

Dear A-Camp Families,

As the new year approaches, we have exciting news! A-Camp has expanded our partnership with Camp Aldersgate beyond just sharing space. Beginning in 2018, Camp Aldersgate will be assuming the programming and daily operations of A-Camp through their hire of a new Program Coordinator. Nathan Nelson will assume this role. Nathan has worked at Camp Aldersgate for several years. He is already quite familiar with A-Camp's programming and many of the kiddos who have been to A-Camp.

Nathan started at Camp Aldersgate as a Kota camper with his family friend in 2007. He became a volunteer in 2009 and has served as a volunteer, counselor, and supervisor every year since. Nathan has served as a volunteer firefighter for Paron, AR for seven years. He is married to his lovely wife Michaela, and they both have a passion for working with children with special needs. Nathan assisted with A-Camp in a lifeguard and administrative capacity for the past 5 years. He has great experience with this population, and Camp has the upmost confidence that he will do a phenomenal job with the implementation of our first day camp!

You may be asking, "What does this mean for my camper and me?". To help reassure you that A-Camp will continue to offer the quality programming and fun camping experience that your child has enjoyed, we have listed a few answers to frequently asked questions.

- Will there still be buddies? *Yes, Camp Aldersgate has a longstanding history of using volunteers to help support campers.*
- Will the times stay the same? *Yes, camp will continue to be a day-camp run Monday through Thursday for 6 weeks with a break on July 4 week. Action Camp will meet from 8:30-12:00 (M-W), 8:30-1:30 (Thursday) and Adventure Camp will meet from 8:30-1:30 daily.*
- What will the camper to staff ratio be? *Camp Aldersgate wants to maintain the current A-Camp ratio of 1 staff member to 3 campers. In fact, they have a staff and volunteer structure that may make it an even better ratio.*
- Will the same staff be there? *A-Camp staff will be encouraged to apply for the counselor positions. Camp Aldersgate is hopeful that they will in order to help continue the continuity of care that is important to our campers.*
- Will therapists be on staff? *There will not be a PT, OT, or speech therapist on site during camp hours; however, Camp Aldersgate will consult therapists as needed, and already have a staff leadership structure in place that allows for even more resources. They employ a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist who remains on-site. Due to Camp Aldersgate's close relationship with Arkansas Children's Hospital, there is always a nurse on-site along with other experts in the field of special needs camping. Lastly, Camp Aldersgate has a relationship with Pediatrics Plus which is located just down the street from the campus.*
- How will the Camp Aldersgate staff be trained? *Camp Aldersgate has a week-long training for counselors. They will be trained in CPR and First Aid. They will learn about the activities at camp, as well as how to engage with campers. An expert in autism will do break out training with the A-Camp staff during training week. A-Camp will share (with your permission) past camper info, along with surveys that were received in the past 2-3 years to help with planning and programming.*
- Will we continue to use the cabins? *Yes, A-Camp will continue to use the spaces we have used in the past, but will have more opportunities to use other parts of beautiful Camp Aldersgate as well.*
- What about registration and tuition? *Registration will now be done through Camp Aldersgate, but tuition payments will continue to be received via A-Camp. More information regarding the new system will be forthcoming, but please know that tuition costs for both Action and Adventure Camp will remain the same for Summer 2018. The deadlines for tuition payments for Summer 2018 will also remain the same. Registration fees will be due no later than March 15, 2018, and final tuition*

payments will be due no later than May 1, 2018. These dates will change for Summer 2019 and on.

- *How will remaining camp costs be covered? The A-Camp Board of Directors will continue to fundraise to help cover the annual costs of camp not covered by camper tuition fees. You can help by sharing information on fundraisers and participating at whatever level you are comfortable.*

The A-Camp Board of Directors is very excited about the awesome opportunities and fun awaiting our campers at Camp Aldersgate. This decision was not taken lightly and has been discussed for several years. By entering into this partnership, A-Camp is moving toward a more sustainable model for the future with hopes of continued growth.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the board members or staff at Camp Aldersgate using the contact information listed below.

A-Camp Board of Directors

Board of Directors

Amanda Laboy amandalaboy@gmail.com 580-574-9286

Amy Morris

Caitlin Vestal

Gretchen Hicks gretchenshicks@gmail.com 501-351-4221

Jennifer Shaw

Kara Conrad

Chenell Loudermill

Kami Rowland

Jennifer Huie

Jennifer Belt

Emily Vinson

Camp Aldersgate staff 501.225.1444

Ali Miller Berry amiller@campaldersgate.net 479.871.8901 (cell)

Nathan Nelson nnelson@campaldersgate.net 501.993.7196 (cell)