

## **Camp Beaverfork**

### **Head Lice Protocol**

**What are lice?** Head lice are tiny little bugs (about the size of a sesame seed when full grown) that live on the human head. They can be red, black or grayish white in color. Transmission of lice generally occurs with direct head to head contact. Lice do not fly or jump but they can move quickly. That is why it is difficult to find them in a child's hair. Diagnosis of head lice is generally made with the lice eggs (called nits) are present. Nits, look like dandruff (silvery-white, teardrop shaped, about 0.8mm long), but they are attached firmly to the hair shaft and cannot be washed or brushed off like dandruff. They are often found at the nape of the neck or behind the ears. Symptoms of lice include frequent scratching of the head (as lice can cause intense itching of the scalp), the appearance of nits, and sometimes a rash on the neck. Anyone can get lice, but 72% of cases are found in children 12 years and younger.

**How are lice spread?** Transmission usually occurs, with direct head to head contact with an infected individual. Head lice are a parasitic insect that can be found on the head, eyebrows, and eyelashes of people. Head lice feed on human blood several times a day and live close to the human scalp; they are not known to spread disease. Transmission is more likely to occur in the home than at camp.

**Head lice Treatment.** The child's hair will need to be shampooed as directed with the Pediculocite Kit, all lice and nits will need to be removed with the nit comb (provided in the kit). The hair will be combed one section at a time and each section will be pinned. The comb will be wiped clean after each section, it is very important to remove all nits as they can hatch out again in 10 days if left on the head. New cream rinse pediculocite products that loosen nits have been developed and allow for easier removal of the nits.

All combs and brushes must be washed in hot soapy water and left to soak for 10 minutes. All clothing articles, bed linens, and towels must be washed in hot soapy water at (130 degree F) and dried on high heat. All stuffed animals must also be washed with clothing articles.

### **Head Lice Policy**

All children who attend Camp Beaverfork should be screened for head lice at home prior to leaving for camp and will also be screened upon arrival at camp. If a child is found to have head lice or evidence of head lice, the parents / guardians will be notified and the child **MUST BE** picked up from camp immediately **without refund of registration fees** . Since our children are screened prior to leaving for camp, it is our hope that no child will be sent home from camp.