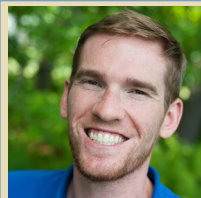




# Camp Akeela<sup>SM</sup> Circular



## A Letter From The Directors



Summer will be here before we know it, and we are so excited! We have been dreaming about Opening Day since the fall, and as the days get warmer after a long winter we can feel the energy of summer approaching! We have been thinking a lot about what camp means to us and reflecting back on our professional lives with Akeela. So much of what Akeela does for everyone in the community is help us find "our tribe." For the both of us, this couldn't be truer. We both met our wives at camp and have formed some of our strongest friendships with other Akeela staff members. Akeela helped Mike find a school community to build his career in and made Kevin switch careers from accounting to the camp industry. It has truly changed our lives, both personally and professionally, and helped us find our tribe.

While we look forward to sharing Akeela with your child and his/her counselors this summer, we also want to acknowledge that the weeks leading up to camp can be a bit stressful for families. We know that we ask a lot of our families to prepare for camp and appreciate everything that you do for your camper(s) leading up to the summer. Here are some tips to keep the lead up to camp a little more stress free this year:

- 1.** Give us a call! If you have a lingering question about camp or have a concern about anything, it is likely something we can help with.
- 2.** Start packing early! We find that the earlier you can start to pack and look over the packing list, the more prepared you feel for camp in general. Packing is also a natural way to bring up camp in conversations with your camper. It's a great way to get him/her to visualize what camp will be like too.
- 3.** Make some To-Do lists! As we mentioned above, there is A LOT of information to digest, many forms to complete, and plans to make before the summer arrives. Lists help us stay organized here in the office, and give us the satisfaction of checking off completed tasks!
- 4.** Remember to breathe! In the midst of all the camp prep and end-of-school craziness, take 10 minutes to yourself to focus on YOU, and not your list of things to do! We love to go for quick walks to help clear our minds, it gives us a chance to hit the reset button and refocus our mindset.

We hope these tips are helpful for you as summer approaches. Remember that you are not alone in feeling a bit anxious or stressed about camp, and we are here to help. These tips also help us every year as we prep ourselves for camp! Enjoy the rest of your Spring, and we can't wait to see your camper at camp soon!

Fondly,

## WHAT'S INSIDE

What to Expect .....	2
A Note About Baggage.....	3
Assigning Counselors.....	3
Geography Update.....	3
Camp Forms.....	4
Upcoming Birthdays.....	4
Pen Pals.....	4
New for 2019.....	5
Double Session Campers...	5
POISE-a-THON.....	5
Clothing Orders.....	5
Optional Adventure Trips....	6
Weekly Trips.....	6
Parent Communication.....	7
Camper Mail.....	7
Important Reminders.....	8



## 2019 DATES

FIRST SESSION:  
June 24 - July 6

SECOND SESSION:  
July 7 - July 19

# 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!
- 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 Mike and Kevin, 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 Kevin or Mike 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!

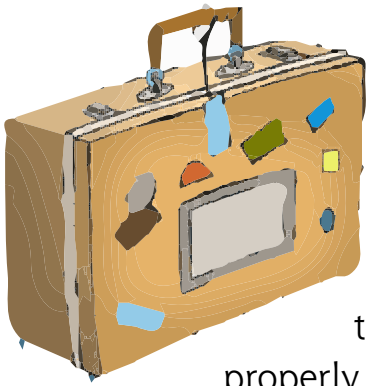
Many campers worry that they might be sad or homesick on the first night of camp. That is very normal. All of your counselors will be right in the dorm with you to help you. In addition to talking to them, you might want to look at photos from home, write a letter to your family or read a book. We know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

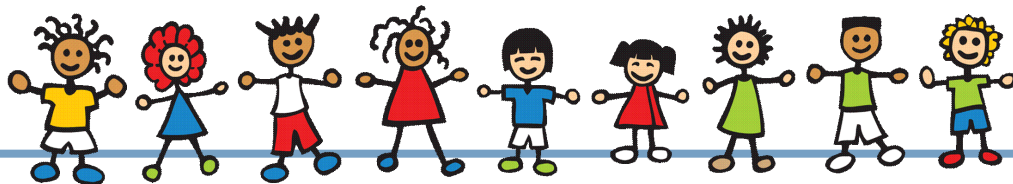


Just a reminder at our Wisconsin site **we do not require baggage to be shipped to camp before the session begins.** However, if you would prefer to do that, please make delivery arrangements through USPS, UPS Ground or FedEx Ground and try to schedule arrival no more than 1-2 weeks before the session 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, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Azerbaijan, and the United Kingdom!



# CAMP FORMS

All of this year's camp forms are required to be submitted online. If you have not yet completed camp forms, please do so as soon as possible!

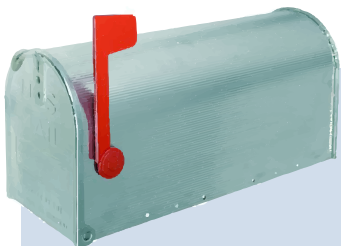
## TO ACCESS THEM:

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 and uploaded through the Forms portal. 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 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 another camper in 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 STAFF AND CAMPER BIRTHDAYS...

