

# Welcome to Wildwood

## A Mass Audubon Camp for Outdoor Exploration

Imagine a place where children can develop their interest in the outdoors, reconnect with nature, and have the freedom to play, discover, and gain comfort and confidence in the natural world. A place where kids can take a break from busy schedules, television, video games, and all the distractions of everyday life and get outside and do what kids do best—have fun! This unique place is Wildwood, located in southern New Hampshire and situated on 153 acres on the shores of tranquil Hubbard Pond. Wildwood is a camp like no other, offering campers all the traditional camp activities you expect and also something unexpected—a chance to explore our natural world and gain a greater respect for nature and our role in conserving it.

At Wildwood, you'll learn from dedicated, enthusiastic counselors, some who were once Wildwood campers themselves, as well as many of Mass Audubon's professional naturalists. You'll have opportunities for broad exploration and skill building, and the ability to try something new each day. Discover a spotted sandpiper for the first time while birding, or the hidden underwater realm while ponding; find strength you never knew you had on our ropes course; or let your thoughts wander while canoeing on a sunny afternoon. In the evening, join the camp community to play games, sing and tell stories around the campfire, and more. Through these experiences, you'll gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the world around you—plants, animals, insects, rocks, trees... and people!

JOINT TRAIL



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## Wildwood Staff

Wildwood's staff includes many dedicated mature adults who guide and care for campers. A full-time directorial team spends the winter months recruiting and interviewing individuals to choose the very best seasonal staff for their demonstrated experience working with children, their strong leadership abilities, and their desire to share their natural history knowledge and special skills. Wildwood's staff must successfully complete background and reference checks as well as a series of programs that begins with independent work as soon as they're hired and culminates in an intensive weeklong training before the start of camp. Staff members study child development and supervision, health and safety procedures, local natural history information, and environmental education teaching techniques. They also earn or renew their CPR and First-Aid certifications during the staff training.

Many of Wildwood's staff members fill specialized roles. In addition to benefiting from the many counselor-naturalists, our campers glean specialized knowledge from lifeguards and water safety instructors, trained high- and low-ropes challenge course facilitators, and other specialists. Our support staff includes a chef and assistants, maintenance staff, and an office manager. Licensed health care staff provide 24-hour on-site care and can always consult with our on-call pediatric practice and the local hospital.

Our staff members strive to keep your camper happy, healthy, and safe during his or her time at Wildwood. And, most importantly, they're there to foster community and make sure your camper has the best summer experience possible.

*"Bob's counselors and staff are professional, accessible, and instill confidence both in campers and parents."*

– Parents

## Our Fearless Leader

Wildwood Director Bob Speare spent his childhood summers at a place very similar to Wildwood. The important connections he made with the natural world and the impact his experiences had helped to shape his future. Bob has been working for Mass Audubon for over 15 years as a naturalist, environmental educator, and camp director. Over these years, he has shared his knowledge and enthusiasm for the outdoors with thousands of campers, families, and adults. Bob finds Wildwood to be the perfect place to teach and learn together with campers who will ultimately become our future leaders.

Bob is always available to answer your questions or chat about the Wildwood program. Feel free to contact him at [bspeare@massaudubon.org](mailto:bspeare@massaudubon.org) or 781-259-2180.



*"At Wildwood, we give kids a chance to simply have fun outdoors in a setting where we respect the natural world. This may be the most important thing we can do for the environment and our future."*

– Bob Speare, Wildwood Director

## Location

Mass Audubon's Monadnock Conservation Center, Wildwood's home, is nestled in the Monadnock region of southwestern New Hampshire, adjacent to 1,300 acres of conservation land. Websites for driving directions and GPS navigation systems usually do not give accurate directions to Wildwood. Please visit [www.wildwoodcamp.org](http://www.wildwoodcamp.org) for printable directions.

Approximate driving times and distances to and from Rindge, New Hampshire:

Boston, MA	70 miles, 90 minutes
Hartford, CT	112 miles, 2 hours
Concord, NH	55 miles, 75 minutes



*"From my first interaction to the end of our stay it was a high-quality, caring, safe, eco-friendly, educational, wonderful experience... WILDWOOD gets it right. It was wonderful and refreshing. THANK YOU!"*

— Parent

## Financial Aid

Through the generosity of Wildwood and Mass Audubon friends and alumni, we are able to offer financial assistance to qualified families. Contact the Wildwood office for more information and a financial aid application, or to make a donation to the Wildwood Scholarship Fund. You can also make a donation on your registration form.

## Stay in Touch with Wildwood All Year Long!

Want to stay up-to-date with the latest Wildwood news, including year-round camp events, alumni updates, and ways to continue your Wildwood explorations all year long? Subscribe to **"Wildwood Family and Friends,"** our monthly e-newsletter. Just visit Wildwood's website at [www.wildwoodcamp.org](http://www.wildwoodcamp.org) and click on the "e-news sign up" page. Or send an e-mail to [wildwood@massaudubon.org](mailto:wildwood@massaudubon.org) and we'll get you on the list.

For a close look into the world of Wildwood, check out our blog! Complete with updates and plenty of photos, **"Word from Wildwood"** gives you a peek into the daily activities of camp during the summer, as well as updates on what's happening up at Wildwood during the other seasons. From wildlife sightings to updates from our camp director, you'll never miss a beat if you read **"Word from Wildwood."** Bookmark [www.massaudubon.org/wildwoodblog](http://www.massaudubon.org/wildwoodblog) and check back often for updates.



## Tradition. Exploration. Adventure. Fun.

For over 50 summers, Wildwood has encouraged young people to explore the world around them and preserve its beauty for future generations. Our alumni tell us that Wildwood helped to shape their love of nature, their friendships, and even their careers. A summer adventure at Wildwood will leave you with new friends, fond memories, and a renewed sense of purpose and excitement about our place in the world.

