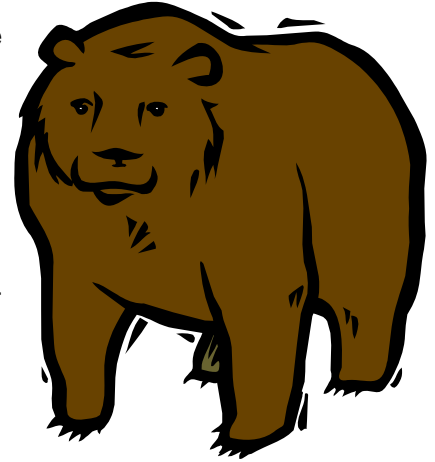


CAMPING WITH WILDLIFE

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR A SAFE STAY AT CAMP

Northern Star Council camps are home to many different animals native to the Midwest region. White-tailed deer, beaver, raccoon, porcupine, and black bear are commonly seen throughout the summer at some of our camps along with a host of others. They all make for an intimate part of the outdoor and camping experience which will no doubt be fond memories of your visit to camp. However, they are all wild animals and for their protection and the protection of all those who attend camp, we require adherence to our wildlife policies. For further education on Black Bears, please see our council's **Black Bear Education Manual**. It is mandatory that all troops, crews, visitors, and staff read and follow the information in this manual. It provides information on campsite precautions when camping with wildlife, how to act in an encounter with wildlife, and ways to ensure you have a safe week at camp.



WOOD TICKS & DEER TICKS

Problems associated with various ticks have been widely reported throughout much of the country. With proper planning and education, tick problems can be minimized. In order to avoid ticks, we have prepared the following plan:

1. All campers should wear a good quality insect repellent when they are in the woods. The most effective repellents contain at least 30% Deet (or Permethrin).
2. Aerosol containers are prohibited in camp. Please advise Scouts to invest in insect repellent in a pump spray or squeeze bottle.
3. Make "tick checks" part of the daily routine at camp. Scouts should be reminded every day to check for ticks. Having a buddy such as a tent mate assist is a good idea. Regular showers will also help with early detection.
4. See your camp health officer or camp director if you have additional questions.

MOSQUITOES

Problems associated with mosquitoes are not widely reported throughout the Midwest region but they do exist. In 2001, the first case of West Nile virus was found in infected birds in the United States. Very few mosquitoes carry the virus and there have only been 12 cases of West Nile found in humans in Wisconsin. Most people infected with the West Nile virus **DO NOT** become ill. Wearing insect repellent, long pants and long sleeve shirts, and using mosquito netting at night will greatly decrease your chances of getting mosquito bites at camp.

If a tick or mosquito related illness develops after camp, please report this information to Northern Star Council / BSA at 651-254-9133.