

# SUMMERWOOD LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Summerwood Residents Celebrated Fourth of July With Parade and Pool Party!

Crowds cheered and flags waved, as the Summerwood residents passed by with their decorated power wheels, bikes, wagons, and strollers; even their four-legged friends took part in the Annual Summerwood July 4th Parade! The parade route circled Lake Anne and ended in front of the patio deck, behind the Resident's Central Clubhouse. With the judges' keen eye... first, second and third category placements were announced. The first place category in each group received a beautiful trophy and a gift card to Toys R Us (other than the four-legged one, which received a gift card to Petco). The second and third place category received a placement ribbon and a Summerwood coloring book.

Boy Scout Troop 1922 took care of refreshing the crowd after the parade with ice cold lemonade and cookies. Thank you Troop 1922! The parade also received special guests, Summerwood's Mr. & Mrs. Rip and Margie Vankleeck dressed as the father and mother of our country, President George and Martha Washington! They were gracious enough to allow residents to take pictures with them. Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Vankleeck!



*(Continued on Page 2)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Situations.....	911
Harris County Sheriff's Dept. (Dispatch) .....	713-221-6000
Constable - Precinct 3.....	281-427-4791
Houston Fire Station #105.... 14014 W. Lake Houston Pkwy .....Houston, Texas 77044	
South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch).....	281-459-1277
Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1).....	281-820-5151
Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
After Hours.....	281-221-5000

### UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS

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(Telephone, Cable, Alarm Monitoring)	
AT&T.....	800-288-2020
CenterPoint.....	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
MMIA (Water District Operator).....	281-651-1618
Garbage Pick-Up (Republic Waste) .....	281-446-2030
(Pick up on Mon. & Thurs - Garbage must be out by 7 a.m.)	

### SUMMERWOOD MARKETING

Summerwood New Home Center .....	281-225-0025
16402 Boulder Field Lane; Houston, TX 77044	

### SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary .....	281-641-3000
Lakeshore Elementary .....	281-641-3500
Post Office.....	713-695-2690
4206 Little York, Houston, TX 77078	

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### EDITOR

Article Submissions.....summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com

### PUBLISHER

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## DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL

View the *Summerwood Life* online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).

### July 4th...(Continued from Cover Page)

After the parade festivities, the pool party kicked off with games led by your Summerwood lifeguards.

Included at the pool party was a balloon artist, a bubble station, face painting and music for all to enjoy. Chick Fil A was on hand to sell delicious Chick Fil A sandwiches, chips and a drink. Yum!

Pictures of the event can be found at [www.summerwoodlife.com](http://www.summerwoodlife.com). We hope you all had a safe and happy Fourth of July! The next community event is the Fall Festival held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at Club Summerwood! See you there!

A special thank you to Roxanne Bailey, our Summerwood activities coordinator, for another outstanding job!



(Continued on Page 4)



# REBEKAH SNIPP

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**The local market continues to remain strong.** Table 1 shows activity in Area 1 – Northeast Houston which includes, Humble/Atascocita/Huffman. Table 2 shows specific data for Eagle Springs.

**Area 1 – Northeast Houston** – Represents inventory of homes available on July 7, 2013 and contracts executed between January 1 – July 7, 2013

Status	Up to \$99,999	\$100,000-\$199,999	\$200,000-\$299,999	\$300,000-\$399,999	\$400,000-\$499,999	\$500,000-\$599,999	\$600,000+	Total
Active	49	339	210	89	48	12	22	769
Option Pending	6	53	20	4	3	1	1	88
Pending / PS	47	188	109	42	9	3	3	401
Sold	209	661	312	112	37	13	11	1355
Total:	311	1241	651	247	97	29	37	2613

**Summerwood** - Represents inventory of homes available on July 7, 2013 and contracts executed between January 1 – July 7, 2013

Status	Up to \$99,999	\$100,000-\$199,999	\$200,000-\$250,000	\$251,000-\$300,000	\$301,000-\$350,000	\$351,000-\$399,000	\$400,000+	Total
Active	0	18	15	27	9	4	7	80
Option Pending	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	8
Pending / PS	0	7	16	13	7	1	1	45
Sold	0	36	45	23	9	5	9	127
Total	0	65	78	65	25	10	17	260

NOTE: This representation is based in whole or in part of data supplied by the Houston Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Neither the Board nor its MLS guarantees or is in any way responsible for its accuracy. Any market data maintained by the Board or its MLS necessarily does not include information on listings not published at the request of seller, listings of brokers who are not members of the Board of MLS, unlisted properties, rental properties, etc.

