



Camp Akeela Circular



News From The Directors

Dear Camp Friends,

Wow, what a summer! The first thing our friends and family ask us when we return from camp is, "How was your summer?". This year, without pause, we said, "Amazing ... best one yet!" Thank you to all of our campers and their families for being a part of such a special camp season. We are so proud of all of our campers' accomplishments. Not just the art they made or the swimming strokes they learned, but the BIGGER and (we feel) more important achievements, such as:

- going away from home for the first time
- leaving ELECTRONICS for three and a half weeks
- making a new friend or mending a friendship that might have become rocky over the year
- sharing in and contributing to a community
- pushing through fears like climbing the rock wall or going down the zip line

Now that Fall is here, it's easy to forget how proud we all felt at our final campfire. Don't. Remember what an amazing summer you had and look forward to 2016! We can't wait to see you back on Miller Pond.

Don't forget that re-enrollment forms are available on the camp website (In Current Families ... Forms). We will be opening enrollment to NEW campers on October 15th and already have applications in hand. To guarantee a spot for this summer, please return the enrollment form and deposit soon.

Have a wonderful fall! Let us know if you need anything from your friends at Camp Akeela!

Fondly,

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2016 DATES

FIRST SESSION:

June 25 - July 18

SECOND SESSION:

July 21 - August 13

VISITING DAYS:

July 18 and August 13

FAMILY CAMP:

August 15 - August 21

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMER

Our new horseback riding program was a huge success. Campers and staff were very impressed with the staff (and horses) at High Horses, our partners in Norwich. It was a full program with 12 campers participating in each of the two camp sessions. We certainly plan to work with High Horses again next summer, and will ask them if they can accommodate even more Akeela campers!

Our older teens greatly enjoyed the additional choices they were given in their camp program this summer. We loved watching them embrace that privilege and demonstrate more independence as the sessions progressed! Stay tuned for news about how we'll continue to offer more options to our older campers in the future.

Another big hit was the new overnight camping trip for campers who had completed 10th grade. These young men and women in their final year of "regular" camp loved having time in a new setting to reflect together on their experience as Akeela campers. We are very proud of our graduating campers and look forward to their continued growth in Beyond Akeela.



The new Legos in the library were quite popular and we enjoyed seeing what new creations had appeared every time we walk into the space ... We have some very talented builders in our midst!

As always, welcoming new campers to the community brought so many new talents and countless new friendships. In 2015, we welcomed our first campers from Canada, Norway and Bolivia! It's so wonderful to have friends from all over the world!



Beyond Akeela

We are so proud of the campers who took part in the Beyond Akeela program this summer. This group of 17 campers traveled from Boston to the White Mountains, through Vermont to Burlington, over to Lake Placid in New York, down to the Berkshires of Western Massachusetts, and finally back up to Camp Akeela. They navigated new places and cultures, prepared food for each other, did their own laundry, dedicated themselves to community service, and developed great friendships ... all while having lots of fun! We're looking forward to the next group of Beyond Akeela campers to conquer similar challenges next summer!

Noah K displays his "serious face" as he leads his fellow BAers down the olympic bobsled track in Lake Placid, NY

Before & After Camp: Weddings & More!

Some of you may wonder what happens at Akeela before and after the camp season. In addition to our staff training throughout the month of June, we were fortunate enough this summer to share our beautiful facility with a few very special groups.

To start things off, in late May, we were honored to host the wedding rehearsal dinner for our very own Dave and Katie Baker! The Bakers are the FIFTH Akeela staff couple to fall in love at camp and get married. We could not have been happier to be a part of their wonderful celebration!



At the end of the summer, after Family Camp ended, we hosted our very first wedding! The married couple resides close to camp and was intrigued by our site for their celebration. The ceremony was held at the Apple Orchard next to the golf driving range and the reception was held in the Dining Hall. We even used the brand new Lodge for the rehearsal dinner. About 100 guests stayed at camp for the weekend to celebrate with the couple. For not being professional wedding planners, we think we did a pretty good job!



Our last event of the year was a group from Dartmouth College. For the fourth consecutive summer, Dartmouth's Undergraduate Advisor Program conducted a portion of their training at Akeela. Early in September, approximately 115 students and group leaders come to Akeela for a weekend of learning, team building, and fun! Kevin, Michael Hunter and David Leach facilitated team-building activities for the group, while Grant and his amazing kitchen crew keeps them well nourished throughout the weekend.