Ava C, May 20  
Corey C, May 26  
Dominic P, May 30  
Mary B, May 30  
Emil J, June 7  
Carter L, June 9  
Logan P, June 9  
Kiana B, June 9  
Jillian M, June 11  
William H, June 14  
Charlie O, June 20  
Ethan S, July 5  
Ruby B, July 7  
Ella F, July 9





# New for 2019

Pretty soon we'll be back at camp in a setting that is familiar for so many of us. We'll see familiar faces and enjoy similar to activities to last summer. While this consistency is something we all love about Akeela, we also love adding new activities and programs every year, too! Here are few new programs to get excited about this summer!

**GARDENING:** Lawrence has a large student run garden (right next to the old campfire site!) that we will be fortunate to help take care of this summer! Much of the produce in the garden is actually used in the camp cafeteria, so campers will really get to see (and enjoy!) the fruits of our labor!

**GOLF:** Calling all aspiring golfers! We are adding a mini driving range and chipping course to camp! Golf will only be offered as a specialty and will be a great free time option.

**TEEN-TIME:** We're excited to introduce a new choice based program for our oldest campers to explore their passions. There will be options for community leadership (eg. community service projects, planning evening activities), First Aid/CPR certification, and STEM projects!

## DOUBLE SESSION CAMPERS - What to expect between sessions!

As we say goodbye to many of our first session campers and prepare to welcome our second session friends, there will be a group of campers hanging around camp and waiting to meet their new bunkmates. Here's what this group can expect during the transition to second session:

### July 6<sup>th</sup> AM:

Campers will explore downtown Appleton and check out the Houdini History Museum right across the street from camp!

### July 6<sup>th</sup> PM:

After lunch and rest hour, we'll head to a local pool/water playground for some fun in the sun! In the evening we'll take in a movie in the theater before resting up for round two!

### July 7<sup>th</sup> AM:

Low key camp activities around the dorm will be available for campers to join in on.

### July 7<sup>th</sup> PM:

Second session begins!

Families currently registered for one session and interested in doing multiple sessions can email Kevin ([kevin@campakeela.com](mailto:kevin@campakeela.com)) to inquire about availability!

## POISE-A-THON

We are delighted to announce our third annual (in Wisconsin, and ninth 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](http://www.poisescholarship.org)



POISE

## CLOTHING ORDERS

Camp Outfitter's 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 (preferably grey or white) ordered from Lands' End. Everything else on the Lands' End website - while wonderful products - is optional.

# 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 Lake Winnebago, 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 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 to High Cliff State Park for an afternoon hike. Of course there will be ice cream to follow! 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 Kevin & Mike, your child's head counselor, and our camp nurse:

## 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!

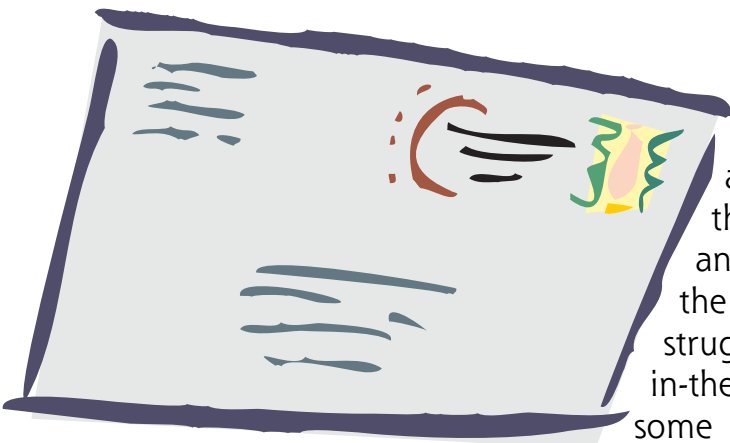
## COMMUNICATION AFTER CAMP

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!

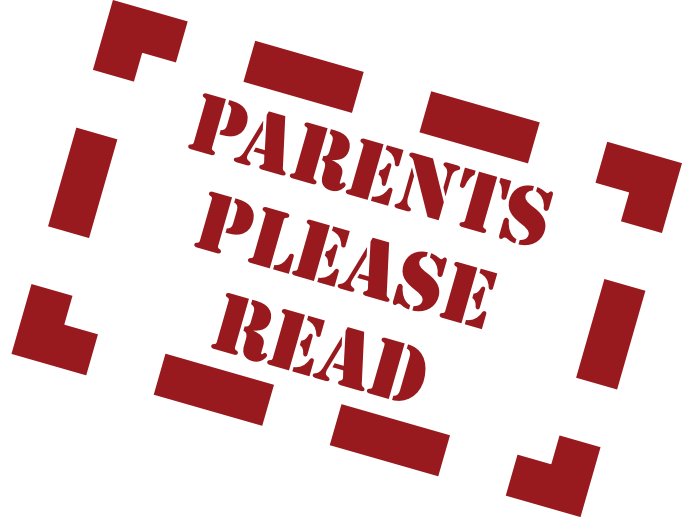
Please don't ever hesitate to call your child's head counselor -- or Mike or Kevin -- if you have any concerns. While we are frequently out in camp during the day, we always check our messages and return calls as quickly as possible.

## 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").

# 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.

## 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](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.