



2020 Financial Aid Program

We are pleased to offer financial aid to eligible applicants. **Please read the following information before completing a financial aid application.** Contact the Wildwood Office at 866-627-2267 if you have questions.

How does Wildwood decide who receives financial aid?

Any family may apply for financial aid. We review applications in the order that they are received, please allow at least two weeks for processing. Only completed applications with all attachments will be reviewed. Aid may be awarded for one session per camper, per summer. Financial Aid may be used toward any session - Family Camp, ELP, overnight camp, and trips. We consider each family's income and size, as well as extenuating circumstances. Wildwood does not award full tuition; families are requested to provide at least 20% of tuition. All financial aid is distributed at the discretion of the Wildwood Director in accordance with Mass Audubon policy.

Does Wildwood guarantee financial aid?

Wildwood does not guarantee that a particular camper or family will receive financial aid. If a camper has received aid before, we cannot guarantee support at the same level the next summer.

We review applications in the order they are received. Apply as soon as you know you want to send a camper to Wildwood. If we receive a financial aid application after the budgeted aid has been awarded or after your desired session has filled, we will let you know and will keep your application on file to be reconsidered if another family has a change of plans and more aid or space becomes available.

Where does Wildwood get funds to award as financial aid?

The majority of the financial aid awarded by Wildwood is unfunded. This means that most money awarded as financial aid is taken directly from our operating budget, so this amount is necessarily limited.

However, we are fortunate to receive a small amount of dedicated financial aid from:

- Donations made to the Kids to Camp scholarship fund
- Camp store balances that are donated to be used for financial aid
- Occasional grants, for which we must apply annually
- Memorial funds and endowments

Some additional ideas for financing:

Register early: We accept registrations for the next summer as soon as the current camp season begins.

Become a Mass Audubon member: Mass Audubon membership at the family level or higher at the time of registration entitles you to a member price on camp programs. You pay the membership fee only once a year, no matter how many programs members of your family attend. A grandparent's membership at the family level or higher earns the member price for a grandchild's camp registration. If you are not a Mass Audubon member when you apply for financial aid, Wildwood may include a membership in your financial aid offer, so you can receive aid based on the member price for your camp session.

Ask about a payment plan: We can work with you to set up a payment plan that meets your family's needs, as long as camp tuition is paid in full at least two weeks before camp. Please speak to us to set up a payment plan.

Plan now for a future session: A family camp session or one-week session can provide a camp experience this summer and allow you to budget for a longer camp experience next summer.

Explore community resources: There may be funds available from schools and parent organizations, United Way chapters, service or environmental clubs, or other community resources that can help you reduce the cost of camp for your family. Families find aid through these avenues each year.

For more information about Wildwood's financial aid program, please feel free to contact us toll-free at 866-627-2267 or wildwood@massaudubon.org.



Financial Aid Application

You may complete one application for your family.

List all campers' names, birthdates, and grades, and include the costs of all the camp sessions requested in step 3.

Send a completed camp registration form for each camper with your financial aid application.

Camper Name _____ Birth date _____ Current Grade _____

Additional Camper Name _____ Birth date _____ Current Grade _____

Parent/Guardian's Name(s) _____ Relationship to Camper _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Email _____ Best Time to Reach You _____

I would like to apply for financial aid for:

____ Overnight Camp ____ Day Camp ____ Environmental Leaders Program ____ Teen Trip ____ Family Camp

Please list your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd session choices: _____ or _____ or _____

Has your camper attended Wildwood or another Mass Audubon program in a previous year?

(Please list Mass Audubon programs your camper attended and which years.)

How did you hear about Wildwood's Financial Aid Program?

(If you were referred, please include the name of the person or agency that referred you.)

Step 1: Family Income

What was your family's income for the most recent complete calendar year? \$ _____

(Include any income from wages, salary, tips, interest & dividends, unemployment compensation, Social Security benefits, etc. – usually the amount reported in the Income section of a federal tax return.)

How many family members receive total support from this income? _____

Step 2: Income Verification (**Required – your application cannot be processed without it!**)

Please **attach** a copy of the **first page** of your current year federal income tax return. (Do not include schedules, worksheets, or state returns.) If a tax return is not available, you may include copies of W-2 forms or letters detailing Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation, child support, or other income dated with three months of the application. If your current income is **not** reflected on your documents, please explain in writing how your income has changed.

You MUST remove all Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and other protected information before sending your documents!

Step 3: Family Contribution & Financial Aid Request

Of the total tuition amount, \$ _____, our family can contribute \$ _____.

(You must include a dollar amount for your family contribution. To provide assistance to as many campers as possible, we ask families to contribute as large a portion as they can reasonably afford.)

My family requests a financial aid award of \$ _____.

Step 4: Additional Information Regarding Financial Need

Please help us understand your family's financial situation. Are there special circumstances you would like us to consider? You may include information regarding medical expenses, school or college expenses, childcare expenses (including other summer programs), eldercare expenses, child support payments, emergency expenses, unemployment, etc. Continue on the back page if necessary.

Step 5: Anticipated Benefits of Attending Wildwood

Please share with us how you hope your camper will benefit from attending a Wildwood program. If your camper is returning to Wildwood, please tell us how Wildwood has positively influenced your camper. Continue on the back page if necessary.

Signature Required: I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided on this application is truthful and accurate. I understand that if the information I have provided is found to be untrue, my financial aid award may be revoked.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return Complete Application, Income Verification, & Camp Registration Form to:

Wildwood – Mass Audubon
PO Box 826
Rindge, NH 03461

Please send your financial aid application materials by postal mail!
(For identity safety assurances, we cannot accept applications by fax or e-mail.)

Office Use Only

Date Received _____ Amount Awarded \$ _____ Date of Notification _____

Date of Acceptance _____ Family Contribution \$ _____ Final Payment Received _____