Akeela Winter Weekend

Last year's winter weekend reunion was such a huge success that we're doing it again! This is a wonderful opportunity for our campers to reconnect and have fun with their Akeela friends.

When: TBA, but probably January 8th - 10th

Where: The Lodge at Camp Winadu in Pittsfield, MA

Who: 2015 Campers who are currently in grades 6-12



Program includes outings for bowling and ice skating, plus lots of time to play games and hang out with friends. Our amazing staff will be there to supervise and ensure that campers have a wonderful weekend.

Enrollment forms with more details will be available soon so you can reserve your spot. Space is limited!

Want More Winter Programs for Parents & Families?

One thing we've learned from 4 summers of Akeela Family Camp is that there is an indescribable amount of joy, community and connection that comes from bringing together not just Akeela campers, but their parents and siblings, too. Nothing would make us happier than to offer additional programming -- like Family Camp -- during the non-summer months. A couple ideas of what this might look like:

- We'll reserve a block of rooms at an all-inclusive family resort during a school vacation (e.g. after Christmas or during Winter Break). A limited number of Akeela staff members will be there to facilitate camper and parent-only activities, to supplement the resort's own program offerings.
- A parent-only retreat, simultaneous to the Winter Weekend Reunion. This would be a chance for adult R & R, while your Akeela campers are enjoying their time in Pittsfield. (Other care would have to be arranged for siblings.) Debbie and Eric would lead "roundtable" discussions, designed to help parents connect and share resources with one another.

If your family might be interested in an Akeela program like this, we'd love to hear from you. Please call us at 866-680-4744 or email info@campakeela.com as soon as you can. Thanks!

2015 SUMMER MEMORIES



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS...

CAMPER BIRTHDAYS

Kate G, October 4
Daniel E, October 6
William W, October 6
Eli K, October 7
Jack R, October 8
Thomas L, October 10
Dylan G, October 12
Evan G, October 15
Grant T, October 16
Andrew G, October 18
Harry P, October 18
Sam I, October 19
Jack B, October 21
Travis R, October 22
Jake H, October 23
Noah J, October 23
RJ M, October 24
Cian R, October 24
Aidan F, October 27
Samantha R, October 28
Alex H, October 29
Eric C, October 31

Hudson P, November 1
Andrew K, November 3
Ricky H, November 5
Marley M, November 5
Claire H, November 7
Ben B, November 8
Ryan B-A, November 8
Josh R, November 8
Natalie R, November 9
Michael P, November 10
Brayden T, November 10
Ariana M, November 12
Marguerite M, November 16
Joey V, November 17
Ross P, November 19
Chad P, November 23
Jackson B, November 29
Michael K-F, November 30
Ethan G, December 6
Connor S, December 6
Elizabeth M, December 8
Cara W, December 16



Saurav B, December 17
Grace T, December 17
Brandon P, December 19
Christopher A, December 22
Sean M, December 22
Max T, December 25
Rayna T, December 26
Ethan B, December 30
Charlotte R-B, December 31

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Sean G, October 3
Joseph T, October 5
Stefan L-C, October 6
Abigail W, October 8
Lauren E, October 10
Yea L, October 10
Annie C, October 11
Daniel H, October 18
Robert M, October 21
Sam P, October 22

Suzanne A, October 24
George L, October 26
Aubrey V, October 26
Samantha H, October 29
Wesley W, November 3
Joseph B, November 4
Jennifer H, November 4
Ronan M, November 4
Caroline M, November 10
Sarah O, November 16

DJ L, November 23
Adella S, November 23
Mario B, November 30
David B, December 1
Ariel A, December 2
Eric S, December 4
Trevor H, December 9
Kristin W, December 19
Katherine F, December 27
Celia O, December 29

Survey Reminder: We Want Your Feedback!

If you haven't already done so, please remember to complete our online surveys for parents and campers. The more information we have, the better camp can be for all of us. We believe in always striving to do our best and we need your help!

Parents: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/akeelaparents15>
Campers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/akeelacampers15>

Of course, we are also available any time to talk by phone; we'd love to hear from you.

