



Beyond Akeela Circular



A Letter From The Directors

Dear Beyond Akeela campers and parents,

As you may know, this will be Beyond Akeela's first summer running alongside Akeela Wisconsin on the campus of Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. We're so excited about the move, as it allows us to merge together the best components of all previous iterations of Beyond Akeela. While transitions present new challenges, they also provide new opportunities for change and growth. Beyond Akeela is designed to give teens the chance to step out of their comfort zones, to have new experiences, and to further develop life skills in fun and engaging ways. We know that Beyond Akeela, while challenging in many ways, is the best possible environment for our campers to learn and grow together!

Like every part of camp, Beyond Akeela is at its core about people. Sure, the itinerary is thrilling and the program goals are inspiring. But the experience will be that much more rewarding and unforgettable because of the other campers and staff with whom you share it. Many of you will be exploring new challenges with old camp friends. Some of you haven't been to Akeela before and are looking forward to forging new friendships. We are confident that all of you will come away from this summer with a special bond that can never be broken.

We could not be more proud of the staff that we're working with for Beyond Akeela. Below, you will find brief introductions to a few of the program's leaders, including Dr. Aaron Mobley, the Beyond Akeela Director!

If you have any questions between now and the summer, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time. Hopefully, this newsletter will address some of the things you might be curious about.

Best,

Debbie Eric Rezin

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2017 DATES

BEYOND AKEELA STARTS:
July 10

AT CAMP
July 10 - July 22

ADVENTURE TRIP
July 23 - July 26

THE BIG TRIP
July 27 - August 2

BEYOND AKEELA ENDS
August 2

What to Expect on the First Day of Camp

Dear Beyond Akeela Camper,

Summer is almost here and we hope you are excited about camp, even if you're also feeling a little nervous about it. It's only natural to be nervous when entering an unfamiliar situation. Our goal is to help you feel as comfortable at camp as possible! We think that one way to do that is to help you know what to expect ...



If you're taking the camp bus from the the Chicago area to camp, you and your parents will meet some of our counselors at the bus pick-up location. They will be there to welcome you and to introduce you to other Beyond Akeela campers. They will help you find a seat on the bus with a new friend and will be there to answer any questions you might have. The travel time from Chicago to camp is approximately 3 hours. You will bring lunch on the bus!

Others of you will be flying to Chicago or meeting us at the airport there on Opening Day. Beyond Akeela staff members will be there to greet you and to introduce you to other campers. You and your new friends will be driven by our staff in a camp van directly to camp. It will take approximately 3 hours to get to Akeela.

Regardless of how you get to camp, here's what you can expect to happen the rest of that first day:

- Once you arrive at camp, you'll get a chance to head to your dorm, unpack your bags, and set your room up for the next two weeks. You'll spend some time with your roommate and get to know them better, too!
- You'll also meet our nurses so that they can give you a quick "health check" to make sure you're healthy.
- There will be some time after before dinner for the whole camp to start spending some time together. This is a chance to start getting to know other teens on the program, and talk about expectations for your time together, so everyone knows what to expect from one another.
- We will all have dinner and Evening Meeting together as a community. You'll eat dinner with the Beyond Akeela group, just like you will for all your meals at camp! Evening Meeting will be at the amphitheatre and you'll get to hear some announcements from your camp leaders.
- We'll have some time after Evening Meeting for some fun and low key games to help us all get to know each other even better.
- Before we all head to bed we'll meet quickly as a group to chat about the day ahead and what you can expect from the program. Then it's time for evening snack and off to bed to get some rest before our big first day of program!

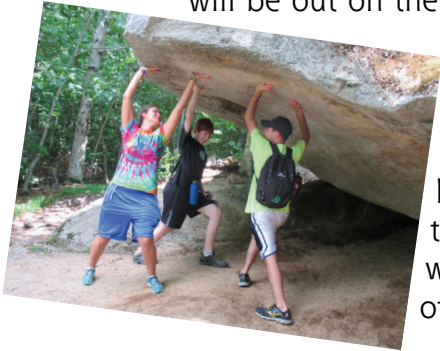
We're so excited for an amazing summer at Camp Akeela. See you soon!



WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER DAY ONE

Camp: (July 10 - July 22)

Our time together at camp will be filled with a variety of engaging activities, all working intentionally toward the goals of Beyond Akeela. Some of the activities include meaningful community service, scavenger hunts, and low/high ropes course activities. Some days we'll spend in camp, and others will be out on the road, including day trips to Green Bay and Lake



Michigan. We'll also spend some time together having group chats about topics like nutrition, healthy living/exercise, and college/job readiness. Every camper will also have the chance to cook as part of a team for the whole group! Much of what we do at camp will prepare us for the trips to come at the end of the program.



