

Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Natural History Day Camp



www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetcamp



Wellfleet Bay Natural History Day Camp

The **Wellfleet Bay Natural History Day Camp** is designed to promote a child's lasting curiosity and concern for the natural world. Our goal is to instill awareness and appreciation of the natural world, to teach responsibility for the environment, and to promote an understanding of our place in nature. Camp activities are carefully planned to meet these goals and at the same time create a fun and memorable experience.

Our Camp Staff

Our staff are chosen for their enthusiasm, experience, knowledge, and ability to work with children in the outdoors. They are college graduates or current undergraduates in an environmental and/or educational field. Each participates in a week-long pre-camp training and is certified in First Aid and CPR.

Our Expectations of Campers

Due to the outdoor and exploratory nature of our camp program campers must be able to move about on uneven terrain. Campers are expected to participate in age-appropriate activities, including nature study. All campers must follow stated behavior expectations and safety rules. If you have any questions regarding your child's ability to participate fully in our camp program, contact the day camp director at 508-349-2615, ext.106. At any time, parents may request copies of background checks, health care and discipline policies, as well as procedures for filing grievances.



Additional Camp Information

Pick-up Window: If your child's camp ends at 12:30 PM you may pick him/her up any time from 12:15 to 12:45 PM. If your child's camp ends at 2:30 PM you may pick him/her up any time from 2:15 to 2:45 PM. This will help alleviate congestion in the parking lot.

Day Camp T-shirts: The 2012 day camp t-shirts, which feature a leatherback sea turtle, will be available for purchase at camp check-in. Thank you to Phyllis Evenden, who has designed all of our t-shirts through the years.

Family Hikes: Check out some of the cool places that your camper has been talking about, from the coyote den to the painted turtle bridge. *Wednesday mornings from 8-8:45AM. No pre-registration is required and the hike is open to all family members.*

Contact Information: Email us at wellfleetbaycamp@massaudubon.org or call 508-349-2615. Our website is www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetcamp

Mass Audubon works to protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife. Together with more than 100,000 members, we care for 34,000 acres of conservation land, provide educational programs for 225,000 children and adults annually, and advocate for sound environmental policies at local, state, and federal levels. Mass Audubon's mission and actions have expanded since our beginning in 1896 when our founders set out to stop the slaughter of birds for use on women's fashions. Today we are the largest conservation organization in New England. Our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries, in 90 Massachusetts communities, welcomes visitors of all ages and serves as the base for our work. To support these important efforts, call 800-AUDUBON (283-8266) or visit www.massaudubon.org.

For more information visit www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetcamp or call 508-349-2615

Registration Information: Read Carefully

Registration Policy

Registration begins January 3, 2012. Through May 4, registrations will be accepted by mail or in person. Mailed registrations will be stamped with the date of receipt and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. After May 4, only phone registrations will be accepted. Registration must include payment for 50% of the total camp fees. The camp fee includes a \$50 enrollment fee per session per child which is non-refundable. For identity safety assurances, fax and e-mail submissions are not accepted.

Payment Deadline

The balance of the camp fee is due by May 4. If the balance is not received by May 4 your child's space is no longer guaranteed and you will lose the \$50 per session enrollment fee. No camper is allowed in camp unless all forms, waivers, and payments are complete. If registering after May 4, your registration must include payment in full.

Form and Waiver Deadline

All forms and waivers are due two weeks prior to the start of a camper's camp session. Campers without complete paperwork will not be allowed to stay at camp on Monday. If we do not receive your child's health forms by the deadline, a \$25 late fee will be assessed for each child. Your child can only attend camp if we have all necessary health forms, waivers, and payments. No exceptions.

Important Health Form Information

Massachusetts state law and the American Camping Association require all campers to submit, every year, completed health forms supplied by the camp and a copy of child's current immunization record. Please note that all campers in kindergarten or above must have two doses of MMR before coming to camp. A health form packet will be sent upon registration and all pages must be completed and returned two weeks before the start of the child's first camp session. This camp must comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and be licensed by the Wellfleet Board of Health. Information on these regulations can be obtained at 617-983-6761.

