

Welcome to the Museum of American Bird Art – Wild at Art Camp!

We hope this spring finds you well. We are thrilled that you selected the Wild at Art Camp for your child. We take this honor seriously and will make sure your child's experience is a good one. We are busy preparing for another fun filled summer of art, nature, and science. This letter has some information you may find useful prior to the first day of camp, and as always, please feel free to give us a call with any questions. To see what we did last summer, check out our camp posts from our Taking Flight blog <http://bit.ly/CampBlogWildatArt>.

Leadership Team and Staff

The Wild at Art Camp is successful because of its caring, well-prepared counselors who are actively engaged in teaching, creating art, and playing with campers. Our leadership team provides counselors with training, educational objectives, and ideas for activities. Each staff member is excited to explore the outdoors, create art, and educate all campers. Together we bring fun and learning to campers.



Sean Kent
Camp Director



Julia Gandrud
Teaching Artist
& Art Educator



Sarah Howdy
Assistant Camp Director



Owen Cunningham
Property Manager



Amy Montague
Museum Director



Sarah MacClellan
Office Manager

Staff Selection

Camp staff members are carefully selected for their maturity, love of nature, artistic ability, and their caring attitude toward children. All staff must pass background checks and receive training in safety, child development, nature study, and art education. This year most of our counselors are college students and post graduates who are training to become artists, teachers, biologists, or both, and they all have a passion for nature and the outdoors.

Our Credentials, License, and Accreditation

The Museum of American Bird Art has more than 20 years of experience in connecting children to nature and art through public, school, and camp programs. This is the 12th year of our Wild at Art summer camp and in 2015 we successfully completed the rigorous American Camp Association re-accreditation process.

We are licensed by the Canton Board of Health and comply with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We have received accreditation from and meet the rigorous standards of the American Camp Association.

Camp Policy Requests

You may request a copy of our staff background check, healthcare, discipline, bullying, and grievance policies at anytime.



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Camp day

Full day camp runs from **9:00 am-3:00pm**

Before camp program: **7:45am-9:00am**

Afternoon camp program: **3:00pm-5:30pm**

What to wear to camp

- Socks and sneakers -no crocs, flip flops, or open-toed sandals
- Sweatshirt or light jacket-summer mornings can be chilly, especially in August.
- Hat for sun protection
- Comfortable play clothes you don't mind getting wet or dirty or paint on.
- Insect repellent and sunscreen (minimum of SPF 25).

What to bring to camp

- Two snacks –a morning and afternoon non-perishable snack. **Please label or let us know** who has peanuts and tree nuts.
- Water bottle (leak proof please). Water is available all day.
- Backpack large enough to carry the water and lunch. There will be some days where lunch is eaten on a hike to the brook or other areas on the property.
- Nutritious, non-perishable lunch, including one drink packed inside an insulated lunch bag with a small icepack.
- Water shoes or old sneakers for wading in the brook.
- Insect repellent and sunscreen.
- A change of clothes and shoes that can be kept in their cubby for the week.**

Food Notes

- We do not refrigerate food so make sure to use an ice pack and insulated lunch box
- Act green: please try to use reusable containers and create as little trash as possible

What not to bring to camp

Do not bring electronics devices, collectible cards, personal treasures or expensive items. If cell-phones are brought to camp they must be left in backpacks unless the Camp Director gives permission otherwise. Mass Audubon is not responsible for lost or damaged items that have been brought to camp. No dangerous items like pocket knives and matches are allowed. The possession or use of tobacco, nicotine containing devices, alcohol, drugs and weapons are prohibited. No animals are allowed in camp without prior permission from the Camp Director.

Arrival, Check in, and Departure

If your child will be late or absent please call us at 781-821-8853.

We are located across the street from Canton High School at 963 Washington St. **Check in for camp is between 8:50am-9:15am.** If you plan to drop off your child before this time, please sign up for the Before-Camp program. Park in the parking lot and **escort your camper to the camp building** in front of the Gallery. Day camp staff will be there to check in campers. You will need to sign in and sign out your camper each day.

Pick up your camper at the camp building at the end of the camp day. Campers are released only to those persons listed on the Release Form and a **photo ID must be shown.** Guardians may modify



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the release list by giving the Camp Director a signed note. If you need to pick up your camper early please provide a note in writing to the Camp Director. A late fee of \$1.00 per minute applies for children picked up after 5:30pm or 3:00pm if they are not enrolled in after camp care.

