



Beyond Akeela Circular



A Letter From The Directors

Dear Beyond Akeela teens and parents,

As we prepare ourselves for this coming summer, we have so much to look forward to. This will be our first year directing Beyond Akeela as a married couple, and it is a program we have built together and fallen in love with. We have been reflecting on last summer and planning for June, July and August ever since we said goodbye to last year's groups! We are so excited to share this experience with you all this summer. As we always do at Akeela, we like to preview what you can expect from the program, and you will get a taste of that in the remainder of this newsletter. We also wanted to preview one other piece of news with our Beyond Akeela family and let you all know that we are expecting twin boys this fall!

We wanted to share this information with you all for a few reasons. One of which is that you all have let us into your families by joining the Akeela community, and we treasure that opportunity. It's important for us to let you into our lives too! Along with this, we wanted to ensure you that this will not change anything about either of our involvements in Beyond Akeela this summer. Kristin will still be your main point of contact to hear about your teen's social progress at camp, and Kevin will maintain his focus on the operations of both Beyond Akeela and Akeela Wisconsin.

Lastly, as expecting parents we are reminded of how precious your teens are to you. While we always have known how much trust you put in us to take care of your teen over the summer, we now have a deeper appreciation for it as we are constantly thinking about how our two boys are doing. This reminds of us just how lucky we are to be part of your teen's life. We recognize how hard it can be to let them go and we are touched that you feel confident in our ability to take care of him/her. While our twins won't have a clue what's going on around them all summer, we are so happy that they will be surrounded by this motivated, empathetic, and FUN group of young people.

Love,

Kristin

WHAT'S INSIDE

What to Expect on the First Day of Camp.....	2
What to Expect after Day One.....	3
Feedback Reports.....	4
A Letter from Kristin.....	5
Camp Forms.....	6
Clothing Orders.....	6
Roommate Survey.....	6
Important Reminders.....	7



2019 DATES

FIRST SESSION

June 24 - July 12

SECOND SESSION

July 15 - August 2

What to Expect on the First Day of Camp

Summer is so close and we hope you are getting excited about Beyond Akeela. We know that for many of you this is a new experience, and it's only natural to be nervous when entering an unfamiliar situation. Our goal is to help you feel as comfortable as possible at camp. We think that one way to do that is to help you get a better sense of what to expect when you arrive.



If you are flying into Chicago or meeting us near the airport, 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 campus. Depending on your arrival time, we'll stop for lunch on the way back to camp.

If you are being dropped off directly at camp, there will be Beyond Akeela staff and campers there to welcome you to camp and show you to your new home for the next few weeks.

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

- Once you arrive at campus, 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 nurse so that they can give you a quick "health check" to make sure you're healthy.
- There will be time before dinner for the group to start spending some time together. This is a chance to start getting to know other teens on the program, and we'll talk about expectations for our time together.
- 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 in our dorm lounge and you'll get to hear some announcements from Kevin and Kristin
- We'll have some time after Evening Meeting for fun and low key games to help us all get to know each other even better.
- Before we all head to bed you'll meet with the other campers on your floor to check in with your counselors and preview the next day of camp. You'll have some time to hang out in the lounge before prepping for bed and resting up for our first full day together!

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



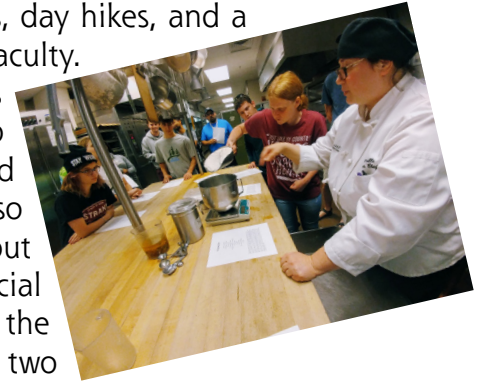
WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER DAY ONE

Camp:

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,

low/high ropes course activities, cooking classes, day hikes, and a variety of activities led by Lawrence University faculty.

Some days we'll spend in camp, and others will be out on the road, including day trips to Green Bay and Lake Michigan, and we'll spend some time exploring Appleton, too. We'll also spend some time together having group chats about topics like nutrition, healthy living/exercise, and social media/technology use. Every camper will also have the chance to cook as with a small group of friends two times during the session!



Overnight Camping:

We'll travel to a beautiful campground in one of the many scenic areas surrounding the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin for one night under the stars (and tents!). Short hikes with rewarding waterfall views and rafting trips will fill our days. Of course, no camping trip is complete without chances for s'mores and sharing stories around the campfire!



