

Camp of the Hills Lice Policy

Camp of the Hills believes that all children should have the opportunity to learn about Jesus Christ and have a positive camp experience. Therefore, campers will not be sent home if identified with lice in the screening process on admission. All sponsors will be required to wait until campers have completed the screening process and then treat their campers with lice at the provided facility. Camp of the Hills wants to do our best to provide a safe environment without excluding any child from experiencing God's love.

Camp of the Hills, does NOT have a "no-nit" policy. We understand that it is sometimes impossible to be nit free in a five day period. Therefore our goal is to treat and attempt to prevent further infestations and allow those afflicted to return to camp as soon as possible.

CDC (Center for Disease Control) states "the American Association of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses advocate that "no-nit" policies should be discontinued for the following reasons:

- Many nits are more than ¼ inch from the scalp. Such nits are usually not viable and very unlikely to hatch to become crawling lice, or may in fact be empty shells, also known as casings.
- Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.
- The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.
- Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.

If a camper does not clear the lice screening process and needs to be treated their sponsor should follow the following procedures:

A. Hair Treatment:

1. Camp staff will escort campers and sponsor to the treatment area and laundry room where all supplies will be provided to treat campers with lice. (A flat \$5.00 fee per camper with lice will be charged to help cover cost of supplies.)
2. Place towel around campers shoulders and apply LiceMD to **DRY** hair until hair is saturated. Let product sit for **10 minutes**.
3. Separate hair into small (1/2 - 1 inch) sections and use silver metal lice comb to comb out lice and nits. Wipe nits and lice from teeth of comb on paper towels and repeat. Pin back sections of completed hair and repeat until entire head is complete.
4. Place used silver comb in dirty comb bin and dirty towel from shoulders in towel bin.
5. Wash hair with shampoo and then repeat. Use **CLEAN** towel to dry hair.
6. New hairbrushes and combs are provided in drawers. Each camper may have 1 of each. New clips and rubber bands are also provided. Blow dryers and mirrors are provided so that campers may style hair before returning to cabin.
7. All hair supplies taken out of hair should be placed in zip lock bags with camper name, group name and given to sponsor to keep.

B. Clothing and Baggage Treatment:

1. All camper belongings and suitcases must be treated for lice.
2. Use a dry erase marker and provided magnetized clothespin labels to mark camper belongings in the dryer/washer.
3. All clothing, bedding, pillows, stuffed animals, etc. must be run on HIGH heat in the dryer for 30 minutes (no cool down included in 30 minutes). No washing is required unless item is soiled.
4. Anything that CANNOT be dried on high heat, as well as hair items, should be bagged in Ziploc baggies and marked with camper name, group name, and taken to cottage or home by sponsor.
5. Suitcases or bags that cannot be dried on high heat should be vacuumed thoroughly with the shopvac provided.
6. Place all camper belongings that have been treated back into suitcases and transport to Dining Hall. Leave against wall on front porch for pick up.

Campers will need follow-up treatment once they return home. Lice treatment should be re-administered in seven days. We will also inform campers and counselors not to share hats, brushes or combs and to avoid head to head contact.

It is our hope that this policy will help campers struggling with lice to feel better, be back with their cabin as quickly as possible, to make the process as easy as possible on the sponsor and to keep others free from lice. We hope and pray that this place is a safe haven and that each person who enters this process feels as if they have been treated with love and dignity.

How you check for lice: the first places you need to look are around the ear area and above the back of the neck; this is where there will typically be the highest concentration of nits (eggs) if they have them. However you must check throughout the hair because if they haven't had them for very long then you might not find any in those areas.

What you look for: Search the head under bright, natural light. Head lice may be hard to find because they move quickly and are very small. Newly-laid nits (eggs) are almost transparent. Part the hair and closely examine the scalp, especially the nape of the neck and behind the ears, as mentioned before. The lice nits are small white or yellowish-brown specks that are about the size of a poppy seed. Lice tend to move quickly away from the sunlight. To tell the difference between nits and dandruff, try to dislodge them from the hair shaft. If they are not easily removed, they are probably nits.

Remember to let the child know

1. Lice like to live in clean hair, therefore lice is not the result of poorly taken care of hair.
2. They should not share brushes, combs, and hats with other people.
3. They should try to avoid head to head activities (like close hugging, sharing beds) that could spread lice that may have lived through the treatment.