



# 2022 Staff Newsletter

Friendship ● Community ● Growth ● Pride ● Fun

## WELCOME TO CAMP AKEELA!

Akeela 2022 Staff, we are so excited to welcome you to our community as we inch our way into our new normal post-pandemic, and cannot wait to share this summer with you! We feel so lucky to have a strong group of empathetic, passionate, and enthusiastic young professionals to help us to provide “the most incredible, life-changing summer experience on the planet” for our campers, and we are committed to creating something equally life-changing for our staff members, too.

We know that in choosing to work with us this summer, you are placing your own professional goals in our hands; we take this seriously and it is one of our goals to support you as you progress. This starts with staff orientation. The 10 days that we will spend together before campers arrive will be a lot of work, and a lot of fun too! We concentrate on helping you to 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 be together in person, and see the amazing work you will do in our community!

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## STAFF PLACEMENT

**“Who will be my co-counselors this summer? Which age group will I work with? Which bunk will I live in?”**

**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 and teaming them with co-counselors. This is a complicated process and many factors are considered. 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.

# 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/hoodies
- 2 pair sneakers
- 10 pair underwear
- 10 pair athletic socks
- 1 pair hiking socks
- 1 comforter or 3 wool blankets\*
- 1 set cot-sized or twin sheets\*
- 3 towels (for shower and swim)\*
- 1 pillow with 2 cases\*
- 1 shower caddy with toiletries
- 2-3 bathing suits designed for sport activities (no string ties/cut-outs)
- 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
- 1 sleeping bag for overnight, if not flying

**\*Camp will loan linens, bedding and towels for international staff**  
**THINGS NOT TO BRING!**

- Furry friends (Pets) - without prior agreement with camp directors
- Weapons of **any** description

## Vermont Weather

While most days here at camp are warm and beautiful, it can get quite cold at night and in the early morning, especially in June and

late August. We highly recommend that you bring warm clothes, such as sweaters, jackets and pants. Also, don't forget your rain gear! When it does rain, camp gets muddy quickly, so bring appropriate footwear.

## IMPORTANT STAFF ARRIVAL DATES

**Aquatics, Support and Senior Staff Arrival:**

Friday, June 10

**All Other Staff Arrival:**

Wednesday, June 15

*\*If you have any questions about your arrival date, please contact us 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 ([campakeela.com](http://campakeela.com)). Please submit this form no later than May 25th.

Your expected arrival date is the start date listed on your contract. Camp will provide transportation from Boston Logan Airport to Akeela on June 10th and June 15th, departing Logan no later than 3:00pm. Staff Members arriving at other airports or on different dates are asked to take a Dartmouth Coach bus to Hanover, NH or a Greyhound bus to White River Junction, VT.

Driving directions are available in the Our Program section of our website. If you're driving to camp, please follow these directions as navigation systems and online trip planners will NOT take you on the best route!

For your return trip, most staff will leave camp on the morning of August 14th. If flying out of Boston that day, please schedule a flight that departs NO EARLIER than 1:30pm. If you prefer, you may depart camp on August 13th (the campers' last day of camp). In that case, flight plans should be made for the late afternoon. Please contact Erin if you have specific travel questions.



## 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 valuables 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 important forms that you are required to submit before your arrival! Log on to [campaakeela.com](http://campaakeela.com) and use the Staff Log In in the top right corner to access the forms.



We are already chatting about Summer 2022! We have several Whatsapp Chats where we're getting to know each other, and also sharing important updates and answering Frequently Asked Questions.

Please contact [erin@campaakeela.com](mailto:erin@campaakeela.com) if you have not yet joined our chats! We're also posting staff introductions and camp related stories and posts on our Camp Akeela Instagram page – follow us there to stay connected!

## Calling all Specialists!

It's time to start thinking about your program areas! You should be coming up with great ideas about how to make your activity periods the best they can be. Start writing these down; 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.

During orientation, you'll work with the Program Team to further plan your program, but don't come empty-handed! If you're not sure what kinds of ideas you should be thinking of, please reach out to Erin at [erin@campaakeela.com](mailto:erin@campaakeela.com)

## Mail

You'll love getting "old-fashioned" mail while you're at camp! Tell your friends and family to send your mail to:

### Your Name

Your Bunk Number – you'll get that later  
Camp Akeela  
One Thoreau Way  
Thetford Center, VT 05075

## Pre-Orientation Resources

If you're interested, here are a few resources on neurodiversity 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.*



## Akeela Gear

You can buy Akeela-branded gear at [www.thecampspot.com](http://www.thecampspot.com) and enter "Akeela" where it asks for camp. Enter code "CGSTAFF" for 20% discount (this code is for STAFF ONLY!)



"Temple Grandin"  
"Autism, The Musical"  
"Billy the Kid"  
"Today's Man"