Refund and Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received in writing. The camp fee includes a non-refundable \$50 enrollment fee per child, per session. A session is defined as one week of camp. There will be no refunds for dismissal, failure to attend, absence, or sick days. If you cancel for any reason before the start of your child's weekly camp session, the amount of tuition refund is determined by the following schedule:

- 60+ days in advance – 100% refund (less \$50 enrollment fee)
- 14–59 days in advance – 50% refund (less \$50 enrollment fee)
- fewer than 14 days in advance – no refunds

Cape Cod Resident Discount

Campers who reside on Cape Cod receive a \$20 discount for half day or \$40 discount for full day per week per child with proof of enrollment in a Cape Cod school district. **A copy of a report card, progress report, or letter from the school must accompany your registration or you will not receive the discount.** Please contact the day camp director if you have any questions. To qualify for Cape Cod resident discounts you must be a current Mass Audubon member at the Family level or above and be the parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of the enrolled camper. To check member status please call Member Services at 781-259-9500.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for those who may need it. Please call to request an application. All applications are due by May 6, 2012. All applicants must supply verification of income or documentation that financial assistance is needed. Please contact the day camp director with questions about necessary documentation. Tax-deductible contributions to our Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated and can be included with registration.

Combined Session for First Week of Camp: June 18–22



Sanctuary Prowl*

June 18–22, 9 AM–12:30 PM

Fee: \$180 M/\$245 NM

Group 1: Discoverers & Adventurers

Group 2: Explorers & Naturalists

Be very quiet! Prowl along the trails looking for any animals that are around. See if you can sneak up on grasshoppers, fish, and chipmunks.

*Half-day camp for every group this week. Camp ends at 12:30 PM.

Too Young for Camp?

Visit our website for a listing of guided programs for young children and their families. Offered year-round.

www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay

You're never too old for camp!
See page 5 for opportunities for
High School students.



DISCOVERERS

Entering PreK or K and must be age 4 by April 1, 2012

Half Day: 9 AM–12:30 PM Fee: \$185 M/\$250 NM, per week

Full Day: 9 AM–2:30 PM Fee: \$245 M/\$310 NM, per week

The Discoverers program is designed to encourage a young child's curiosity, increase sensory awareness, and provide an introduction to field experience. Classes are half day (with a mid-morning snack) or full day (with snack and lunch).

Camper to camp instructor ratio is 5:1.

6/18–6/22 **Sanctuary Prowl** (see page 2)

6/25–6/29 **Colors of Nature**

How many colors can you find in nature? Catch a green frog, watch a blue bird, and see a silver fish swim.

7/2–7/6 **Outdoor Super Sleuths**

Become a super sleuth in the outdoors! Search for the biggest tree, and look for clues to a coyote's home.

7/9–7/13 **Salty Discoveries**

From forest and field to salt marsh and ocean, we'll discover who lives here and why Wellfleet is a cool place to call home!

7/16–7/20 **Roaming & Rambling**

Roam and ramble through the sanctuary's habitats. Search for frogs in the swamp, bugs under logs, and crabs in the sand.

7/23–7/27 **Circles of Life**

Search for all the circles in nature: shells along the shore, flowers in the garden, and bird nests in trees.

7/30–8/3 **Habitat Hunt**

Join our hunt for the coolest habitats at Wellfleet Bay! Is it the sandy shore, mucky marsh, shady forest, or the busy pond?

8/6–8/10 **At the Water's Edge**

Look for frogs and dragonflies at the pond's edge or explore the shoreline for scurrying crabs, noisy shorebirds, and more!

8/13–8/17 **Our Outdoor Neighbors**

Learn to be a detective in the wild! We'll search for birds' nesting sites, and hunt friendly fiddler crabs.

8/20–8/24 **Animal Adventures**

Scurrying crabs, leaping frogs, and jumping grasshoppers are out and about every day. Let's explore the sanctuary!

8/27–8/31 **Wet & Wild**

Look for croaking frogs and darting dragonflies at the pond's edge or explore the sea's edge for slow snails and more!

ADVENTURERS

Entering Grade 1

Half Day: 9 AM–12:30 PM Fee: \$185 M/\$250 NM, per week

Full Day: 9 AM–2:30 PM Fee: \$245 M/\$310 NM, per week

The Adventurers program provides continued field experience through exploration, crafts, and creative games focusing on animals and their habitats. Classes are half day (with a mid-morning snack) or full day (with snack and lunch). Camper to camp instructor ratio is 5:1.

6/18–6/22 **Sanctuary Prowl** (see page 2)

6/25–6/29 **Call of the Wild**

Discover how animals in the wild talk to each other. What are frogs really saying when they croak? What does it mean when bees dance?

