

Staff Welcome Pack

SUMMER 2024

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Welcome Home!

To our staff of 2024, we are so happy that you've decided to join our community, and we cannot **WAIT** to share this summer with you. Every year as we build our staff group we begin to imagine what our community will feel like, as each group brings something a little different. This year, the vibe is smart, funny, and really, really dedicated to these kids! We're excited to see you share your skills, grow in areas that you are hoping to, and create some life-changing experiences - both for yourself and for the campers.

As spring rolls around, we 3 in the year-round office will be planning Staff Orientation; the 10 days that we'll spend together before campers get there are some of our favorite days of summer, and while they will be full of learning, working, and stepping outside of your comfort zone, they are the blocks we'll build our community on! We'll be focusing on developing both hard and soft skills that will help you in your role this summer, and also in your work life far beyond Camp Akeela.

This Welcome Packet holds most of the answers to questions you'll probably have - take a solid read through it! For anything else, emailing Erin will get you a quick answer, and the [Staff Whatsapp group](#) is an awesome tool where return staff will be happy to help you out with anything you want to know!

Thank you for sharing your knowledge, skills, and time with us this coming summer. We're so excited to see what Camp 2024 holds for us!



The Big Question: Staff Placement

"Who will be my co-counselors? Which age group will I work with? Which bunk will I live in?"

We're sure these questions have crossed your mind, and they're questions all 3 of us had while we were counselors! We like to get to know staff better before we make the important decision of creating teams, and assigning bunks. Once we know everyone and see the staff interact as a group, we'll have a better idea of how to create the best "co" teams. The goal is that you are placed **where you will have the most success, and best help the campers thrive.**

Most likely, you'll be thrilled with your placement. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask!

STAFF TRAVEL & PACKING



A guideline of what staff should bring to camp:

- 10-12 t-shirts
- 2-3 long sleeves
- 3-4 pairs of jeans/sweatpants
- 5-8 shorts
- 2-3 sweatshirts/hoodies
- 2 pairs of sneakers
- 10 underwear
- 10 socks
- 1 pair of hiking socks
- 1 comforter or 2-3 blankets
- 1 set cot or twin sheets
- 3 towels
- 1 pillow with 2 cases
- 1 shower caddy with toiletries
- 2-3 bathing suits designed for sport activities (no string ties/cut-outs, speedos)
- 1 pair flip flops/sandals/crocs
- 2 hats for sun protection
- 1 lightweight jacket
- 1 rain jacket
- 1 pair rain boots
- 1 small backpack
- 1 flashlight
- 2 water-bottles
- 1 watch
- 1 sleeping bag, if not flying

Camp will loan linens, bedding, and towels to international staff

DO NOT bring the following to camp:

- Pets (without prior consent from directors)
- Weapons of **any** description
- Non-prescription drugs

Arrival Dates

IMPORTANT!

Senior Staff

Support Staff

Aquatics Staff

Ropes Course Staff



Fri, June 7th

All Other Staff



Wed, June 12th

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 the staff [website](#). Please submit this form no later than May 10th.

Your expected arrival date is the start date listed on your contract. Camp will provide transportation from Boston Logan Airport to Akeela on **June 7th** and **June 12th**, 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! *Sometimes staff ask if they should drive or fly, and it's totally up to you! Often staff are relieved they brought their cars because it means total freedom on time off without having to work to get a ride somewhere!*

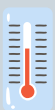
For your return trip, most staff will leave camp on the morning of August 11th. If flying out of Boston that day, please schedule a flight that departs NO EARLIER than 1:30pm. If you prefer, you may depart camp on August 10th (the campers' last day of camp). In that case, flight plans should be made for the late afternoon - post 3pm.

We recommended booking travel ASAP as costs are only going to rise!

A good idea is to carpool with other staff members - if you are within driving distance and need a ride, shoot a message into the [2024 Whatsapp Group](#) to see if someone close by has room in their car!

Please contact Erin if you have specific travel questions!

Vermont Weather: While most days at camp are warm and beautiful, it can get cold at night and in the early morning. We recommend warm clothes such as sweaters, pants, and jackets! Don't forget rain boots and a jacket too - camp gets muddy when it rains (and it can RAIN at camp), and no one likes wet socks.



OTHER FUN INFORMATION



Staff Forms

There are a few forms that staff are required to submit before arrival. Head to the [Akeela website](#) and use the **Staff & Family Log In** button in the top right corner to see what you need to complete!

Mail

If you need to order things, or your loved ones want to send some good, old-fashioned snail mail:

Your Name
Camp Akeela
One Thoreau Way
Thetford Center, VT 05075



A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT VALUABLES



We discourage staff from bringing valuables or large amounts of cash to camp. We can store small items like passports in our camp safe, but otherwise there are no totally secure spaces to store your belongings.

We generally do not have concerns about theft, but things do tend to get wet, damaged, or misplaced.

Staff Group Chat

We're already chatting about Summer 2024! We have a large Whatsapp Chat where all staff are, and also several small group chats for specific groups. Click the links to join & introduce yourself!

[All Staff](#)
[Aquatics](#)

[International Staff](#)
[Kitchen/Maintenance](#)

Calling all Activity Specialists...

It's time to start thinking about your program area! You should be coming up with ideas about how to make your activity periods the best they can be. Start writing these down, and don't be afraid think outside the box!

During orientation, you'll work with the Program Team to further plan your activities, but don't come empty-handed! If you're not sure of what ideas you should be thinking of, reach out to Erin!

Come to Camp Early!

Before summer officially starts, we need to get camp ready, and we need a crew to do that!

"PreCamp" is a chance to make a little extra money, bond with a small group before the rest of the staff arrive, and make your mark on camp! **Arrival date is May 31**, and it's a lot of physical work; painting, moving beds, weed-whacking!

If you're interested in working pre-camp, please email Erin before April 30!

Akeela Swag

Get any Akeela-branded gear you want at [The Camp Spot](#). Enter "**Akeela**" when it asks for your camp, and enter code "**CGSTAFF**" for 20% discount (this code is for staff only!).

WE'RE STILL HIRING!

We have a particular need for waterfront staff, hiking staff and male-identifying staff! Don't forget that for every staff member you recommend who completes the summer, you get \$250! If you know anyone who could be a great fit for camp, NOW is the time to send them our way!