

Summer Camp Reminders

Your child will need to: (daily)

- Bring his/her lunch in a cooler bag (no microwavable items) **PEANUT FREE!**
- Bring a **minimum** of **2** snacks, as there will be **2** snack breaks and a lunch break daily
- Bring refillable water bottle
- Pack an adequate supply of water to keep your child hydrated
- Dress in comfortable clothing (shorts & t-shirts)
- Wear provided Camper t-shirt on **Wednesdays**
- We suggest dressing in layers to accommodate weather changes
- Bring rain coat/boots if raining that day
- Bring a full change of clothing
- Bring a **bathing suit** and a **towel** for water activities/swimming (please bring **2** if possible on **Thursdays!**)
- Bring a plastic bag to put wet towel and bathing suit in
- Wear shoes / sandals that do not fall off
- We encourage wearing shoes with ankle support, as your child may be running and/or participating in sport activities (Crocs are okay)
- Wear **sunscreen** and bring his/her own sunscreen to re-apply if possible
- Wear a hat and sunglasses

Please write your child's name on EVERYTHING! (i.e. backpacks, clothing, water bottles, food containers, sunscreen, swimming goggles etc.)

NO PEANUTS!

To protect the safety of our campers and camp staff, we request that products with peanuts and/or other nuts **NOT** be sent to camp. In accordance with the no-peanut policies of the school venues we are using as our camp base this year, we must ensure that no peanut and/or other nut products enter the facilities.

NO SMOKING PLEASE!

Please be advised that in accordance with Autism Ontario policies and the school venues we are using as our camp base, no smoking is permitted on schools grounds. If you smoke, please refrain from doing so while on camp premises.

NO FOOD SHARING!

Due to special diets that our campers and camp staff may need to adhere to, we do not endorse the sharing of food products and/or drinks while at camp. Please ensure that your child is given two snacks as well as a full lunch every day.

NO ELECTRONICS PLEASE!

While we understand that campers may be extremely attached to their electronic devices, we ask that they are **NOT** brought to camp. This excludes devices that are used as a means of communication. We will not be responsible for the safety and security of electronic devices, including iPads.

NO PERSONAL TOYS!

As with electronic devices, we cannot ensure the safety or security of personal toys that are brought to camp. This would include items such as Lego, action figures, or playing cards. These items are easily damaged or lost during camp and may also distract your child from getting the most out of their camp experience. Thank you for ensuring that these items are left at home.

Extreme Weather Policy

Autism Ontario – Niagara expects programs to operate as scheduled under most weather conditions usually experienced in the Niagara Region. There should be very few occasions when extreme weather and adverse operating conditions affecting program delivery. However, when those conditions arise, programs may be delayed, altered or cancelled.

Extreme weather and adverse operating conditions include, but are not limited to: high winds, torrential rain, flooding, mud, lightning, fog, humidity, extreme high or low temperatures, snow or sleet or other factors that alone or in combination make operating a program unsafe.

The overriding consideration to delay, alter, or cancel programs will be the safety of the children and their families as well as the safety of our staff/volunteers.

The Program Coordinator in consultation with the Chapter Manager shall authorize the delay, altering, or cancellation of any programming.

In the event of program cancellation due to extreme weather conditions, every effort will be made to inform families as early as possible. Cancellations will be posted on our website www.autismontario.com/niagara and our Facebook. You may also call the office at 905-682-2776 and our Chapter office staff will be able to inform you.

Please make note of the “Extreme Weather Day Excursion Schedule Waiver” which outlines how camp outings will work in the event of rainy or heat advisory days.

Tick

Information

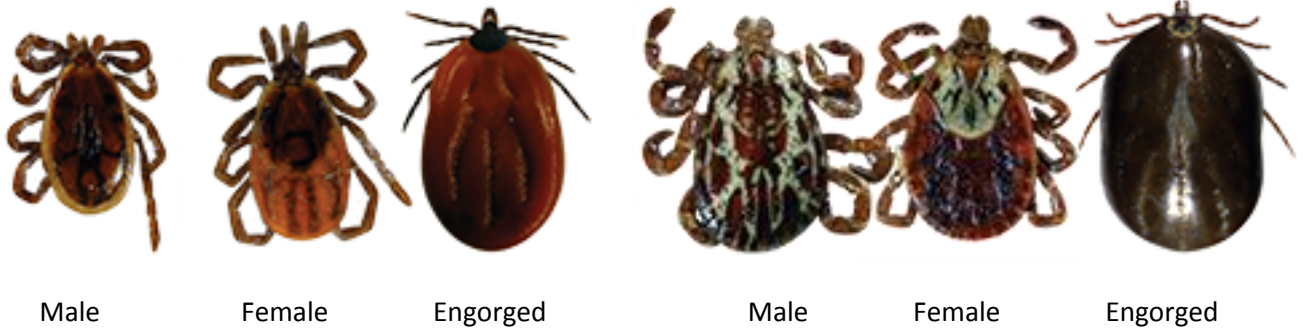
This summer, we will be spending a lot of time outside at camp! We realize that this means we will have to be extra vigilant when it comes to the dreaded tick. Below is some information for you regarding ticks (obtained from the Niagara Region Public Health website) and the steps we will be taking to prevent ticks from coming into contact with you child(ren).

A tick is very small and can range in size from a poppy seed to a small grape (when engorged). They do not jump or fly. Ticks are normally found in forested areas or areas with long grass, where they attach themselves to humans and animals passing by. On humans, ticks normally attach to areas such as the groin, armpits, hairline or behind the ears.