7/2–7/6 **Howls, Hoots & Hisses**

Coyotes, owls, crickets, and more make weird noises to talk to each other. Come and listen for these noises and more!

7/9–7/13 **Animal Architects**

Animals are great architects—designing homes and hiding places to stay safe and warm. We'll check out fiddler crab holes, bird nests, a coyote den, and more.

7/16–7/20 **Bugs, Slugs & Beyond**

Investigate all the slimy or creepy crawly creatures that live at the sanctuary. Are you ready to find bugs, slugs, and more?

7/23–7/27 **Between the Tides**

As the tide goes out, a whole new world is uncovered.

Discover burrowing clams, crawling hermit crabs, and more!

7/30–8/3 **Things with Wings**

What has wings? Butterflies, dragonflies, birds, bats, and bees come to mind, but don't forget about sea robins and more!

8/6–8/10 **Aqua Critters**

Cool and wet! Learn what it's like for critters of all kinds to live in the water. Frogs, snails, and crabs are waiting for you.

8/13–8/17 **Fantasy Forests**

Go out and explore the magical woods of Wellfleet Bay. From trees to underwater seaweed forests, we'll explore them all!

8/20–8/24 **Saltwater Wonders**

Salty and wet! We'll stroll along looking for crabs and eels in the marsh and clams and shorebirds on the flats.

8/27–8/31 **Amazing Animals**

Discover some of the amazing adaptations that animals have. From suction cups to sticky tongues, we'll find them all.



EXPLORERS

Entering Grade 2 or 3

Half Day: 9 AM–12:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Half Day Fee: \$185 M/\$250 NM, per week

Full Day: 9 AM–2:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Full Day Fee: \$245 M/\$310 NM, per week

The Explorers program will foster a child's curiosity and love of nature through observation and hands-on field activities. This program also includes special activities on Wednesday morning, which are led by Wellfleet Bay researchers and Explorers instructors. Every week we offer both a half-day (with a mid-morning snack) and a full day (with a snack and lunch). You choose which works best for you and your child. Camper to camp instructor ratio is 7:1.

6/18–6/22 **Sanctuary Prowl** (see page 2)

6/25–6/29 **Habitacks**

Explore the sanctuary's habitats for animals and their signs. We'll look for moon snail trails on the beach, crab holes in the marsh, vole tunnels in the field, and a coyote den in the woods.

7/2–7/6 **Cold-blooded Critters**

Get up-close and personal with some of the Cape's coolest cold-bloods. Learn more about how turtles, salamanders, frogs, fish, and insects survive the cold and warm temperatures.

7/9–7/13 **Blue Planet**

Dive into fresh, brackish, and salt water this week. Catch many aquatic species, learn about the Cape's oceanography, and test the sanctuary's water quality.

7/16–7/20 **Animal Instincts**

Think like a rabbit, act like a coyote. Games and activities will help you understand animal behavior and adaptations, such as how they see, smell, hunt, hide, and travel.

7/23–7/27 **Predators!**

Calico crabs! Black racers! Ospreys! Discover the cunning strategies these predators use and find out how we fit into this predator/prey relationship.

7/30–8/3 **Friends of the Earth**

Search for wildlife in the forest, field, salt marsh, and bay. You will learn how you can protect these habitats and the creatures that depend on them.



8/6–8/10 **Happenin' Habitats**

Cape Cod has some pretty happenin' habitats. From salt marshes to tidal flats to barrier beaches, there are a lot of unique areas to explore!

8/13–8/17 **Wildlife Rangers**

Investigate wildlife in many ways. Learn how to read a map, use a compass and GPS, and go on daily treks to learn about wildlife and their trails.

8/20–8/24 **Water Works**

Join our investigation of salt, fresh, and brackish water, and those who call these bodies of water home. From tadpoles to green crabs to mummichogs, water provides habitat for many creatures.

8/27–8/31 **Wonders of Wetlands**

Do you like frogs and salamanders, or are crabs and eels more your speed? Whether it's a marsh or a swamp, you'll get mighty mucky and have a lot of fun!



There's more to explore at Wildwood, Mass Audubon's overnight camp, in Rindge, New Hampshire. Choose 1- or 2-week overnight camp sessions for campers ages 9–14, Teen Treks for campers ages 14–17, or the Leaders-in-Training programs for campers entering grades 10–12. Everyone is welcome at our 4-day Family Camp programs. Go wild this summer!