Camp Docs

- We will be using Camp Doc, an online health and waiver form, instead of paper forms. In March, you will receive an email from Camp Doc about completing the health and waiver form.

Sun and bugs

Mass Audubon campers may be exposed to sun and insects.

- Parents should apply sunscreen (SPF 25 or greater) and insect repellent to their child prior to arrival. Apply sunscreen first and then the repellent. Please do not spray repellent inside our buildings.
- Staff will supervise or apply insect repellent after lunch if necessary. Campers should bring their own bug spray and sunscreen. When necessary, the camp will provide insect repellent containing 10-20% DEET unless you tell us otherwise. Sunscreen will be reapplied if afternoon activities will be in sun.
- At the end of the day guardians should wash any treated skin with soap and water.
- Campers should also be checked each evening for ticks. See health and wellness policy for more information.

What to Expect on your First Day

The Wild at Art counselors, teaching artist, and staff are thrilled that you are coming to camp. We love spending our summer with kids, being outside, exploring nature, and creating art! You should dress for exploring outdoors, creating art, and playing games. Put on sunscreen followed by insect repellent before coming. Be prepared for the weather—we will be outside for a part of any rainy day so rain gear and a sweatshirt may come in handy!

You can recognize the camp teacher-counselors by what we wear— blue staff shirts and a blue lanyard with a nametag. You may also meet some teenage volunteers called Leaders-in-Training (who have also been gone through background checks and have received training).

Each group has a special meeting area near the camp building and you will leave your backpack in a cubby in the camp building. This is where you will meet your counselor. He/she will give you a nametag and introduce you to other kids. After saying good bye, you may join in any of the “choice-time” activities. After Monday’s opening circle, you will be introduced to all of the kids in your group and play a name game. Your teacher will show you where the bathrooms are and how to refill water bottles at the water containers. There will be a fire drill as well. There will be numerous nature and art activities, along with time for free play and choice activities, and a closing circle.

We are happy that you will be with us at the Museum of American Bird Art this summer. Remember on the last day of every camp session we will present an Art Show at 2:30pm, so come if you can! Each group of campers will be teaching one of their favorite activities to the other groups during the art show. Please contact us with any questions or concerns!

Sean Kent

781-821-8853

mabacamp@massaudubon.org



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Behavior Expectations and Discipline Policy

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 meaningfully in age-appropriate activities, including nature study and art creation. 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, please contact the camp director. The Camp Director reserves the right to dismiss a camper when in his/her judgment the camper's behavior interferes with the rights of others, the smooth functioning of the group or activity, or violates the camp's behavior policy. In such cases no refunds will be given.

Our behavior expectations and safety rules have been developed to ensure the safety of campers and to show respect for self, others and the environment. Campers will be made aware of these rules on the first day of the session. There will be no hurting of each other either verbally or physically.

Safety Rules As a Wild at Art camper, you must:

1. Stay with your group.
 - a. Ask permission to leave the group and if your teacher agrees, you always take a buddy.
 - b. If called, stop and answer.
 - c. If you hear 3 whistle blasts, stop and return to your group.
2. Be kind and courteous to all.
3. Follow the behavior expectations given by your counselor/instructor.

Discipline Policy

Infringements of the behavior expectations and/or safety rules bring fair and obvious consequences. Staff will follow a series of steps: one-on-one discussion, break from activities, and time with the Camp Director. The child may be asked to apologize. If a child acts in an unsafe manner that is physically harmful to self or others, staff will remove the child from the danger and bring him/her to the Camp Director. In the case of serious and/or constant issues, the guardian will be called and a behavior agreement will be determined. Those who cannot meet these expectations may be dismissed from the camp program without monetary recourse. As mandated by the state, corporal punishment will not be used; no camper will be subjected to cruel or severe punishment; humiliation or verbal abuse; no camper will be denied food and water as punishment, and no camper will be punished for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet. A complete copy of the Discipline Policy is available upon request.



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Health and Wellness Policy

Healthcare Personnel

Wild at Art's off-site healthcare consultant is Dr. Joseph Horan, M.D.. Sean Kent is the on-site healthcare supervisor with Owen Cunningham, property manager, who has first aid/CPR training, as assistant and backup health care supervisor. All camp educators are certified in first aid, infection control procedures, and CPR. Emergency care is provided by EMTs of the Canton Fire Department and the staff at Norwood Hospital. A complete copy of our healthcare policy is available upon request.

