

North Suburban YMCA Head Lice Policy

At North Suburban YMCA Camp, we are committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment for all campers. Head lice are a common nuisance, especially in group settings like schools and camps. While lice do not carry disease, they are highly contagious and can disrupt the camp experience if not addressed quickly and consistently.

We have clear protocols in place to manage and prevent the spread of lice in our camp community.

What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are tiny, wingless insects that live on the human scalp and feed on blood. They spread through:

- Direct head-to-head contact
- Sharing of personal items like hats, brushes, or bedding
- They do not jump or fly, and infestation has nothing to do with cleanliness.

Symptoms of Head Lice

- Persistent itching of the scalp
- Sensation of movement in the hair
- Red bumps or sores on the scalp or neck
- Visible nits (lice eggs) close to the scalp, usually near the nape of the neck or behind the ears

Our Camp Policy

If Lice Are Discovered:

- The camper will be discreetly removed from activities and supervised in a safe, private space.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted for same-day pick-up.
- The camper's belongings will be bagged and sent home for cleaning.

Return to Camp Requirements:

A camper may return to camp when:

Siblings Policy

- Siblings of affected campers will be checked for lice.
- If no lice are found, they may remain at camp but will be monitored.
- If lice or nits are found, the same policy applies.

Prevention at Camp

We take these precautions:

- Head checks when a case is reported
- Avoiding shared hats, combs, pillows, and costumes
- Prompt communication with parents when a case occurs

What You Can Do at Home

- Check your child's hair weekly during camp season
- Treat promptly if lice are found
- Inform us immediately if your child is diagnosed so we can take quick steps to prevent further spread

Thank you for your support in keeping our camp healthy and focused on fun.