

Kentucky Residential 4-H Summer Camp Lice Policy

The University of Kentucky 4-H Camping Program has a No Nit Policy. Participants identified to have nits or lice, through a head check, will not be permitted to attend camp. This head check must take place within a 72-hour period preceding boarding the bus for camp. It is the County Extension Agent's responsibility to inform parents of the No Nit Policy and the proper procedure for getting a head check for lice for their child before camp. Refunds are not provided to campers sent home after the first night of camp.

There are two acceptable methods of lice head checks:

1. The county extension office makes arrangements for a nurse or other trained personnel to conduct a head check of all campers at the bus pickup area upon check in for camp. A checklist is maintained on all who received a head check. Any child who is found to have nits or lice through this head check, will not be allowed to board the bus and attend camp. The decision made during this head check is final. No other opinion or head check will be accepted.
2. The county may require parents/guardians to have a head check conducted by the local school nurse/health department or other qualified medical personnel within 72 hours of checking in for boarding the bus to camp. The "clear" head check form must be completed and signed by the medical personnel and presented to extension personnel or designated camp volunteers before boarding the bus for camp.

If head lice or nits are suspected or detected at camp, the following procedures should be followed:

- Any head check deemed necessary at camp to identify possible head lice should be conducted discreetly, to not embarrass the camper (s).
- Anyone with confirmed head lice or nits through a head check or head lice comb should be inconspicuously separated from other campers to avoid an infestation. A volunteer should be assigned to stay with the camper, support them and relieve any fears or embarrassment.
- If one camper is determined to have head lice or nits, other campers in the cabin should be examined – to avoid further infestation.
- Upon confirmation of head lice or nits, the parents/guardian of the camper (s) should be contacted immediately by the county 4-H agent and instructed to pick up their child, so that they may receive treatment. The camper (s) will not be permitted to return to camp even after treatment.
- A lice information letter should be given to the parent/guardian when they pick up their child.
- No chemicals should be applied or sprayed in the cabin area.
- There should be no chemical treatment at camp for head lice or nits. This is a parent/guardian's decision, not ours.

