

CATALINA ISLAND MARINE INSTITUTE

We are thrilled that your school has chosen to participate in CIMI's outdoor education program. We have been operating since 1979 and are grateful for the opportunity to have touched over 850,000 people's lives.

CIMI will have more than 30,000 students and chaperones visit this year. It is impossible to screen every student, adult, and piece of luggage before they come into the facility. To keep our campus, as well as your homes, pest-free, we are asking you to partner with us.

Our first ask is to keep all foods and drinks (other than water) out of the suitcases, housing units, and classrooms. We have some very curious critters on the island, and we would like to keep them where they belong, in nature and out of our buildings.

Our second ask is to assist us in preventing the spread of bed bugs and/or keep them from coming into our facility. Per the CDC, bed bugs are found across the globe from North and South America, to Africa, Asia and Europe. Although the presence of bed bugs has traditionally been seen as a problem in developing countries, it has recently been spreading rapidly in parts of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other parts of Europe. Bed bugs have been found in five-star hotels and resorts and their presence is not determined by the cleanliness of the living conditions where they are found. As such, it is important that all visitors wash and dry all items they bring to camp (including new purchases, such as sleeping bags) on *high heat* prior to traveling to camp. We also suggest you do the same once returning home. Hopefully this will prevent bed bugs from coming into the facility and prevent them from going home, as well.

One of the more challenging aspects of running a residential camp is that we can completely rid our housing units of food and pests on a Friday, and they can be brought back in on Monday. This is the new reality for camps, hotels, international and domestic travel, and everything in-between.

We want to thank you in advance for helping us to mitigate any potential issues before they arise.

If you have any further questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeff Chace
CIMI Director

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