

SAMPLE LETTER TO CAMP FAMILIES REGARDING BED BUGS

Date

Dear Camper Parent,

Your child's health and safety is our number one concern here at <CAMP NAME.> In an effort to keep you well informed and continue to foster good communication between us and our camper families, I am writing to make you aware that we have recently discovered the existence of bed bugs in <CABIN OR OTHER BUILDING NAME> of our camp.

Corrective measures were immediately conducted, including extermination by a professional pest control company. <OR EXPLAIN THE MEASURES YOU DID TAKE>

It is important that you also be aware of what to watch for and what to do in case any bed bugs were carried back home. An adult bed bug is very small (¼" long) and reddish-brown with an oval flattened body. They are parasites and can be found in bird nests, on bats and other mammals, and can occasionally be found in firewood. They also may be found in bedding or in the cracks or crevices of a bed frame. They prefer dark places. They can be spread through direct and indirect contact. Their bite may be confused with that of a mosquito; they have a tendency to last longer than a normal mosquito bite but are usually no more serious.

It is recommended as a precautionary measure that you hot-water wash and carefully inspect all of your child's bedding and clothing that were brought home from camp. Another excellent prevention method is to place all your child's bedding & clothing into a black plastic garbage bag, then put it out in the hot sun for a day as heat can kill this pest. Examine your child for any bites that have a white-appearance with a red dot. Also watch for complaints of intense itching. If any of these symptoms occur, there is no need for alarm, but you might want to contact your family physician. For more information about the symptoms, abatement measures, and prevention techniques regarding bed bugs, the American Camp Association has an excellent resource at <http://www.acacamps.org/knowledge/health/diseases/bedbugs>

Please know that health and safety are always the number one priority of <CAMP NAME>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly at <Phone> or <email>.

Sincerely yours,

Camp Director