*The time to put your home on the market and sell may be right now. For years, your neighbors have trusted me in assisting them with selling their homes. My ranking as one of the Top five agents in Area 1 – Northeast Houston for the past several years; confirms my ability to assist you with a proven marketing plan providing full turn key service to get your home sold.*

*Buyers need to know prices are already starting to move up as inventory of available homes are down. There are numerous companies relocating to the area that continues to put demand on available homes as well, with some opting to lease until the home that fits their needs comes on the market. That home may be yours. Let me help you evaluate your options if buying or selling is in your future. Enjoy the last month of*

*Respectfully,  
Rebekah Snipp*

*P.S. Don't forget to ask me about the "Free Local Move Offer" I provide to all my clients that purchase or sell a home with me as their agent. Some restrictions, apply so be sure to ask me about this offer.*

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*Resident of Atascocita*



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## Summerwood Yard of the Month August 2013

The Beautification Committee would like to congratulate the August Summerwood Yard of the Month Winners!

### The Williamson Family of Castlecombe Drive

They will have a "Yard of the Month" sign displayed in their yard for the month of August and will also receive a \$50 gift card to Lowes!

Summerwood is full of homeowners who take pride in their yards! Would you like to nominate one of them? The nominations should be emailed to [summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com) and must be received by the 8th of each month. Include the name and address of the resident and also please submit a jpeg photo with your nomination. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Summerwood Beautification Committee



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## **SUMMERWOOD NEIGHBORS**

*Your Crime Watch Committee  
Wants You to Keep Your Home Safe While  
on Vacation*

During the summer many of you will head out on a well-deserved vacation. But before you hit the road, take a few precautions so your home isn't enticing to thieves or susceptible to fire and other disasters.

- Call on friends for help. If you're going to be away a week or more, ask a trusted friend to check on your house every day or two—or better yet, housesit—while you're gone, and you might also ask them to bring in your mail and newspapers.

- Set your lights on a timer on staggered schedules to make the light coming from your home seem more natural.

- Don't advertise your vacation. Resist the urge to brag about your upcoming vacation on social networking sites.

- Stop your mail and newspaper if you can't get a friend or neighbor to collect them for you.

- Don't leave the spare house key lying around. That fake rock where you keep the extra house key isn't as discrete as you think.

- Make a last-minute checklist. Are all the windows and doors locked? Stove and oven turned off? How about all the faucets? Are the electronics unplugged and valuables secured?

- Call HCSO Vacation Watch at 281-446-9155 and ask to have a deputy check your house daily while you are away and call you if anything is amiss!





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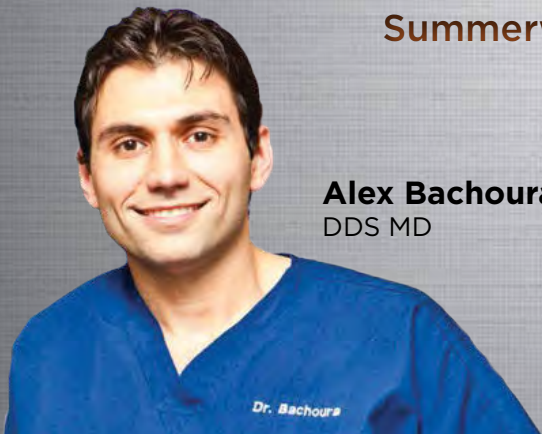
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## Summerwood Pool Committee's Top 5 FAQs

*Submitted by Lisa Stout*

The Summerwood Pool Committee serves as an advisory board to the Summerwood Home Owners Association. We work directly with CIA Services and Greater Houston Pool Management (GHPM) making recommendations and advocating for our pools on behalf of all Summerwood Residents. We are a group of volunteer residents, who give up personal time, in an effort to make our pools better. We appreciate and welcome feedback, observations and concerns from residents regarding our pools. Residents can help us by being our eyes and ears because we cannot be at the pools ourselves 24-7. Residents may email us at [swpool.committee@gmail.com](mailto:swpool.committee@gmail.com). Residents are also welcome to attend our monthly meeting in the Central conference room. Our meetings typically start at 8pm on the third Thursday of the month. Much of our time is spent going over maintenance items, GHPM, and lifeguards who are employed and managed by GHPM. This year we've been talking a lot about ducks.