There are currently 2 types of ticks in Niagara, the Blacklegged/Deer Tick and the American Dog Tick. Please see the photos below identifying the two types:

Blacklegged/Deer Tick

American Dog Tick



The Blacklegged/Deer Tick is the tick that can carry and transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease.

Fortunately, the most common tick found in Niagara is the American Dog Tick which does not currently carry and transmit the bacteria that can cause Lyme Disease. Here are some more facts about the two specific ticks:

Blacklegged/Deer Tick	American Dog Tick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually found in forested areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually found in areas with long grass and tree cover
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very small and can be hard to see 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the size of an apple seed and reddish brown in colour
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active in early spring and late fall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active in the spring and summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black legged ticks have no white markings on the large part of their bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog ticks usually have white markings or silver-coloured spots

While your child(ren) are at camp, we will follow as many precautions as possible to prevent a tick from latching. Below are the procedures we will follow:

- We will use bug spray as necessary, and if parent permission is provided, prior to any hike;
- While on the hike, we will ensure all campers remain on the maintained pathways (avoiding tall grassy areas);
- Following the hike, camp counsellors will perform tick checks on their assigned campers (this entails a search of the campers legs/clothes for any signs of ticks. Lint rollers will be used as needed);
- After the immediate tick search, we will be swimming daily. In theory, any ticks that have gotten onto a camper will at this point be washed away. This is because it can take up to 2 hours for a tick to find the perfect spot to latch;
- During swim, camp counsellors will continue to keep an eye on their camper for signs of ticks;
- Clothing will be shaken out/inspected prior to campers changing following swim.

Should a tick manage to latch onto a camper; first aid camp counsellors will immediately follow the appropriate procedures for removal. The procedure outlined by Public Health is as follows:

1. With fine tip tweezers, grasp the tick's head as close to the skin as possible
2. Slowly pull the tick away from the skin until it releases. Do not twist or crush the tick. Ensure all the mouth parts have been removed, otherwise the bite can become infected.
3. After removing the tick, wash the area with soap and water

Once the tick has been removed, camp counsellors will write an incident report and keep the tick in double zip lock bags so that they can be taken home with the camper. If the parent wishes, they can submit the tick for testing via the Public Health office (1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, 8:30am – 4:30pm daily, 905-688-8248).

Our goal first and foremost for your child(ren) is to provide a SAFE summer camp experience! All measures will be taken to ensure camper safety in all camp activities. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our tick procedures, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 905-682-2776.

Medication

We are aware that our camper population sometimes has some complex medical needs which require medication to be given during the camp day. If there is any medication that needs to be given during the camp day, you should have already completed the online medication administration permission at the time of registration.

We will dispense prescribed medications as outlined by parents/caregivers on the Autism Ontario “Consent to Administer Medication” form. We will be respectful to the 5 “Rights” of Medication Dispensing: The right medication, right dose, right time, by the right route and to the right person.

IF THERE IS NEW MEDICATION, please contact the Camp Director or Program Coordinator as soon as possible to update your camper’s medication file.

It is **IMPERATIVE** that any medication that needs to be administered comes to camp in its original bottle or packaging. We **CANNOT** administer anything without a clear original label and packaging. We must also confirm dosage, time, and route.

If you are sending a medication that is PRN, or as needed, please ensure you have indicated on the Medication Administration Form (attached) what the signs and symptoms we should be looking for that would precipitate administering that medication. Please also send an up to date copy of their PRN protocol to the Camp Director prior to the start of camp. If these signs are unclear, we will **ALWAYS** contact you first before administering.

If your camper requires an EpiPen for food or environmental allergies, please ensure that 2 EpiPens accompany your camper to the program on the first day. You will need to communicate whether these EpiPens remain at camp for the duration of the program, or whether we send them back and forth daily.

Accidents & Emergencies

In the case of an emergency or accident involving your camper, you will be notified following notification of the appropriate emergency personnel. All members of the camp staff are certified in CPR, Standard First Aid and have also been trained in emergency procedures at our locations. We also have fire safety plans and emergency evacuation procedures in place.

Illness

If your camper should become ill while at camp, you will be notified. We do not have a registered nurse on staff, therefore, we will ask you to make the decision whether to remove your camper from the program for the day. We ask for your discretion on bringing your camper to camp if he/she is ill.

Camper Withdrawal Policy

As noted, our standard support levels are 1:1 and 1:2. Sometimes that support is not enough.

We train all of our staff to support the participants specifically as well as the programs and activities. We are ready and able to deal with most behaviour our participants present us with. However, there may be times that we feel that the behaviour is beyond the capacity of our staff, therefore creating an unsafe environment in our program. If we are concerned about behaviour, we will contact the parent/guardian for input. If we still have concerns after trying multiple approaches to diminish the undesirable behaviour, we may elect (at the sole discretion of the Director & Program Coordinator) to do one of two things:

- 1) Ask parents/guardians to send a trained mediator to the program with the camper. This mediator will take direction from our staff and will assist in mitigating negative behaviour. The mediators' expense will be paid by the parent/guardian and all appropriate screening will be undertaken to ensure this person meets the Autism Ontario hiring standards.
- 2) If we feel that a mediator is not OR would not be helpful, we may need to withdraw the registration and refund camp fees on a pro-rata basis.

Our camper dismissal policy is a last resort, and we will *always* exhaust all other options before.