Call toll-free 866-MAS-CAMP for more information, or visit Wildwood online at www.wildwoodcamp.org.

NATURALISTS

Entering Grade 4 or 5

9 AM–2:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Fee: \$275 M/\$340 NM, per week

The Naturalists program allows those interested in science to participate in field activities while learning methods and techniques used in wildlife community investigations. Classes are full day with a mid-morning snack and lunch. This program also includes weekly field trips to areas relevant to the subject being studied. Camper to camp instructor ratio is 8:1.

6/18-6/22 **Sanctuary Prowl** (see page 2)

6/25-6/29 **Bay to Ocean: Crossing Cape Cod**

Join our investigation of aquatic life in Cape Cod Bay, the Atlantic Ocean, and the waters in between. Check out the transitions above and below the water and the great diversity of plants and animals as we travel from fresh to brackish to salt water. (with a hike from the bay to the ocean)

7/2–7/6 **Creative Nature**

Take a completely different look at nature! Hike the trails of the sanctuary, catch insects, dip net for fish and crabs, explore for frogs and salamanders, and more! Express your own impressions of what you find through creative writing, sketching, painting, and sculpting. (with a day out with a local Wellfleet artist)

7/9–7/13 **Hunters & the Hunted**

Imagine an animal with a beak inside its mouth or an animal that can regurgitate its own insides. It's not science fiction; it's life on Cape Cod. Whether it's sharks in the bay or fish in the pond you will discover how animals hunt or keep from being hunted. (with a Nauset Marsh Cruise)

7/16–7/20 **Connections**

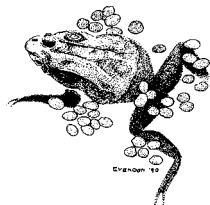
What's the connection: comb jellies and fishing boats; horseshoe crabs and *Spartina* grass; spadefoot toads and shrimp? During this week we'll investigate the countless connections in nature. (with a trip to Great Island, Wellfleet)

7/23–7/27 **Birds of Prey**

Learn more about the birds who go out and hunt for a meal. Become familiar with the different species of hawks and owls that call Cape Cod home. We'll be going out with binoculars and a scope to get an extra special look at these magnificent and majestic birds. (with a birding trip to Bearberry Hill in Truro)

7/30–8/3 **Going Green**

Take a closer look at how years of human impact have affected wildlife and habitats on Cape Cod. This unique week will help us understand how to live in harmony with bees, woodpeckers, squirrels, and other backyard species. We'll also identify and eat wild edibles, practice outdoor living skills, and find out how to reduce our impact on the habitat where we live. (with a trip to an organic farm)



8/6–8/10 **Ocean Odyssey**

Explore Cape Cod's marine communities, including the ocean, bay, marsh, and beach. Discover invertebrates like shrimp, crabs, and clams by seining, dipping, and digging. Learn about marine species, such as whales, seals, and lobsters. On an evening cruise, we may also discover whelks, squid, and spider crabs. (with an evening Marine Life Cruise)

8/13–8/17 **Wildlife Tracks & Traces**

During the heat of summer it's hard to see all of Cape Cod's wildlife. Some burrow underground, while others are nocturnal. This week we'll look for as many different animals and animal tracks and traces as we can, such as mammal tracks, birds' nest, clam holes, and turtle forms. (with an all-day exploration in the Pamet Area)

8/20–8/24 **Budding Biologists**

Within each habitat there are microhabitats that we'll investigate from the bottom up. Examine the forest floor up to the tree tops, muck through the peat in the marsh, catch bottom and surface-dwelling pond animals, and search the depths of Wellfleet Harbor. (with a Nauset Marsh Cruise)

8/27–8/31 **Nature of Cape Cod**

What makes Cape Cod unique? Is it the fact that it's the meeting point of southern and northern currents or is it its glacial origin? We'll investigate the Cape's unique habitats, from kettle ponds to sand dunes to clay cliffs. (with a hike along Cape Cod's Outer Beach)

For High School Students

Leader-in-Training: Excited about sharing your love of nature with children? Wondering if teaching is right for you? Work with our camp instructors as they lead campers through a myriad of crafts, hikes, and games. This is a wonderful opportunity to positively impact a child's growth and environmental awareness, immerse yourself in the outdoors, learn about Cape Cod habitats, get a reference for college, and acquire community service hours.

