT)

# BLAYNE'S BULLETIN



Eric had a chance to spend a few days at camp in late April, visiting with Blayne (our amazing Site Manager) and checking on the progress of this year's construction projects. We can announce that Bunk 5 now has a brand new porch - which means that every single cabin on camp has a large, covered porch! We know that having a porch makes cabin life so much nicer, so now no-one has to miss out!



Elsewhere in camp, we also wanted to make life a little bit easier for our wonderful nurses - so Blayne's "big project" this year has been to totally renovate our Health Center! The building has been significantly expanded - including a new, large covered porch (so Head Nurse Sharon doesn't feel left out when it comes to porches!). The interior has also got new flooring as well - which is currently being laid!



## ROB'S RAMBLINGS

It's at this point of the year that I always start feeling nervous about the summer - is everything going to run smoothly? Is everyone at camp this year going to be nice? Is everyone going to have a good time? One thing that I do know is that it's going to be different. No matter whether it's your first time at camp or your tenth summer, there will be changes. New people, new friendships, new activities - and, of course, for returners there will be friends who aren't back with us, different bunkmates and new counselors. And that's one of the things that I love about camp - in some ways everyone is feeling the same worries and excitement about the summer. No-one knows everything that the summer is going to bring - and that is brilliant!

It's an adventure that we can all have together - supporting each other and making this the best summer ever. One of the tenets of Akeela is "Community", and as a community I love seeing everyone - staff and campers - look out for each other. It's amazing seeing returners offering their advice, and it's always fantastic to see new folks embrace what Akeela stands for, and growing during the time they spend with us. So don't worry about feeling nervous... everyone is, but the summer is going to be great!

# MEET OUR HEAD COUNSELING TEAM



## Mike Deutschman (2nd session)

Mike 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! During the first half of the summer, Mike is a director at Camp Akeela in Wisconsin. He'll then be returning to Akeela in Vermont as a 2nd Session head counselor.

Originally from the Midwest, Mike graduated with a degree in child psychology from the University of Minnesota. During and after college, he spent 4 years working at an autism and early childhood intervention center. He loved working one-on-one with clients to improve their social skills, as well as running after school groups for teenagers. Mike traded in the Midwest flatlands for the Rhode Island ocean and has spent the last 8 years as an Assistant Dean at Middlebridge School, a private boarding high school for students with learning differences. During his free time, Mike enjoys exploring the world with his family, directing the school play and engaging in any card or sports game he can convince others to play with him!

**Favorite Book:** The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien

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

**Favorite Camp Food:** Chicken Patties



## Nicole Frederick

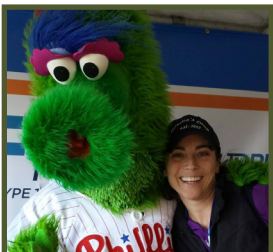
Nicole Frederick was a camp counselor in 2014, and fell in love with Akeela! After two years away from camp, working toward her Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a Specialization in Music Therapy at Lesley University, she returned to Akeela in 2017 as a head counselor. She joined us last year on the shores of Miller Pond, before heading to the shores of Western Australia for the off-season, and enjoying three summer seasons in 15 months! While in Australia, Nicole started a music therapy program at a high school and traveled the south west corner of WA. Her 'favourite'

place was the Ferguson Valley where they have planted pine trees, so it looks a lot like Vermont! Nicole brings her teaching and therapeutic skills to support our campers in trying new experiences, socializing with new and old friends, and creating great memories.

**Favorite Book:** Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Norway

**Favorite Camp Food:** Chef Trina's famous chili



## Steph Harmelin

Steph Harmelin is excited for her first summer at Akeela! A Philadelphia native, Steph has spent the spring helping out in the office, assisting with hiring counselors. Steph has a long history (and love!) of camp--from a camper for many years to counselor, Waterfront Director, and even Camp Director, at a bunch of different camps! Inspired by children she met at a camp specifically for those who had lost a parent in the 9/11 attacks, she received her Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania, and is a Licensed Social Worker in PA. In her free time, Steph enjoys traveling to

far-off places where she doesn't speak the language, and hanging with her dog, Boone. Those three things--travel, Boone, and camp--are what she always claims to be the greatest things in her life (plus her family. And snacks). Camp continues to change her life, and she's always excited to see how she can help it change the lives of others.

**Favorite Book:** anything by Robin McKinley

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Madagascar

**Favorite Camp Food:** Fajitas

# MEET OUR HEAD COUNSELING TEAM

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## Alex Welych-Miller

Alex Welych-Miller, originally from Syracuse, NY, is returning for her fourth summer at Camp Akeela! She recently finished a Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Dance/Movement Therapy at Lesley University in Boston, MA. In addition to her love of dance, Alex brings a range of experience working with children on the autism spectrum. Alex first came to Camp Akeela as a cabin counselor in 2015 and fell in love with the Akeela community. Last year, she worked as the Assistant Program Director in Vermont and is excited to be moving into a Head Counselor role this summer. In her free time, Alex enjoys taking ballet classes, hiking, canoeing, and hanging out with her cat, Jameson!