Responsibilities of Parent/Guardian

Do not send a sick child to camp. Symptoms of illness are a temperature above 100 degrees F, throwing up (or has done so in the night), earache, sore throat, conjunctivitis, skin eruptions, continuous cough, etc. Parents of sick children will be called and be requested to pick up the child. Staff may oversee a mildly ill camper in the camp office. People with an infectious or communicable disease may not return to camp until the recommended time determined by our healthcare consultant has passed. Participants infected with lice will be sent home and may resume camp once treated and nit free. If an outbreak of communicable disease occurs, any participant who is not fully immunized (due to religious or health risk reasons) will remain at home for the time recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Parents will receive documentation and a description of minor injuries and treatment at the end of the camp day. Refunds are not given due to missed time at camp.

If your child has a foot or leg injury, you must speak to the Camp Director who will determine if accommodations can be made and when he/she can return to camp.

Guardians need to be aware of the potential health hazards ticks represent and take an active role in protecting their child.

You are responsible for checking the child each evening for ticks by feeling the skin for bumps, removal of ticks, and monitoring for illness. More information is provided below.

Medications

Every medication must be checked into camp with our Camp Director. Medications may be dispensed only during summer camp and only if:

- 1) we have written permission from the legal guardian;
- 2) the medication is in its original labeled container;
- 3) it bears the participant's name and dosage; and
- 4) our off-site healthcare consultant has approved in writing the administering of this type of medication.

If these steps are not complete, a parent/guardian must administer the medication. Every medication must be checked into camp with our Camp Director.

Sun & Bugs

Campers may be exposed to sun and insects. The state encourages the use of wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeve shirts and long pants when exposed to sun.

Parents are to apply sunscreen (SPF 25 or greater) and insect repellent (DEET 20–24% is suggested) to their child daily, prior to arrival. Apply sunscreen first and then the repellent. At the end of the day, you



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should remind your child to wash any treated skin with soap and water.

Act Green: Do not spray any repellent inside our buildings or in the camp play area.

Staff will apply or supervise the application of insect repellent after lunch each day. Sunscreen will be reapplied if afternoon activities will be in full sun. Campers need to provide their own sunscreen and bug spray. Visual checks for ticks on campers' arms, legs, and clothing is a regular part of our camp routine. The guardian is responsible for checking the child each evening for ticks by feeling the skin for bumps. Insect Repellent Information: Studies show that it is acceptable to use DEET of up to 30% concentration on children over 2 years of age and that the concentration of DEET in the product is related to the length of protection. DEET may be applied to skin or clothes, but not under clothing. Treated skin should be washed with soap and water upon completion of your outdoor activity. Ask your pediatrician about DEET. 24% DEET provides 5 hours of protection. 6.65% DEET provides 2 hours of protection.

Tick-borne Illness Facts and Prevention

Not all ticks are infected and studies have shown that an infected tick normally cannot begin passing the Lyme Disease bacteria until it has been attached to its host for 24 hours. Finding and careful removal of the tick is the best preventative.

Prevention suggestions

1. Wear enclosed shoes and light-colored clothing with a tight weave to spot ticks easily. Keep long hair tied back. Tuck shirts into your pants and long pants into socks. Wear a hat.
2. Use repellents that contain 24% DEET on exposed skin or treat your shoes and clothing with permethrin.
3. Scan clothes and any exposed skin frequently for ticks
4. Do a full-body tick-check at the end of the day by feeling the skin for bumps. Be aware that ticks climb upwards in search of skin so check hidden areas of the neck, ears, head, genitals and bellybutton.
5. Spin clothes in the dryer for 20 minutes to kill any ticks. Look for ticks on your gear/backpack.
6. Know the symptoms of Lyme Disease (see below) and other tick-borne illnesses.

To remove a tick

1. Use a pair of tweezers to grasp the tick by the head where it enters the skin. Do not grasp the body.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. (Do not twist the tick, apply petroleum jelly, a hot match, alcohol or any other irritant in an attempt to have the tick back out.) If mouth-parts break off try to remove them, but if not possible, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. Clean the bite area with an antiseptic. Redness or a rash at the bite site for a number of days is normal.

Symptoms of Lyme Disease

Contact your physician if any of the following symptoms appear three (3) or more days after the bite. Lyme symptoms vary and may include recurrent headache, exhaustion, muscle aches, rash, or joint pain. Early treatment with antibiotics almost always results in a full cure.

Health note: Campers are not considered to have increased risk of Meningococcal Disease, but the Department of Public Health requires that we provide this information to you.