Adventure Trip: (July 23 - July 26)

The group travels to a beautiful campground in one of the many scenic areas surrounding the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin for a few nights under the stars (and tents!). Short hikes with rewarding views, rafting trips and other choice outdoor activities fill the days. Of course, no camping trip is complete without chances for s'mores and sharing stories around the campfire!



The Big Trip: (July 27 - August 2)

The culminating trip of Beyond Akeela! A week of travel to exciting must-see attractions in Chicago and beautiful natural wonders around a popular vacation area in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Dells (also known as the Waterpark Capital of the World!). From planning meals to daily agendas, the campers' hands are all over this trip. In the Dells, we'll have a chance to visit the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and of course have some water park fun! In Chicago, we'll see the sites through walking tours, museum visits and much more!



BEYOND AKEELA STAFF

We would like to introduce you to our wonderful group of Beyond Akeela staff members who will be integral parts of each teen's success at camp. These professionals can't wait to get started working with Beyond Akeela teen's this summer!



Meet your Director!

Aaron Mobley has over 20 years of experience in the camp world. He has directed traditional overnight, academic, technology, sports, music and language camps. He has a bachelor's degree in music from Southern Methodist University and a Masters in Music from Carnegie Mellon University, where he also worked as a software researcher. He earned his Doctorate in Music from the University of Arizona while working with the American Culture and Ideas Initiative.

Passionate about education, Aaron has over 20 years of private and public teaching experience with learners of all ages and backgrounds. He currently resides with his wife, Xiao, in Berkeley, California where he is a professor of music at Berkeley City College and at the California Jazz Conservatory.

Favorite Book: The Well-Tempered Clavier by J.S. Bach

Place I'd like to Visit: Leipzig

Favorite Camp Food: Pizza



Meet Zachary!

Position: *Beyond Akeela Advisor*

Years at Camp: *First*

Where I'm From: *Crawfordsville, IN*

Favorite Book: *The Empty Space* by Peter Brook

Favorite Hobbies: *Acting, writing, performing arts, basketball, football, and hip hop music!*



Meet Eric!

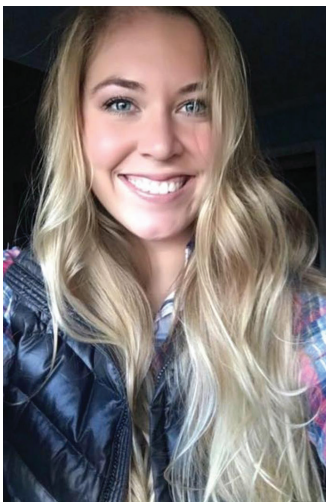
Position: *Beyond Akeela Advisor*

Years at Camp: *Fourth*

Where I'm From: *Kansas City, MO*

Favorite Book: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert Pirsig

Favorite Hobbies: *Skiing, biking, reading, and playing the ukulele!*



Meet Tessa!

Position: *Beyond Akeela Advisor*

Years at Camp: *First*

Where I'm From: *Vale, OR*

Favorite Book: *Anything* by Nicholas Sparks!

Favorite Hobbies: *Playing sports, cooking, hiking, board games, and walking her dog Roscoe!*



Meet Meghan!

Position: *Beyond Akeela Advisor*

Years at Camp: *First*

Where I'm From: *Newtown, CT*

Favorite Book: *House Rules* by Jodi Picoult

Favorite Hobbies: *Spending time with friends, dancing, eating ice cream, and hiking!*

CAMP FORMS

Most of this year's camp forms are available online only.

TO ACCESS THEM:

1. Go to the camp home page, www.beyondakeela.com
2. Near the top right corner, click on "Parent Log In"
3. If you don't know your password, click on "Retrieve/Set Password" and enter your email address; it will be sent to you.
4. Log in and click on "Forms and Documents"

Forms with a computer icon are to be completed and submitted online. Those with a downward facing arrow are to be printed, completed and mailed back to the camp office (as of June 1, to our Vermont address, please). Please note that the Physician's Examination Form requires a physician's signature AND the "As Needed" Medication Form requires a physician's signature IF your camper takes "as needed" medications not listed on the form. If you haven't already made a doctor's appointment, please do so right away. (These forms don't necessarily require an additional physical if your child has had one within 12 months of their arrival at camp; however some physicians won't sign the form based on a previous physical.)

In addition to these online forms, you should have received in the mail: a Parent Handbook (with packing list), the Land's End flyer, and a flyer from our preferred label retailer. Please be sure to look carefully at these items.

We know you understand that all of this information is collected to ensure that your child has a safe and rewarding summer at camp. Thanks for your cooperation and let us know if you need any help!

