



## Enrollment for Summer 2022 is Open!

**Session 1:**  
June 25 - July 18

**Session 2:**  
July 21 - August 13

**Family Camp:**  
August 16 - August 21

- 02 -03 **Preparing for Camp!**
- 04 **Erin's Edit**
- 05 **Important Dates/Trivia**
- 06 **Welcome Back!**
- 07 **Who's Returning?**

# AKEELA NEWS

March  
2022

*Bringing you all the Akeela news throughout the year!*

## Many Thanks to Give!

Every year at this time we start to feel different...as the days grow longer and we're able to spend more time outside with our family, we know that we're getting closer to being together with our Akeela

family. We can feel it in our bones! From now until our staff start arriving up at camp in early June, we are thinking about camp ALL THE TIME! In mid-

March, our team will head to Atlantic City for the Tri-State Camp Conference - the largest gathering of camp professionals in the world! We'll spend three days learning about camp from experts in the fields of child development, mental health, education and recreation. It's a time for us to learn from other camp friends who can share ideas with us about how to make camp even more fun and meaningful for us all. After tri-state, time always flies. We'll be getting our staff ready for their work with us on virtual gatherings. We'll help our



campers connect with their bunkmates and we'll make sure our campers know what to expect in the first couple days of camp. For us personally, we'll be packing up our family

as we move everyone up to Vermont for the summer! (Our daughters go to their own sleepover camp so we also

understand the struggles/stress of packing!!! AND....we do it at the same time we're packing for ourselves!)

Most importantly, we're excited this summer to get back to a better sense of "normal". With everyone in our community vaccinated, we're really hopeful that we can have a summer that feels like the "good old days" where our biggest worry was what Trina would be making us for dessert! We're thrilled that we'll be able to offer horseback riding again and that parents who want to

come see us in action will be able to join us on the last day of each session for "visiting day". We are also planning for a camp schedule that starts right away with our 2 speciality periods in the afternoon and are hopeful that we'll all be able to eat on the porch and in the dining hall together again! (Good riddance to the humid tent!)

Camp is all about the people. We've spoken to a lot of wonderful new campers this year and hear over and over again how excited they are to meet so many other people who "get" them and who they can make lasting friendships with. We know our amazing staff feel the same way and we're so happy that many of them will be returning this summer and that our new staff members seem equally excited to be a part of our community. We are counting down the days until we can all be together and believe us - it will come before we know it!

*Debbie Erue*

# It's not too soon to start planning for camp!

We know it's still winter; for those on the East Coast, it may still feel cold, and summer may seem very far away. But the next few months will pass quickly and before we know it, we'll be together at camp! As we gear up for the summer here in the office, we thought that it might be helpful for you to start preparing at home, too. Here are some suggestions of things you might do between now and summer to get ready for an amazing experience at Akeela:



**MONTHS  
BEFORE CAMP**

- If you are a returning camper, email or call an Akeela friend. Get in touch and see how they're doing. Talk about what you're looking forward to at camp. Maybe set up a time to get together, in person, or online.
- If you are a new camper, explore the Akeela website to see a daily schedule, photos of camp and more details about the community that you'll be joining. Make a list of any questions you'd like to ask us or your pen-pal (whose contact information you'll get in the late spring).
- Talk to other people you know who have been to camp and find out what they loved about their experience.

- Make a list of all of the things you're excited to try at Akeela this summer.
- Review the camp videos so you can really try to picture what camp might be like.
- Plan a sleepover outside of your home to get used to sleeping in a different bed.
- Order any Camp Akeela "gear" you want for camp.



**MONTHS  
BEFORE CAMP**



**MONTHS  
BEFORE CAMP**

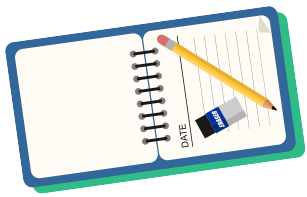
- Start gathering a list of family and friends you might want to write to while you're at camp.
- Address envelopes to those people with your parents and put stamps on now ... It's one less thing to do when you're busy at camp!
- Practice doing more things on your own like making your bed, picking out your clothes, etc.
- Make sure your parents sent all of your camp forms in!

- Get in touch with your pen-pal. Ask them questions about themselves. Talk about the things you're excited about trying at camp!
- Make sure you and your parents have everything you'll need to pack – look at the list and check things off.
- Practice the camp daily schedule (wake-up, meal times, showering every day, bedtime routines).
- Start limiting your "screen time" (TV, video games, etc.) so that you're feeling ready to jump right into your fun- filled, electronics-free camp life!



**MONTH  
BEFORE CAMP!**

## WE'LL SEE YOU SOON!



# PARENT PLANNER

## A FEW REMINDERS TO KEEP ON YOUR RADAR BEFORE CAMP!

### MEDICATION

We will be working with CampMeds again this year and require full participation from Akeela families to help make medication administration run smoothly. More information about CampMeds will come in the early spring, and please put this toward the top of the to-do list to ensure timely delivery of your child's medication.



