



# AKEELA NEWS

WINTER 2024

## MANDATORY CAMPER AND PARENT/GUARDIAN ZOOM MEETING

**THURS., MAY 9, 8PM EST:** DISCUSSING THE AKEELA COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS  
IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND LIVE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

## OPTIONAL INFORMATIONAL ZOOM CALLS FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

**THURS., APR. 4, 12PM EST:** TRAVEL, VISITING DAY, PACKING, CLOTHING, LAUNDRY

**TUES., APR. 16, 8:15PM EST:** COMMUNICATION, HEALTH, MEDICATION, FOOD

**SUN., APR. 28, 5PM EST:** TRANSITION INTO CAMP, MISSING HOME, COMMUNAL LIVING



## MAKING YOUR LIFE EASIER



We're thrilled to be working with CampMeds, a pharmacy service that prepackages medication to ensure a high level of safety and efficiency for distribution at camp. CampMeds registration is required for all campers who take daily medication. Please register now!



Our Family Portal, CampMinder, now has an app! Downloadable on both Apple and Android devices, you'll be able to complete your camp forms, send emails to your camper, and receive a personalized feed of photos and news from camp! Please download CAMPANION now.

## REMINDERS

### **PHYSICAL EXAMS AND OTHER CAMP FORMS**

Please remember to submit all of your camp forms before **May 15**. They can be found after you've logged in using the Staff & Family Login link on our website, or via the CAMPANION app. **The app is easiest for uploading completed forms.** Please note that the Physician's Exam Form must be completed by your camper's doctor.



CampSpot is our official camp supplier. To see our page on CampSpot, simply type Akeela where it asks for Camp Name on their home page. There is lots of great Akeela gear in our camp store, but **only the basic logo'd lightweight cotton t-shirt is required.**

### **AKEELA GEAR**

### **BAGGAGE SHIPPING**

Unpacking our campers is a vital part of how we welcome them to Akeela. Except for our overseas campers, we require that all trunks/duffels arrive at camp at least 3 days prior to the start of your child's session. A few options for getting your camper's bags to camp:

- Sign up for ShipCamps - recommended for excellent rates and ease of use.
- Drop them off at camp during Open House in June, if you're attending
- Arrange shipment through UPS, FedEx or USPS



### **OPEN HOUSE**

We look forward to seeing many of our first-time camper families at camp on Sunday, June 9. If you haven't already sent your RSVP, which is available in your forms dashboard, please do so.

# What is a Head Counselor, and who are the 2024 HCs?

Your camper's head counselor will be the person you are most in-contact with this summer! They are adults who, in their professional lives outside of camp, are often educators and school counselors, and have a large amount of experience working with children. During camp, they oversee an age-specific "campus" at Camp Akeela (3 to 4 bunks), ensure the well-being of the campers and staff in their campus, and are the "point person" for communication with home. They'll be giving you updates on your camper, and although the main focus of their role is being out on-camp supporting the campers, they check emails and messages a few times a day and return all communication as soon as possible. Check out 2024's head counselors below!

## Barb Wolfson



Barb comes to us from Wayland, MA, and is a retired Special Educator. She has been a part of the camp community for a long time, both directing her own camp and working as a Head Counselor for Camp Akeela for several summers in the past. (Barb was the owner/director of the camp where Debbie and Eric met, 25 years ago!) She enjoys spending her days with her family, her dogs Nellie and Moose, and staying active by doing yoga, pilates, gardening and being outdoors. When relaxing, she loves to knit, read, cook, and listen to Bruce Springsteen.

**Favorite Book:** *Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett   **Place I'd Like to Visit:** Greece   **Favorite Camp Food:** S'mores

## Courtney Smith



Courtney first came to Akeela in 2019 and couldn't be more excited to return for her 6th summer! She has a BA in Communication Media and her Masters in Special Education from NC State University in Raleigh, North Carolina – where she calls home. Courtney has been teaching for 7 years and works at a charter school where she recently made the transition to a Middle School EC Resource Teacher. Along with teaching at the school, Courtney is the Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach. When Courtney isn't at camp, working, or coaching, you can find her loudly cheering on the NC State Wolfpack in all sports and playing kickball and volleyball in an adult sports league in Raleigh.

**Favorite Book:** *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*   **Place I'd Like to Visit:** New Zealand   **Favorite Camp Food:** Brookies

## Noelle Johnson



Noelle is a sixth-generation Californian, mom of two, MD, and summer camp enthusiast who is joining Camp Akeela for the first time this year! She grew up in San Diego, CA., attended college and medical school at Harvard, and has worked as a hospital-based pediatrician at Stanford since 2004. She loves history, literature and science, and speaks English and Spanish. She contacted us after Camp Akeela caught her attention online, and knew right away that she would love to spend her summer with us! Her kids attend 7-week summer camps in New Hampshire every year and have gained measurable, happy confidence and innumerable life skills in the process. She brings experience as a child health advocate, faculty mentor in undergraduate and graduate medical education, and is a creative thinker. Her passions include nature and gardening, intellectual conversations with kids, and learning about the amazing world we live in!

**Favorite Book:** *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez   **Place I'd Like to Visit:** Greece   **Favorite Camp Food:** Spaghetti

## Rob Brennan



Rob was born and raised outside Dundalk, a town in the Republic of Ireland. After graduating in 2017, he spent six years working as a primary school teacher in Dublin in both mainstream and special education settings. He recently moved to New Zealand where he has spent the past year working, travelling and adventuring! Rob first came to Akeela as a cabin counselor in 2016 and he instantly fell in love with camp. He returned the following year as a ropes course specialist and then became the ropes director in 2019. After a couple of years away from camp, Rob is delighted to be returning as a head counselor! In his free time, Rob enjoys playing piano, camping and spending time with friends and family.

**Favorite Book:** *Jacinda Ardern- The Full Story of an Extraordinary Prime Minister*, Michelle Duff

**Place I'd Like to Visit:** Paris   **Favorite Camp Food:** S'mores