

We are very excited that your students will be joining us at camp very soon.

Many things go into getting ready for your trip and keeping camp a safe place. Most of us have heard that bed bugs are prevalent in our society today. These have been found in homes, churches, school class rooms, public transportation, department stores and camps, among other places.

I want to assure you that Camp Wesley Woods is doing everything we can to prevent and detect the presence of bed bugs. We want to be proactive and stop the bugs entering camp. Toward this end, Camp Wesley Woods is joining a number of camps throughout the country in using specially trained detection dogs to inspect personal gear upon arrival at camp, before entering cabins and lodges. No bags will need to be opened during the inspection process. If anything is detected, we will immediately notify school staff on site and begin to arrange heat treatment of those bags on site, as discreetly as possible.

In addition to this, we check the lodging facilities regularly throughout the year with scent detection dogs and do routine visual inspections. We have also placed specially designed bed bug attractants and traps in the bedrooms.

While we are doing all that we can to keep bed bugs out of Camp Wesley Woods, no one can make any guarantees. If bed bugs are found at any time, we will work with school staff to notify parents and will start heat treating belongings with special heat treating equipment.

This will change our arrival and move-in procedure slightly. For most school groups, we will move luggage to the lodging facilities and leave them on the porches for the inspection. Students can then move to restrooms and orientation during the inspection and move in to their lodging either just before or after lunch. **NO LUGGAGE MAY ENTER THE CABINS OR LODGE BEFORE IT IS INSPECTED.**

We ask that you follow these steps before and after camp.

- Pack in bags will fit in a drier or use plastic totes that seal tightly. Do not bring things immediately into the home, but immediately wash and/or dry on high heat for a couple of cycles everything that can go in a drier. Unload things outside, in the garage, or in the bath tub.
- Do not pack any item that cannot be heat treated to 150 degrees.
- Consider using large contractor trash bags to seal all belongs while in transit. Leaving these bags in a hot car for a few hours can also act as a treating method.
- American Camp Association has the following link for more information and tips.  
<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/bed-bugs-what-every-camp-needs-know>

We are looking forward to a fun, active time together at camp!

Yours in Christ,

Tony Lea, Camp Wesley Woods Director