**Favorite Book:** Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Italy or Greece

**Favorite Camp Food:** Chef Trina's Mac and Cheese



## Barb Wolfson (1st session)

Barb Wolfson has been a child advocate and professional educator for over 30 years. She is a graduate of UMass Amherst and has a Masters in Education from Lesley University. Barb was the director for 10 years at Camp Wingate Kirkland on Cape Cod (where Debbie and Eric met!) Barb lives in Wayland, MA with her husband Jim and their two black labs Moses and Nellie. She has two grown children, Elizabeth and Sam. Barb loves to read, cook, exercise, go to the movies with Jim, hang out with her family, spend time with friends, and take Moses and Nellie for walks.

**Favorite Book:** Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Alaska

**Favorite Camp Food:** S'mores

## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

### CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Spencer W, May 4  
Ian R, May 5  
Sriram N, May 5  
John B, May 6  
Yoni B, May 6  
Tyler R, May 7  
Christian H, May 10  
Jacqueline B, May 10  
Julia S, May 10  
Declan T, May 12  
Emma B, May 14  
Martha V, May 14  
Myles K, May 16  
Lenora F, May 18  
Luke B, May 19  
Jack K, May 21  
Nicholas Z, May 23  
Jack M, May 24

Kaitlin C, May 25  
Lachlan C, May 25  
Alexander M, May 29  
Dev M, June 2  
Jonathan M, June 2  
Liam B, June 3  
Dolan M, June 5  
Ethan S, June 5  
John L, June 8  
Mateus A, June 9  
Joe S, June 11  
Kali T, June 11  
Niamh O, June 15  
Lila O, June 16  
Paolo C, June 18  
Isabelle S, June 28  
Sky W, June 30



### STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Harry A, May 6  
Cody W, May 7  
Eimear D, May 7  
José OM, May 16  
Angie C, May 26  
Eleanor T, May 27  
Sorcha G, May 31  
Anna F, June 2  
Sorai K, June 2  
Johann P, June 5  
Debbie S, June 7  
Zak A, June 8  
Jake F, June 9  
Nicole F, June 11  
Arjan J, June 12  
Katelyn M, June 18  
Caitlin W, June 22  
Yousuf M, June 28  
Emily B, June 30

# INTRODUCING TWO NEW PROGRAM HEADS!

Program heads design and implement programs that combine high quality instruction with an intentional focus on friendship-building and life skills such as communication, collaboration, resilience, creative problem-solving and so much more! Working with our program director, Ben Jerez, they provide supervision and support to our program specialists and also work directly with campers on a daily basis.



## Danielle Logan

## Aquatics Director

Danielle Logan will be entering her fourth summer on the shores of Miller Pond. Danielle started out as a boating specialist and has since moved through the ranks to become the Aquatics Director. She has her BS in Recreational Therapy from the University of Southern Maine and is looking to attain her Masters in applied behavior analysis in the near future. In her down time, Danielle enjoys anything that is done outdoors from hiking, snowshoeing, snowboarding, swimming, kayaking, fishing, and paddle boarding (pretty much anything in the water as well). Danielle is excited to spend another summer at Camp Akeela.

**Favorite Book:** Into the Wild by John Krakauer

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Peru

**Favorite Camp Food:** Desserts



## Rob Brennan

## Ropes Director

Rob Brennan lives in Dublin, Ireland. This will be his third summer working at Camp Akeela. In 2016, Rob worked as a Cabin Counsellor and in 2017 worked as a Ropes Specialist and Lead Ropes Specialist. Now, after a summer away from camp, Rob is very excited to be returning as the Ropes Course Director!

After graduating from university with a Bachelor of Education in 2017, Rob has spent the past two years working as a primary school teacher. After enjoying his first year working as a mainstream class teacher, Rob was delighted to be given the opportunity to spend this past academic year working as a Special Education Teacher. In this role, Rob works mostly with children with Emotional Behaviour Disorder, ASD, ADHD and other needs and works on more individualised programs with these students promoting their emotional, social and academic integration in the mainstream setting. In his free time, Rob loves to play the piano, go rock-climbing and spend time with friends and family.

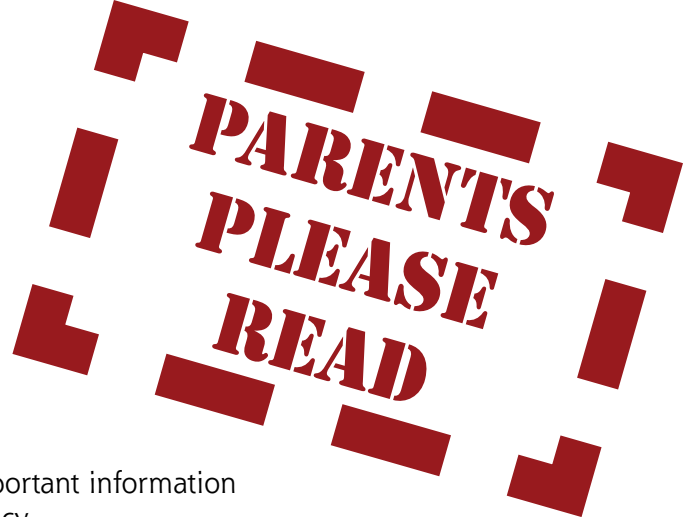
**Favorite Book:** Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

**Place I'd like to Visit:** Mumbai, India

**Favorite Camp Food:** : Ice-cream



# 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](http://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.