CLOTHING ORDERS

Camp Outfitter's by Land's End is ready for your orders! Land's End tells us that it takes 5-7 days to process orders. Please allow enough time to receive and label your items before camp begins. Our "store" can be found at: <http://business.landsend.com/store/campakeela/> click on "show packing list" to see the camp items available.

We also want to clarify that campers are only required to have ONE t-shirt (grey or white) with a Beyond Akeela logo ordered from Land's End. Everything else on the Land's End website – while wonderful products – is optional.



ROOMMATE SURVEY

During our time at camp, you'll have a roommate to share your dorm room with. We think you'll find it really helpful to know who you'll be living with before you arrive at a new place. In the new few weeks, we'll send you a roommate survey to ask you some questions about your sleeping habits as well as hobbies and interests.

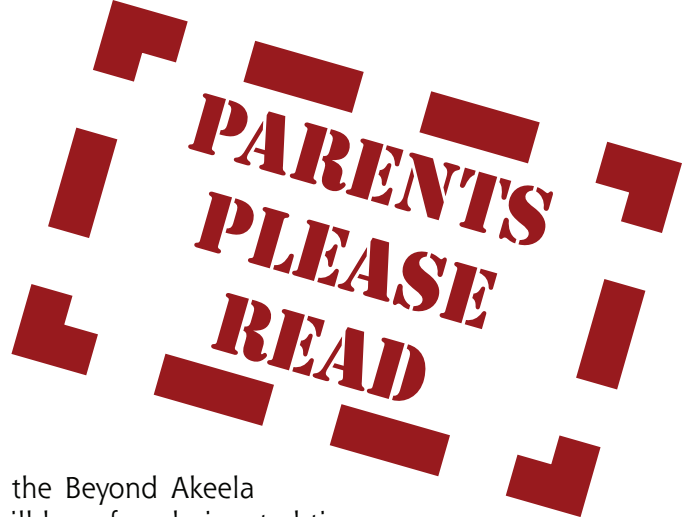
The goal is to match you with the best roommate for you!

Once we know who your roommate will be, we will send you the best email address and phone number to get in contact with them. (It will get sent to an adult in your house and he/she will share that information with you.) We ask that you get in touch with your roommate before camp starts so you can both start to make a connection with someone before arriving!

NOTE TO PARENTS & GUARDIANS:

If you would NOT like us to share your contact information with other camp families, please call or email us right away to let us know.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



ELECTRONICS POLICY

Cell phones play an important role in our emergency plans while the Beyond Akeela group travels off-campus to select locations. For that reason, there will be a few designated times when campers are given access to their phones to communicate with the camp staff. **Use of cell phones for any other purpose or outside designated times will not be permitted.** Beyond Akeela staff will hold camper phones during times when campers are not using them. **With the exception of cell phones, any item that accesses the internet, or has screen content of any kind (games, videos, etc.) is not permitted at camp.**

PARENT HANDBOOK

Please read through our Parent Handbook carefully. It contains important information about everything from first-day transportation to our phone call policy.

SPENDING MONEY

Campers will manage their own spending money during with the support of Beyond Akeela staff. Campers will not need money for any regular meals, snacks, or scheduled program activities. Spending money will solely be used for purchasing souvenirs and gifts for home. We recommend up to but no more than \$200. Campers are welcome to bring preloaded debit cards in lieu of cash, as a means to make purchases.

CAMPER PHONE CALLS

Please note our camper phone call procedures, outlined in the Parent Handbook. Parents who choose to do so may coordinate with the Beyond Akeela Director to schedule a brief phone call with their child. We ask that you wait approximately 5 days after the start of the camp session. This time allows teens to acclimate to Beyond Akeela before calling home, which we find makes calls easier for everyone involved! Of course, Aaron is always available to speak with you about how your child is doing at camp. Call any time and leave a message for him and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

*** REQUIRING YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: CAMPMEDS ***

Our medication policies require that ALL daily medicine -- including supplements and vitamins -- be dispensed by CampMeds. We want to be clear that we do expect 100% participation in CampMeds from families with campers who will take daily medication at camp. If your camper does not take daily medication, you do not need to register with CampMeds.

You will find details about how to enroll in CampMeds, along with an FAQ, on your family's online Forms Dashboard (accessible through the Parent Log In on Akeela's website). If you have any questions about CampMeds, you can reach them at 954-577-0025 or www.campmeds.com. Any other medication (i.e. items administered on an "as needed" basis) must be mailed to camp in its original packaging at least three days prior to your camper's arrival. Please call the office to notify us if medications will be arriving by mail. It is camp policy not to accept any medication (including vitamins, supplements, etc.) on Opening Day.