

Wood and Deer Tick Advisory

NORTHERN STAR COUNCIL CAMPS

With proper planning and education, tick problems can be minimized

Problems associated with various ticks have been widely reported throughout much of the country including the area surrounding our Scout Camps in Minnesota and Wisconsin. **Please share this information with all parents, leaders and Scouts** in your unit who are planning to attend camp this summer or who have attended summer camp.

Precautions to take while at Scout Camp

All campers should wear a good quality insect repellent when they are in the woods. The most effective repellent to combat ticks is one that contains 30% Deet (or permethrin).

Leaders may wish to bring spray type insect repellent so that it can be sprayed on clothes.

Please do not let Scouts use aerosol sprays unsupervised because of potential dangers from misuse including damage to eyes and the flammability of the product.

Review tick information that is available in your leader manuals. Share this information with the Scouts and their Parents as well as the leaders in your pack or troop.

Make "tick checks" part of the daily routine at camp. Scouts should be reminded every day to check for ticks. Having a buddy such as a tentmate assist is a good idea. Regular showers will also help with early detection.

What to do upon returning home

Check for any ticks that may have remained on the body after leaving camp.

Early signs and symptoms appear 3 to 32 days after a tick bite and may include fever, fatigue, headache, aching joints, nausea and often a bulls eye type rash. If any of these symptoms appear, you should see a doctor.

If you see a doctor, make them aware that you were in an area with a high concentration of ticks and Lyme disease.

If tested positive for Lyme Disease or a tick related illness, you will be put on antibiotics and no symptoms should remain or reoccur.

If Lyme disease is not treated when the early symptoms are present, many persons will develop late symptoms of the disease. These may occur weeks to even years after the initial exposure.

If a Scout comes home from camp and finds he has any type of tick related illness, please call 651-254-9133 and give the Scouts name, phone #, unit #, week at camp and the campsite name. This information can be left on a recorded message if necessary. This information will help the Camp Program Committee track the occurrences and help in future policy decisions.

Additional Information can be obtained at:

www.stopticks.org

www.lymediseaseassociation.com

www.ilads.org