### **These are our top 5 pool committee's FAQs for 2013:**

#### **1.) Why Wrist Bands?**

Lifeguards need to know who may use our pools. We need some way to distinguish Summerwood Residents, whose HOA dues are current. We introduced "Guest Wristbands" this year because there were people abusing our guest policy such as multiple members of the same household each bringing in the allowed number of guests per household. We don't love wristbands, but we haven't found anything better. Using only key fobs for access won't work because multiple people can come through the gate at a time. If anyone can think up a better system, please reach out to us! Wristbands become available in January through CIA services.

#### **2.) Why Was The Water at Central So Cloudy?**

The water sparkles now, but we had a couple weeks in early June when Central's water became rather cloudy. We had several unexpected equipment failures following Memorial Day Weekend, when the pool did not close for routine maintenance. The water was safe, but it wasn't pretty. Before we begin full time lifeguard service when school is out, the pool and equipment are checked twice weekly by GHPM. If you notice anything that seems out of sorts, notify us or CIA services quickly so we can ask GHPM to check on it before their next scheduled visit.

#### **3.) We Pay Our Dues Too; Why Does the Swim Team Bogart Central Pool?**

Central Pool is the home of the Summerwood Stingrays, our Summerwood swim team. The team is primarily made up of HOA dues paying Summerwood residents. The team contracts with the Summerwood HOA and pays a fee to use the pool. This fee covers, among other things, the costs for opening East Pool during practice times. Each year we get two or three complaints from homeowners-- usually its families with toddlers, who get all the way to the pool to find out they can't use it, which is very frustrating. We will try to do a better job next year communicating that the

East pool will be open. By contract, the swim team cannot allow anyone inside the Central gates who are not with the swim team. The Summerwood Stingrays are highly competitive within NWAL (the North West Aquatic League). The Stingrays are past Division Champs and this year many of our swimmers took high honors at the invitational competitions at the regional level. Head Stingray Coach, John Dissinger, is also the Head Swim Coach for Summer Creek High School. The Summerwood Stingrays swim team produces great swimmers. We encourage anyone with children between the ages of 4 – 17 to consider joining. For more information go to [summerwoodstingrays.swimtopia.com](http://summerwoodstingrays.swimtopia.com)

#### **4.) Whose Job Is It?**

GHPM manages our pools, which include our lifeguards. GHPM is responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of our pools. Both pools close each week for major cleaning, but the guards have daily duties to perform. If there is a cleaning or a maintenance issue which a guard cannot handle, he or she is to notify GHPM. We all must pick up after ourselves, but sometimes a drop of ketchup goes overlooked. If you notice the same drop of ketchup on our furniture day after day, please let us know. GHPM also manages the Fall Creek and Eagle Springs communities. The GHPM contract will be up for renewal and review in November. They have managed our pools for several years. We have and do request bids from other companies.

#### **5.) What about the duck problem?**

Our feathered friends have become quite a pool nuisance this year. There are guide lines that must be followed under which the ducks are protected, but we do need to encourage them to swim in the lakes. We have considered reinforcing our fencing so they can't just waddle in but as you may have seen, they fly over as well. We are open to eco friendly ideas to keep them out. To that end, PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS INSIDE OR CLOSE TO THE CENTRAL FENCE.

*Happy Swimming!*





# DECORATING IDEAS TO ELIMINATE BLANK WALL SPACES

There's nothing more stark or empty looking than a blank wall. Before you start buying and hanging art, check out these simple design ideas and art hanging how-to's.

- **Art is everywhere**

You don't have to run out and buy new artwork for your home. Hang kids' drawings, family photographs or mount pieces of colorful fabric or wallpaper. The simple step of mounting and framing these pieces can turn them into stunning works of art. Browse the dollar store for wood frames and customize them with paint and distress with sandpaper for a vintage look.

- **Picture this**

Showcase your photographs. Blow photos up and mount them on foam core using a spray adhesive. If you're using a number of photos, plan out your photo wall by placing them on the ground in front of the wall and rearrange until you find the layout that works.

- **Small works**

Hang a small piece in a frame that has a large mat or create a cohesive composition by searching for prints of similar sizes and arrange the frames in a grid pattern. If you have found the perfect piece of artwork but discovered it doesn't fill the wall space the way you would like it to, then pair it with smaller paintings to make the arrangement feel more robust.