Travel:

After two weeks together at camp, we'll spend a week of travel to exciting must-see attractions in Chicago along with the infamous Wisconsin Dells (also known as the Waterpark Capital of the World!) and Madison, WI. We'll have a chance to visit the University of Wisconsin-Madison, explore all Madison has to offer, and of course have some water park fun in the Wisconsin Dells! In Chicago, we'll see the sites through walking tours, museum visits and much more!



Beyond Akeela Feedback Reports

We value partnering with parents to maximize each teen's experience at camp so that they can continue to grow and learn even after the summer ends. This partnership values the expertise of our staff and the parents' unique insights as they work together to establish shared expectations for the camper's social and emotional growth. Our Camper Reports, written by our head counselor and director, serve to provide a written document for parents to review and share with other individuals who support our campers throughout the year. These reports will be emailed to each family shortly after our teens return home. In order to make these reports more meaningful for each individual family, we lean on our partnership with parents before campers arrive so that we can gain insight into parents' goals and expectations.

As you prepare for your teen's arrival at camp, we hope the following information will be helpful to you and look forward to receiving your feedback as we think about welcoming our campers.

Before your teen leaves home, talk to your him/her about:

- Strengths and areas for improvement
- Goals for the summer
- Any concerns your camper would like you to share with our team

Talk to the Beyond Akeela Head Counselor or Director about:

- Your goals for your camper
- Any concerns you and your camper have
- Any dietary or medical concerns (you will also speak to the nurse about this)
- Tools/Skills that have helped your camper at home when he/she is struggling

What will your camper's report look like?

The goal of our report is not to surprise you with NEW information! Your weekly calls from the head counselor will enable us to keep you informed during camp about how your teen is doing. The reports are a review of this information in a format that you will be able to share with your camper (if you feel it will be helpful) and any professionals who work with your camper.

Please keep in mind that we aim to do the majority of our communicating with parents during the summer in an effort to partner with you. Our reports are not a report card. We will do our best to help you understand how your teen fit into our camp community. When appropriate, we will provide you with any insight and suggestions for how to help your teen continue to move forward with the success he/she had at camp.

After you receive the report:

- If appropriate, feel free to share the report with your teen and use it as a springboard to discuss areas that you'd like him/her to continue to work on and celebrate his/her successes
- Share the report with individuals who work with your camper, such as teachers, therapists, social skills leaders, etc.
- Call us at the camp office to discuss any questions or concerns

A Letter from Kristin

Dear Beyond Akeela Campers and Families,

It is hard to believe that another school year has almost come to an end and we are getting ready for another summer at camp! I spent this school year working as a school counselor at a performing arts high school in the heart of Philadelphia. It has been a pleasure to see all of the growth and maturity that my students have displayed over the year. As enjoyable as it has been working with my students, I am more than ready for another summer with Beyond Akeela! Each summer with Camp Akeela has fueled me to continue doing the work I do. I enjoy making strong connections with each camper and watching the growth that happens in such a short period of time. It truly is the most rewarding job that I always find myself counting down the days until it starts!

My time with Camp Akeela started in 2015 as I was finishing up my undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We will visit my old stomping grounds together this summer! I received a degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and was looking for a new summer experience when my advisor told me about Camp Akeela. I have been fortunate enough to continue my connection with Akeela ever since. I have made countless connections with campers, families, staff, and even got a husband out of the deal! Camp Akeela, like many of our campers, means more than just a summer camp to me. It's another home.

I hope you all are as excited as I am about coming to camp this summer. Along with that excitement, it is typical to feel some nerves, anxiety, or even fear. Believe me, I feel that too! Each new summer brings a set of challenges that forces us all to grow in different ways, but please sleep well knowing that we are a community that never forces you to face a new challenge alone. You will always have us behind you helping you along the way.

See you soon, Beyond Akeela!

Kristin



CAMP FORMS

All of this year's camp forms are required to be submitted online. If you have not yet completed camp forms, please do so as soon as possible!

TO ACCESS THEM:

1. Go to the camp home page, 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 Uploaded through the Forms portal. **Please note that the Physician's Examination Form requires a physician's signature. 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 teen 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 Lands' 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 teen 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 Lands' End is ready for your orders! Lands' 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 Lands' End. Everything else on the Lands' 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 next 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

Any item that accesses the internet, or has screen content of any kind (games, videos, etc.) is not permitted at camp. This includes cell phones, iPods or other Mp3 players with WiFi connection/video content, tablets, etc. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for a full list of what is allowed at camp. We have this policy in place to encourage teens to socialize through Beyond Akeela adventures and structured activities. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support with these policies.

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

Teens will manage their own spending money during the session 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 Kevin and Kristin to schedule a brief phone call with their teen. 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, Kevin and Kristin are always available to speak with you about how your teen is doing at camp. Call any time and leave a message for them 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.