The Field Program (3-day field courses)

Entering Grades 9–12

10 AM–4 PM, Tuesday through Thursday, with a Thursday evening session from 6:30–9:30 PM

Join our three-day immersion courses and try kayaking, biking, snorkeling, shellfishing, whale watching, and orienteering.

Visit www.massaudubon.org/wellfleetbay for a brochure or more information; or call us at 508-349-2615 or email wellfleetbaycamp@massaudubon.org

ECOLOGISTS

Entering Grades 6–8

9 AM–2:30 PM, Monday through Friday

Fee: \$320 M/\$385 NM, per week

The Ecologists program expands on already acquired natural history knowledge. Participants will be involved in exploration both on and off the sanctuary. All sessions include opportunities to learn practical field techniques and ecological practices that develop a conservation ethic, as well as outdoor skills such as kayaking or snorkeling. Each week a different activity is offered with an emphasis on proper instruction and safety. Camper to camp instructor ratio is 8:1.

6/25–6/29 **Alien Invaders**

Cape Cod has been invaded! Non-native plants and animals, like Asian shore crabs and codium seaweed, are displacing many of our native species. Learn to recognize the “most wanted list” above and below the water as we create a plan to rebuff these invaders. *(with a snorkeling trip and canoe trip)*

7/2–7/6 **Outer Lands**

Experience the challenges of trekking across the beach and dunes at the windswept tip of Cape Cod, snorkeling along Provincetown’s breakwater, and climbing the Cape’s highest tower to view our changing coastline. We’ll also kayak to explore the shores of Cape Cod Bay. *(with an evening session, a kayak trip, and a geocaching trip)*

7/9–7/13 **Animals on the Move**

Take a closer look at local animals and the various ways they move about. We’ll discover how animals in different habitats have adapted to thrive and survive with their movement strategies. *(with a seal cruise and snorkeling trip)*

7/16–7/20 **Under the Sea**

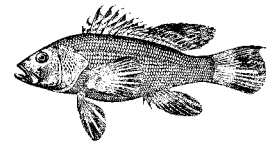
Explore the areas where land meets the sea. Estuaries are some of the most productive habitats in the world. Kayak and hike along a spit of land that sticks out into Cape Cod Bay and check out the underwater inhabitants while snorkeling. *(with a kayak and snorkeling trip)*

7/23–7/27 **Herpetology**

Amphibians and reptiles, known as herptiles, occupy almost every habitat on Cape Cod, from pine woods to open ocean. We will search for diamondback terrapins, frogs, and spadefoot toads, set snake traps, and observe a sea turtle necropsy. *(with a canoe trip and an adventure to the Red Maple Swamp)*

7/30–8/3 **Migration Mania**

Birds, whales, butterflies, bats, sea turtles, and many other creatures are able to travel long distances to ensure their survival. We will get to view some of these amazing animals as they pass by the Cape! *(with a seal cruise and a kayak trip)*



8/6–8/10 **Working on the Water**

Not everyone works in a cubicle these days; many people make their living on the water. From lifeguards to coast guards, from fishermen to scientists, this is your chance to try different exciting professions on for size! *(with a fishing trip and a whale watch trip)*

8/13–8/17 **What Is That Noise?**

Have you ever wondered what type of animal is making such a ruckus? This week will be spent learning more about who we are listening to when we are out in nature both during the day and at night. From insects to birds to mammals, we will listen for them all. *(with a seal cruise and an evening session to listen for nocturnal animals)*

8/20–8/24 **Art & Nature**

You will explore your hidden talents, as well as Cape Cod habitats, as you search for colors, patterns and natural materials to create some unique works of art. Professional artists will help you photograph, paint, and sketch. Visit a local gallery for ideas and inspiration leading to a group art exhibit at the sanctuary. *(with a professional artist instruction, art gallery visits, and a kayak trip)*

8/27–8/31 **Things that Glow**

During this week you will be taking a closer look at bioluminescence. You will be investigating animals and plants that produce their own living light, from comb jellies to fireflies. During the week we will also take a closer look at the important role lighthouses have played in Cape Cod’s history. *(with a kayak trip and an evening beach hike)*

Please note: Participants must be able to demonstrate strong swimming skills in order to snorkel. Please call the day camp director with any questions or concerns.



