

A Friendly Health & Safety reminder to all . . . (Parents please pass the info along to your scouts.)

The advent of Spring and beautiful warm weather camping is not without its downside. I am specifically referring to "Tick Season". Between now and the first Winter frost we all need to be especially vigilant when it comes to these pesky little critters. After any extended period outdoors in wooded or tall grassy areas, you should always check yourself and your buddies for these unwelcomed hitchhikers!

It's been about two weeks since our Greeley Pond campout. When we departed the area, all of the boys were instructed to thoroughly check themselves for ticks (especially deer ticks- the tiny itty-bitty ones) when they got home and got in the bath or shower. In the vast majority of cases, the ticks are discovered and easily removed by scraping them off with a credit card or some similar device. A quick wash up with soap and water and a dab of antibiotic and you are good to go!

On rare instances, the little pests go undiscovered (in folds of skin, on the scalp, arm pits etc.) and they manage to burrow in and set up shop for at least 24 hours. If this is the case, it is possible to contract Lyme Disease (if the ticks are so infected). Two weeks is just about the time it takes for the flu-like symptoms to appear, accompanied by the trademark "Bulls eye-patterned" rash.

Please have your scouts check themselves again. If any symptoms appear, simply contact your healthcare provider to set up an appointment. If it is determined to be Lyme Disease a simple 10-14 course of meds will nip the disease in the bud and stop it in its tracks.

This email is not meant to cause alarm, but merely to raise your awareness of this potential health hazard and to help you identify the symptoms and take appropriate action as necessary.

Yours in Scouting,

Mr. G.