### PHYSICAL EXAMS AND OTHER CAMP FORMS

Every camper is required to have a physical within 12 months of their arrival at camp. Going to the doctor soon? You can access the Physician's Exam and all other camp forms through the Family Log In link at [campaakeela.com](http://campaakeela.com). Please remember that a doctor's signature is required on the Physician's Exam form.

### FAMILY HANDBOOK

[The Family Handbook is now available](#) in the Current Families section of our website.

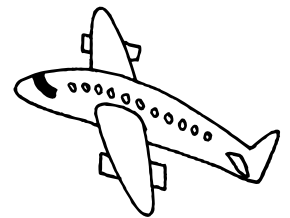


### AKEELA GEAR

"Instructions for how to purchase Akeela gear are in the [Family Handbook](#). Akeela's official outfitter is the Camp Spot. We recommend ordering early, and you're welcome to get started whenever you're ready: <https://thecampspot.com/>. As a reminder, the only required item is the one grey or white Akeela t-shirt.

### TRAVEL PLANS

Will your camper be flying into Boston Logan Airport on opening day? Camp families are starting make their travel plans, so please give us a call when you are ready to start booking your camper's trip to New England! For families in the Northeast, we offer round trip transportation from the New York and Boston areas.



### BAGGAGE SHIPPING

Unpacking and setting up our cabins before campers' arrival is a vital part of how we welcome them to Akeela. Regardless of how your camper is getting to camp, all trunks/duffels must arrive at least 3 days prior to the start of your child's session (i.e. June 22 or July 18). We recommend two services: R&B Camp Baggage (for those in the Northeast) and Ship Camps (for everyone else).

### TUITION

Invoices will be coming via mail and email before each planned payment date. The first half installment was due on January 31, and the second half is due on April 30. Please let us know if you have any questions at all about payment or would like to speak with us about setting up a payment plan.

# Erin's Edit!



For me, camp is an experience that touches all of my senses...

## Touch

I love the feeling of grass under my toes, rolling out clay at the ceramics studio, and the first feeling of the cool lake on my skin when I jump in. I love the sharp feeling of a high five when a camper gets a bullseye at archery, and the warmth of a hug at the end of our day.

## Taste

This is a big one because I LOVE all camp food, and I am so excited to taste Chef Trina's culinary creations this summer! But for me, the strongest taste memory of camp is my first ever s'more. I wasn't the professional I am now, so I burnt the marshmallow a little and I still remember the charred taste of gooey mallow and chocolate.

## Smell

Camp smells different depending on the time of day. In the morning, you can smell the dew coming off the grass. By lunchtime, it is a mixture of sunscreen, chlorine, and sweat. Afternoons to me smell like shampoo as I love to help brush and braid hair to keep it tidy and out of the way. And of course, nighttime smells like campfire.

## Sight

When I think of summer camp, I immediately see the color green. The grass, the trees ... even the lake sometimes has a green tint in certain lights. I think of the greens of the salad bar and the green in our Akeela t-shirts. Our cabins are painted white and green, and our fingers are often dyed green from tie-dye. Green is the color of newness, and every summer we get to add a new bunch of friends to the Akeela community.

## Hearing

When you think of what you can hear at camp, you might think of laughter, or of campfire songs, or of the splash of the pool. I think of these things, too! But one of my favorite things to do at camp is to stay up later than everyone else, or wake up earlier than everyone else and listen to the near silence. I sometimes hear critters: crickets, rabbits, owls. I hear the wind rustling through our trees and enjoy a moment of peace, just camp and me.



# IMPORTANT DATES

## CAMPER ZOOM GATHERINGS

Meet the other kids around your age who will be at camp with you!

We have sent out the appropriate Zoom link to all caregivers. Please let us know if you can't find it!



07

7:00pm EST

### FIRST SESSION

(Current) Grades 4-7



07

7:30pm EST

### SECOND SESSION

(Current) Grades 4-7



08

7:00pm EST

### FIRST SESSION

(Current) Grades 8-10



08

7:30pm EST

### SECOND SESSION

(Current) Grades 8-10

## VERMONT TRIVIA

### Did you know?

Vermont is the nation's leading producer of maple syrup. Producing over 2 million gallons of syrup in 2020, Vermont generated over 50 percent of the country's maple syrup.

### Can you answer this question?

Roughly how many gallons of sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup?

### Answer to Last Newsletter's Question

In our previous newsletter, we asked: One U.S. president was from Vermont. He is the only president who was born on the 4th of July. Can you name this president?

Well it turns out that was a poor question because there were actually TWO president born in Vermont: Chester Arthur in 1829 and Calvin Coolidge in 1872. It was Coolidge who had a birthday of July 4th.