- **Singled out**

A single piece of art can be the solution for an entire blank wall -- especially if it's a dramatic size, floor-to-ceiling printed canvas stretched around a frame. To make your own oversize artwork, stretch a yard or two of your favorite fabric around

a canvas frame. The frames come in a number of different sizes and can be found at your local craft or art supply store.

- **Find the right level**

Don't hang artwork too high. The center point of either a single picture or a grouping of works should be at eye level. Use picture-hanging hooks rather than nails or screws, and use two hooks per piece to help art remain level.

- **Mirror mirror**

An oversized mirror is a quick and stunning way to fill up a blank wall. A mirror adds style and reflects light around the space, making it feel larger. Mount the mirror inside a traditional picture frame painted in a contrasting color to make an even bolder statement.

- **Cover art**

Round up a collection of old books with fun covers. Glue the covers and pages together and hang the books directly on the wall for a three dimensional display. Remove the covers and hang them in frames to create a literary work of art, or if you want to keep the books intact, scan the covers and print them on photo paper.

- **Letter perfect**

Use letters in a variety of sizes, colors and materials to create an artsy arrangement. For an extra splash of style, include one large letter to balance several smaller pieces.

- **Floating shelf**

A floating shelf adds character to any wall. Layer framed prints and favorite accessories along the shelf. If you have a larger wall, hang several shelves and stagger their heights. To make the display pop, paint the shelves a contrasting color.

## THE *Tracy Montgomery* TEAM



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## SUMMERWOOD PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Alicia Thomas submitted this beautiful picture of her son taken at one of the Summerwood Section entrances off of Sun Manor Lane and Deussen Parkway. The Thomas family lives on Barbstone Drive.



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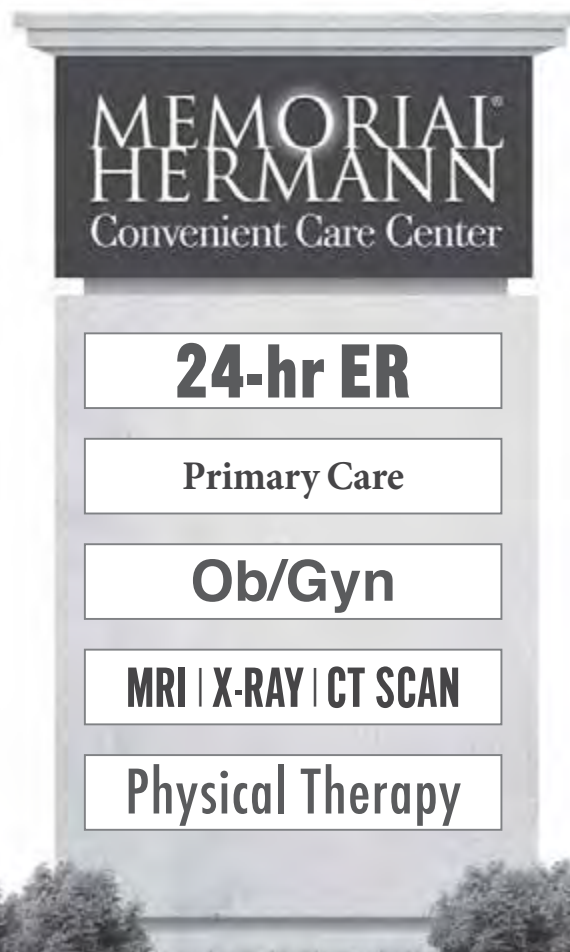
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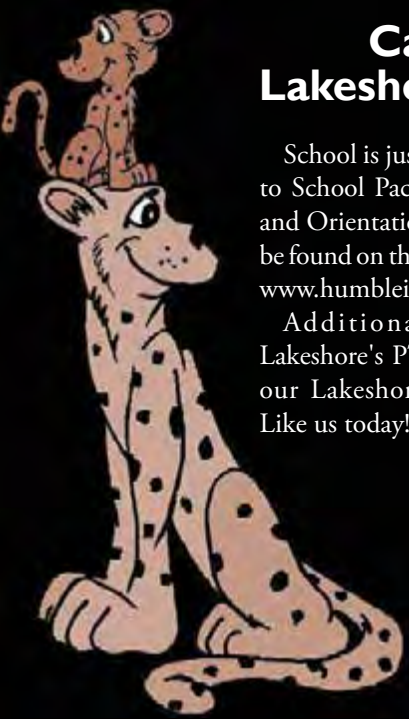
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## Summerwood Photo Contest

Have you recently taken a great photo of your family enjoying the outdoors in Summerwood? Maybe you have taken a photo of one of our amenities or perhaps a particular landscaped area that you enjoy? We'd love to see your favorite Summerwood photo!

