



**Scout Programs**  
at  
**Habitat**  
*Education Center*  
*and*  
*Wildlife Sanctuary*  
Belmont, Massachusetts

Habitat is an ideal place to bring your scout troop. Through hands-on activities, games and outdoor explorations, scouts learn about nature and our place in it. We have developed many programs based on Girl Scouts USA requirements to help your troop achieve their badges. For each program, we will complete the required number of activities to receive a badge.

Habitat is a Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary located on 88 acres in Belmont. In support of its mission to protect the nature of Massachusetts, Habitat provides diverse education programs and maintains wildlife habitat, walking trails, and formal gardens. Habitat offers a wide variety of programs and field trips for adults, families, and children that focus on the nature in their own backyards. It also delivers outreach programs to schools and other groups in the community.

### Program Fees

Pre-registration is required for all programs. There is a minimum of 8 participants for each program. One adult for every 5 children is free; additional adults will be charged the program fee. For Try-its and Badges, the fee includes the related patch/badge.

1.5 hours (Guided Walks)	\$7.50/person
2 hours (Brownie Try-its)	\$8.50/person
3.5 hours (Junior Badges/ Interest Projects)	\$14/person



### To Register/Schedule a Program

We offer many programs on Saturdays from November to April. For a list of dates of currently scheduled programs, please contact

Jane Higgins at 617-489-5050, ext. 203, [jhiggins@massaudubon.org](mailto:jhiggins@massaudubon.org). In addition to these pre-scheduled programs, we can also plan a program to fit your schedule. Call for availability.

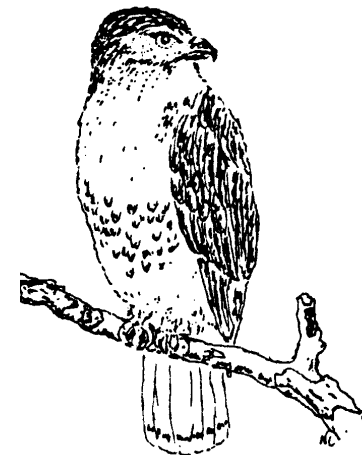
All programs must be booked at least two weeks in advance. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is due upon registration. Programs may be rescheduled due to severe or inclement weather. Refunds will be issued if you notify us of your cancellation at least one week before the program is scheduled.

### Interest Projects

**All About Birds:** Birds are all around us. Take some time to get to know them better by learning tricks to identify them by ear and by sight. Learn to use tools of the trade, such as binoculars and spotting scopes and spend time making artistic representations of them. Learn about people who study birds and how they become experts.

**Eco-Action:** What is your carbon footprint? Take a closer look at recycling and discover how many of the objects we use everyday began their lives in some other form. Learn about people who have devoted their lives to improving the environment and how you can make an impact, too. Help preserve our wildlife sanctuary by participating in a community service project.

**Wildlife:** Explore the habitats of Habitat. Discover how to identify the different animals and plants that make their home here. Get to know our resident animals and learn what they need to survive. Investigate the laws that protect wildlife and the impact that pesticides and fungicides have on plants, animals and us.



## Juniors

**Earth Connections:** Discover how everything is connected in an ecosystem. Learn to identify 10 different plants in your own backyard.

**Eco-Action:** Take action for the planet. Discover ways to lessen your impact on the environment. Plant a tree, make a grocery bag, create art out of trash!

**Finding Your Way:** What would you do if you got lost? Learn how to read different types of maps, use a compass and create maps and trails.

**Frosty Fun:** How do people and animals adapt to the winter? Learn about cold weather injuries and what to do to prevent them. Investigate the grounds for signs of animals, while snowshoeing.

**Oil Up:** Investigate how we depend upon the natural resource, oil. Discover how it is formed, where it is found and how it affects wildlife when spilled.

**Outdoor Creativity:** Let nature inspire your creativity. Study famous artists, sketch a natural object. Take a stroll through Habitat's flower gardens.

**Plants and Animals:** Learn about the different parts of plants that we use and eat. Taste exotic fruits and vegetables. Go on an animal safari.

**Rocks rock:** Discover the ground beneath your feet. Investigate the types of rocks and how they form. Learn about fossils and create your own.

**Sky Search:** Investigate the sky at night. Listen to ancient myths about the constellations and create your own. Learn neat facts about the moon and its phases. This is an evening program.

**Water Wonders:** Dive in! Investigate the ponds and vernal pools. Learn about the properties of water and participate in a water taste test.

**Wildlife:** Examine the classes of animals and their adaptations, while visiting Habitat's resident animals. Learn about endangered species and discuss ways to help them.

## Brownies

### *Seasonal Guided Walks*

**Maple Sugaring:** Come learn about the science and history of maple sugaring. Through hands-on activities, exhibits, and a visit to a tapped tree, we'll learn to ID a maple tree and how sap is tapped and made into syrup. We'll even boil down and sample some sap. *Programs occur in February/March.*

**Magical Spring Pools:** Discover vernal pools, those magical ponds that appear for a short time in the spring. Learn why they are critical to wildlife and need to be protected. Visit a vernal pool and collect samples of amphibians, insects, and crustaceans to observe, ID, and release. *Programs occur in April/May.*

**Let's Go Letterboxing at Habitat!** Hidden at Habitat are 2 letterboxes. After an introduction to letterboxing we'll use maps, compasses, and orienteering skills, to figure out the puzzles and clues that will lead us to the secret spot. Troops are welcome to bring their own stamps and/or logbooks. *Programs occur in early fall and late spring.*



### *Try-it Programs*

**Animals:** Practice communicating and moving like different animals. Visit Habitat's resident animals and discover their habitat needs.

**Earth & Sky:** Learn about the rock cycle and how fossils are formed. Discover why the sun's energy is important to us. Investigate how organisms fly through the air with the greatest of ease.

**Eco-Explorer:** What do all living things need to survive? Food, water and shelter. Examine how plants and animals depend on each other. Build mini-shelters of our own, using natural materials.

**Listening to the Past:** Tour Habitat's Visitor Center, the former home of Ruth Hornblower Churchill. Hear her life stories and learn about others who made a difference for the environment. Play Native American/ Colonial games and act out a story from the past.

**Numbers and Shapes:** Explore nature to find different shapes. Learn about the shapes of the moon. Make origami animals and recycled puzzles.

**Outdoor Adventurer:** Use your senses to discover the different textures, shapes, colors, smells and sounds in nature. Learn how to dress for the weather and to build a shelter.

**Science Wonders:** What makes thunder and how are bubbles formed? Learn about different states of matter and create your own slime. Learn the importance of recycling and make recycled paper. This program occurs indoors only.

**Senses:** How do we learn about our world around us? By using our senses! Animals also use their senses to discover their world. Who has the best hearing? Who can detect different smells?

**Space Explorers:** Explore the night sky. Learn about constellations, the North Star and phases of the moon while using a telescope. This is an evening program.

**Watching Wildlife:** Have you ever wondered what animals live in your backyard? Discover your animal neighbors and learn how they communicate with one another.

**Water Everywhere:** Water can be found almost anywhere you look. Head to the pond or vernal pool to look for creatures. Learn where water can be found and how important it is to our survival.