# Welcome Back, Rush Family!

We are thrilled to share with you that Nurse Amy and her family (including a new baby) will be back at camp this summer. Amy is a pediatric nurse practitioner who lives with her husband, Josh and daughter, Evie, in Georgia. Amy is an outstanding clinician in addition to being kind, loving and funny! Our campers and staff adored her last year and she took amazing care of all of us. We asked Josh, Amy and Evie a few questions about camp...here are their answers:



## What was your favorite thing about being at Camp Akeela last summer?

**A:** Meeting the team that Debbie and Eric brought together and then adding campers into the mix!

**J:** Meeting so many incredible people from around the United States and the world.

## Were you surprised by anything at camp?

**A:** How the campers changed throughout the summer: gaining confidence, developing close friendships, trying all sorts of new things; it was truly special to observe

**J:** Amazed at how the community comes together so quickly into such a wonderfully tight knit group of people.

**E:** Bald Eagles on the pond!

## What was your favorite camp meal?

**A:** Tacos

**J:** Pot roast with potatoes and carrots

**E:** Dessert. All the desserts.

## What's your favorite part of the camp day?

**A:** Evening meeting; I love hearing campers recognize each other for making an impact on them that day

**J:** Early morning walk with a cup of coffee

**E:** Following around Julia

## Favorite spot in camp?

**A:** Evie and I liked walking the path from the waterfront to the barn; that path has so many beautiful Vermont wildflowers that attract tons of butterflies!

**J:** Fishing dock on Miller Pond or the tennis courts.

**E:** Waterfront!

## What are you most looking forward to this summer?

**A:** Returning to beautiful Vermont, reuniting with friends, and making new connections with staff and campers!

**J:** Reuniting with a lot of the incredible people we met last summer and playing a lot of tennis.

**E:** Brookies!

# RETURNING CAMPERS

We love having a great mix of returning and new campers at Akeela. First-time campers bring so much to our community: new friendships, fresh ideas, and a contagious enthusiasm for all things Akeela. They also benefit from the guidance and wisdom of Akeela "veterans". These returning campers are the keepers of camp traditions and understand in their souls how magical Akeela is. Here is a list of campers already re-enrolled for next summer...

## IN FIRST SESSION

Abby V • Amelie T • Andrew K • Asher L • Aspen R • Ava E • Bea O • Benjamin R • Braden S • Brooke W • Brooks H • Christian J • Cooper S • Declan B • Dimitri R • Emmett H • Francisco B • Gabriel R • Harper F • Hazel G • Henry G • Holden W • Hollis G • Hudson A • Ian G • James F • James M • Jasper R • Jose B • Jude A • Julia P • Kai T • Kieran J • Kodi C • Landon B • Lena R • Lily M • Lincoln B • Mark D • Mateo B • Nate F • Nick N-W • Noah K • Nolan M • Nora J • Norah A • Olivia F • Owen H • Paul W • Peter G • Phoebe R • Rye D • Sami B • Sasha L • Sawyer B • Sawyer M • Van D P • Veronica D • Willa H-K • William G • Yoni B

## IN SECOND SESSION

Asher C • Ava T • Ben P • Benicio G • Bennett F • Bobby S • Brooke W • Burke H • Chris A • Danny T • David B • Dave H • Declan T • Devin L • Duncan V • Eli C • Gabriel P • Griffin R • Hazel R • Henry S • Ian G • Jack C • Jack K • Jackson W • Jonah V • Josh F • Leni F • Leo S-K • Liam S • Luca R-G • Maggie K • Merik M • Nico H • Noah L • Nola J • Oliver M • Olivia F • Oscar A • Oscar S • Owen H • Ryan B • Ryan P • Sami B • Sam H • Sebastian S • Seth R • Talia W-F • Tessa B • Teddy L • Thomas Y • Van D P • Yoni B

# RETURNING STAFF

We're excited to have a healthy dose of returning staff members in camp this coming summer! They carry on traditions and bring extraordinary leadership to the community. Here's a list of who is returning this summer:

### AJ Lee

Alex Maynard (5th summer!)

### Alexis Walker-VanSingel

Amy Bollt

### Angie Casiano (9th summer!)

Ariel Gold

### Brandon Ross

Chef Trina Triacca (6th summer!)

### Chiru Gunawardena (4th summer!)

Courtney Smith (4th summer!)

### Grace Beange

Jackson Campbell

### Jake Ferguson (5th summer!)

Jorden Coon

### Joe Crowley

Justin Rivera

### Keefe Traendly (3rd summer!)

Kevin Hussey (4th summer!)

### Kwame Gatlin

Lauren Michaud

### Liam Hourihan

Maggie Partlow (5th summer!)

### Makenna Blacklock

Matthew Rhoads

### Milk Hailemariam

Nacho Dominguez (5th summer!)

### Nurse Amy Rush

Pablo Gutierrez

### Paul Garduno

Preston Gilchrist (5th summer!)

### Ray Youngblood

Rob Glyn-Jones (13th summer!)

### Samuel Benbrook

Stephen Canton

### Will Engel