Please email it to: [summerwood.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:summerwood.newsletter@gmail.com) and include your name and address along with a short paragraph about why the photo is your favorite. The winner will have his/her photo in next month's newsletter!

### Calling All Lakeshore Leopards!

School is just around the corner. Back to School Packet Pick up, Registration and Orientation Night information can be found on the school's website at <http://www.humbleisd.net/Domain/882>.

Additional information from Lakeshore's PTO can also be found on our Lakeshore PTO Facebook page. Like us today!

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## Kingwood Women's Club Announces Holiday Market

Save The Date! Mark your calendars for The Kingwood Women's Club 17th Annual Holiday Marketplace to be held at the Humble Civic Center on Oct. 29th from 9 am -5 pm with the preview party on Oct. 28th from 6-9 pm.

Please visit  
[www.kingwoodwomensclub.com](http://www.kingwoodwomensclub.com)  
for more information.

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### Scheduled Activities for the month of August 2013

**Monday** - Gentle Yoga 9:00am

**Wednesday** - Zumba 10:00am

**Friday** - Strength & Weight  
Training 10:30am

*\* Children are not permitted to attend or  
participate in the adult classes and or activities.*

*\* Children cannot be left unattended in the  
building without an adult.*

**For additional information please contact  
Stephanie Gilder at**

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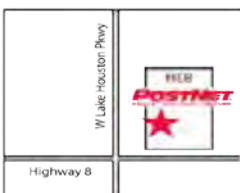
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## Breaking the Bread Habit

*Submitted by Louise Morris*

*Summerwood's Proclaimed Duck Whisperer and Resident Pampered Chef Consultant*



Ducks beg for our attention and our food, which makes them hard to resist. It's great fun watching them gorge themselves on our leftovers, but the fact is, feeding ducks bread destroys their health and creates health risks to humans. Once they get a taste for junk food they stop eating the healthy natural foods in their environment.

Feeding domestic ducks living in "wild" settings encourages over-breeding. Ducks become unnaturally aggressive towards each other and a nuisance to humans. They lose their fear and will cross a busy highway to get to people with potential handouts. They die in greater numbers than most people realize because a dead or dying duck is preyed on before the body is found by humans.

### **Food attracts more than just ducks:**

- 1.) Feeding ducks attracts rats, pests and predators that kill ducks and endanger humans.
- 2.) Rotting food pollutes the water and breeds deadly diseases and parasites kill all of the ducks. Uneaten food quickly forms a deadly mold called Aspergillus.
- 3.) Ducks defecate at the site of scattered food or bread, bacteria in feces creates much higher risks for illness or disease.
- 4.) Most waterfowl die-offs in the past 10 years have been attributed to artificial feeding.
- 5.) Feeding unnatural foods discourages wild waterfowl from looking for foods they need to survive and migrate.

Remember that ducks live much longer when they eat foods growing naturally in their environment. Just as you wouldn't feed your children or other pets anything but bread, the ducks deserve healthy food so they can live a long and disease free life.

*You can find more info at Duck Rescue Network.*

*[www.duckrescue.org](http://www.duckrescue.org)*



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# DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE



**COLIN'S HOPE**  
**WATER SAFETY TIPS AT**  
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**Ongoing:** Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets, [info@colinshope.org](mailto:info@colinshope.org)  
**August 19:** Got2Skate for Colin's Hope Fundraiser, 6:30-8:30pm at Playland Skate Center  
**August 29:** Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 10K/10 miler, <http://www.tinych.org/got2swim>  
**September 8:** 5th Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon, <http://www.tinych.org/KidsTri>  
**October 19:** Sharkfest Austin Swim benefitting Colin's Hope, [www.sharkfestswim.com](http://www.sharkfestswim.com)



**ALERT:** 36 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.  
 Many more have survived non-fatal drowning incidents.  
 Be a Water Guardian and Watch Kids around Water.  
 Drownings are preventable!

## LAYERS OF PROTECTION



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# - Kids Stuff -



You're very excited — your mom and dad promised to take you on a fun camping trip this year. Or maybe your scout group is gearing up for an awesome canoe trip. Enjoying the beauty and nature of the woods is fun — if you are careful. Here are some tips to keep you safe.

