



Welcome to the newsletter!

It's April, and this issue is a special one - just for our campers! We'll tell you how to get ready for the summer so that you will be prepared for the amazing summer ahead!

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AKEELA NEWS

CAMPER SPECIAL!

April
2021

Bringing you all the Akeela news throughout the year!

It's Spring! We're so excited that the warm weather has allowed us to spend more time outside with our family and friends. We've been taking a lot of walks, reading books on our porch and grilling lots of food. Of course, all of this sunshine also helps us get even more excited for camp! We'll be moving up to Akeela the first week of June so that we can get ready for our staff to arrive on June 12th. We can't wait to get there ... and to welcome all of our campers back to Akeela this summer!



We've heard from many of you that this year has been hard and we really believe that camp is just what we all need. Many of you have been stuck inside without lots of in-person connections to your peers. We also know that you've been spending a lot of extra time on screens! Camp will be a chance for all of us to reconnect with each other face-to-face. All of those games you've been playing online? Let's try to play them in person! Or talk about them with other campers. Maybe this is the summer you'll learn some new games or start a D&D campaign which you can continue virtually during the school year.

NOW is the time to start preparing for your time Camp Akeela. On next page is some advice about what you can start doing to get ready for your summer...

- Make a list of all of the activities you are excited to try at camp this summer and set some personal goals.

- Write down any questions you have about camp and email us so we can get you the information you need!

- Start preparing to do more tasks on your own: making your bed, tidying up your room, remembering to brush your teeth and hair, putting on deodorant, applying your own sunscreen and bug spray, remembering to shower and wash well.

- Ask your parents to show you the camp packing list and start thinking about what you want to bring with you. Is there anything on that list that you need to shop for?

- Remind your parents to fill out your camp forms! ;)

- Look at the camp schedule online - when you can (on weekends), try to practice waking up at 7:30 and eating at 8, 12 and 6 for your meals. Shower at 5pm and even take a "rest hour" after lunch!

- Start thinking about to whom you want to send letters while you're at camp....you can even start addressing the envelopes!

NOW is also a great time to start setting more limits with your screen time/technology. Camp is a wonderful detox but it is much better not to have your arrival at camp be the *first* time all year you don't have unlimited access. Start by setting a time limit for each day. Maybe you allow for extra time on the weekends at first. Talk to your family about what *else* you might start doing instead of getting on a device. Do you have books you enjoy reading? Could you write a letter to a friend or family member? (We **love** getting mail so feel free to write to us!) Do you have a sketchbook where you can doodle/draw/create? Maybe you'd enjoy writing in a journal. These activities will be wonderful things to do during Rest Hour or at other free times at camp.

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

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 or more 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(s) so that everyone at camp feels connected to someone else.

This summer, we will also have a Zoom "bunk meeting" a few days before you arrive at camp, so you can meet all of your bunkmates and counselors before seeing them in person!

A TYPICAL DAY AT AKEELA

7:30 Wake up

Campers get dressed, make their beds, brush their teeth and wash for breakfast

8:00 Breakfast

Campers eat as a bunk

8:30 Clean-up

Counselors guide campers as they help bunkmates keep their bunk neat and clean

9:00 Group Meetings

Campers meet daily as a bunk with counselors and key staff to discuss bunk concerns, individual and group goals, and to preview the day's schedule

9:15 First Activity Period

Bunk groups go to activities together with their cabin counselors

10:15 Second Activity Period

11:15 Down-Time

Counselors supervise free play, and campers wash for lunch

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Rest Hour

and preview of afternoon schedule

1:45 Third Activity Period

2:45 Snack

3:00 Specialty Period 1

Campers choose their favorite activities to attend even more often

4:00 Specialty Period 2

5:00 Shower Time

6:00 Dinner

7:00 Evening Meeting

The entire camp community meets to recognize camper achievements, read from the suggestion box, and look ahead to upcoming activities

7:30 Evening Activity

A mixture of all-camp events, special interest exploration and small-group games

8:30 Snack & "Day In Review"

Campers enjoy a healthy snack while participating in a nightly bunk check-in activity

Bedtime varies depending on age

AKEELA 101

What is a head counselor?

Head counselors are adults who live in our community and who supervise between 3 and 5 cabins. They oversee the well-being of campers and staff in those groups and are the primary “point person” for parents to call during the summer. Our head counselors will spend all day out and about in camp and you’ll see them regularly! They are great people to talk to about anything that might be on your mind.

What is a cabin counselor?

A cabin counselor is a counselor who lives in your cabin with you and whose job it is to spend all day hanging out with your bunk group. Not only will they live with you and eat meals with your bunk, but they will also go to most of your activities with you as well. You will have 2 cabin counselors in your bunk.

What is a specialist?

A specialist is a counselor who lives in your cabin and spends a lot of time hanging out with the campers in your bunk, but who is also responsible for teaching an activity at camp. For example, in your cabin, you might have a swim instructor and a ropes course facilitator! You will have 1 or 2 specialists in your bunk.

How soon will I get to know my counselors?

You will have a chance to “meet” your counselors virtually a few days before you arrive on a Zoom bunk meeting. You’ll meet them in person the day you arrive at camp!

What is Evening Meeting?

Evening Meeting is after dinner each night. At 7pm, the whole camp gathers at our amphitheater. After Debbie and Eric make a couple of quick announcements, it’s a time for campers and counselors to recognize the achievements of other community members. Evening Meeting is also when we read from the suggestion box!

What is the suggestion box?

We want camp to be an incredibly positive experience for everyone at Akeela. The suggestion box is a great place for you to share your ideas about how to make that happen. You might suggest a new activity, a group project we can all work on together, or anything else that helps Akeela be the best it can be. Debbie and Eric read all of the suggestions and often share some of them out loud (anonymously) with the entire community at Evening Meeting.

What happens when it’s my birthday at camp?

Birthdays at camp are really exciting! It’s like having a big slumber party with some of your favorite friends! You will have the option of having the entire camp sing Happy Birthday to you at Evening Meeting. Chef Trina will make you a delicious cake to share with your bunkmates and counselors, who will help make your entire birthday extra special for you. Birthdays are also the ONLY time a care package is allowed to be sent from home!