

## **RECREATIONAL CAMPS**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Center for Environmental Health and the Community Sanitation Program have published a brochure titled "Information about **Recreational Camps** in Massachusetts" to answer parents' questions about camps. The brochures are available by contacting the Community Sanitation Program at 617 624-5757.

A recreational camp for children is a day or residential sports, travel or wilderness program that offers recreation activities and instruction to campers. Camps have five or more children and typically operate anytime between June 1 and September 30. Recreational camps have to be licensed by the Board of Health and meet all regulations and standards established by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**What does the local health department evaluate as part of a camp inspection?** The primary purpose of the inspection is to ensure that the camp provides an appropriate environment to protect the health, safety, and well being of the campers. Inspectors look to see that the camp has for example: safe structures and equipment; adequate sanitary facilities, sufficient supervision of the campers; appropriate plans in case of medical emergencies, natural, and other physical disasters; sufficient health care coverage; and injury and fire prevention plans. Contact this office for specific information.

If you would like a copy of the state regulations or additional information concerning recreational camps for children, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/dph/dcs>