

**NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

**MEMORANDUM**

**October 15, 2005**

**TO:** Camp Yawgoog Leaders

**FROM:** Dave Anderson  
Scout Executive

**SUBJ:** 2005 Summer Camp Interruption

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I know that many of you are aware that the Narragansett Council closed Camp Yawgoog for a portion of the season last summer. You are probably also aware of the circumstances that led to our decision. However, as you begin planning for the summer of 2006 I thought it might be helpful to provide a concise summary of the situation to share with any parents who might have questions.

On July 26<sup>th</sup> we closed Camp Yawgoog after lab tests confirmed the presence of a stomach flu-like illness caused by the Norovirus. We reached this decision after learning that a number of Scouts came down with symptoms just before or shortly after leaving camp at the end of Week 4 on July 24<sup>th</sup>. According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, the virus was almost certainly introduced to camp by a camper earlier in the season (the Health Department had noticed a significant increase in the virus in New England earlier in the year) and was not related to food, water or sanitation in camp.

During the first three weeks of the season there were sporadic cases of a similar illness – as there are every summer. Our on-site physicians treated those Scouts who reported to the health lodge under the direction of our medical director, a licensed physician, who monitored the situation.

The first indication we had that the illness might be related to the Norovirus – and indeed, that the Norovirus was actually present in Rhode Island – was on Friday afternoon, July 15<sup>th</sup> when representatives of the Health Department visited camp. In reviewing the health lodge records they determined that the number of campers who reported flu-like symptoms was not large enough as a percentage of the total population to cause alarm. They suggested that we alert incoming Week 4 camp leaders to the situation and ask that they stress hand washing to prevent the spread of any virus that might be present.