## PACKING BASICS

Before you leave, pack these few important things to make your trip more comfortable and safe:

- map of the area
- compass or GPS (learn how to use it beforehand)
- cell phone (though you can't be sure it will work in remote areas)
- whistle
- bottled water and food
- sleeping bag
- flashlight with extra batteries
- sunscreen and sunglasses
- waterproof matches (for an adult to bring)
- first-aid kit with gauze pads, adhesive bandages, tape, tweezers, and antiseptic
- waterproof tent (set it up beforehand to practice)
- warm clothing, clean socks, and rain gear

## INTO THE WOODS

Staying safe in the woods means using common sense. That means being aware of your surroundings and always camping with an adult. Never go into the woods by yourself. Some things you need to be careful of while you're camping are insects, poison ivy, extreme hot or cold temperatures, rain or snow, and areas where you could trip or fall.

## BUGS

If insects bug you, ask an adult to set up camp away from the water and build a small fire. The water attracts bugs, and the smoke from the fire will keep most of the bugs away. Another thing you can do is to remember to keep the tent door zipped at all times, even if you're just going in or out for a minute. Also, turn off your flashlight

before you enter your tent because insects such as moths are attracted to the light and will follow you.

Always check for ticks at the end of the day when you've been in the woods. Ticks can carry disease and germs. Some ticks are tiny, like the size of the head of a pin! You'll want an adult to help you inspect your body for ticks. Check behind your knees and ears, under your arms, and in your groin — that's where your legs meet your abdomen, or belly area. If you're camping with a pet, have an adult check your pet for ticks, too — dogs and cats can pick up ticks in their fur even more easily than humans. If you do find a tick, it needs to be removed. Get an adult to help you.

## POISON IVY

Poison ivy is a plant that can cause an itchy skin rash in some people. Its leaves grow in groups of three, but the plant can still be hard to spot. If you accidentally touch poison ivy, wash the area with soap and water as soon as possible. The oil from the poison ivy plant can spread on clothes or even your dog. To try to prevent a poison ivy rash, there are products you can apply to your skin before going into the woods. Stores that sell outdoor equipment and sporting goods may carry them.

## STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS

### *Your Campsite*

Roasting marshmallows and singing songs by an open fire are favorite camping activities. Adults, not kids, should start campfires. Adults also need to watch the fires and make sure they are out when you're done. Never leave a fire without anyone to watch it. Don't forget to put out your fire by dumping water or shoveling dirt on it when you sleep or leave your campsite. Feel the ground around the area where the fire was to make sure it isn't warm.

### *Your Food and Water*

When you're exploring outdoors, eat or drink something only if an adult says it is

safe. Even if streams or lakes look crystal clear, they could contain germs and the water may not be safe to drink. Bring bottled water to drink. Likewise, never eat wild berries. Some are poisonous and it may be tough to know which are safe. Good snacks for the outdoors include fruit, trail mix, crackers, granola bars, bread, and peanut butter.

### *Your Clothing*

Wearing layers is a good idea when you're outdoors. That way, you can take off a layer or two if you get too warm. Wear comfortable boots when hiking so your ankles are supported and you don't get blisters. Keep your arms and legs covered while hiking to avoid ticks and insect bites and wear knee-high boots and long pants when you are in an area with snakes. Make sure to take rain gear, such as ponchos and waterproof jackets, to keep you dry if an unexpected shower occurs.

### *Watch Out for Wildlife*

Although animals are cute to look at, wild animals are best enjoyed from far away. Don't go near or try to feed a strange animal. It's better to enjoy these animals at the zoo, in books, or on the Internet. To keep animals such as bears or wolves away from your campsite, keep it clean. Food and anything else an animal might smell must be packed away. In fact some campers put all their food, even candy bars, in a bag (called a "Bear Bag") and hang it from a tree branch away from the campsite. If they can smell it, the animals will be led away from where the campers are.

### *What if You Get Lost?*

Stick with your group when you're in the woods. Carry a whistle and blow it if you get separated from the group. If you have a cell phone and it's working, use it to make contact with your group. If you do get lost, wait in a safe, sheltered place for an adult to find you. The sooner you're found, the sooner you can go back to having fun in the great outdoors!

*Reviewed by: Steven Doushen, MD Date reviewed: June 2011*

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit [www.KidsHealth.org](http://www.KidsHealth.org) or [www.TeensHealth.org](http://www.TeensHealth.org). ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation



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