

Lice Checks at Camp Augusta

While your school is at camp, your students will be sharing helmets with one another while they are on site as they enjoy many of our climbing activities. If you are staying overnight, your campers will be sharing a cabin with other students and staff members. Working with children often means that we see lice cases – we at Camp Augusta know this and have ample experience dealing with the little critters. We have found that the best cause of action is prevention.

During the summer, all of our campers are lice checked and we are now extending that to all our school groups too. Not only to stop the spread of lice between students where possible, but also, to stop the spread to our own staff, who work with over 600 campers per season and thus, to stop the spread to all those other children. Phew!

Before arriving onsite at Camp Augusta, you are required to ensure that every student attending receives a full lice check. This check needs to happen between **7 and 3 days** before arrival – close enough that new cases are unlikely to pop up, while still giving time for a student to be treated if they do have lice.

You will find the attached Lice Check Tracker that must be sent back to our office *before you arrive onsite*.

Please note – any camper with lice or nits MUST receive a full and professional treatment before arriving onsite!

Once onsite, our own trained staff will do another double check of each child in order to ensure that indeed, no lice or nits are on site. If lice or nits *are* found on a student by our staff, we will double check that case with an additional staff member and let you know immediately. As the school coordinator you will be asked to call the parent of that camper and let them know. You can then make the following decision:

1. Let the camper remain on site, we will give them their own helmet and staff will be made aware. This risks the spread to other students and teachers, of which, Camp Augusta is not held responsible for.
2. Ask the parent to come and take their child home. If a multiple day school camp, the child is welcome to return once they have had a full professional treatment done.

Obviously, we do not want to send anyone home, nor do we want to risk lice spreading to other students, camp staff, teachers and chaperones. So, the best way to ensure that we do not have to make this decision either way, is to make sure your students are all lice checked thoroughly before coming to camp.

Where possible, please have a professional do this. We find that parents often don't know what they are looking for or miss some cases. If you have a school nurse, or a parent/teacher that has a good eye for spotting nits and lice, that is preferable to having each parent individually check their child and potentially miss a case.

It is in everyone's best interest to ensure that each and every student is checked thoroughly before arriving to camp and that, if a case *is* found, they are treated professionally before arrival. We will double check every student when they arrive on site and so, as your students will have all been checked and treated at that point, we hopefully never find a case on the day.

For information about how to check for lice, check out the CDC website here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/diagnosis.html>

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.