Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary Homeschool Programs  
Fall 2020

Series Classes
Meet once a week for eight weeks

**Wednesdays:** September 30th – November 18th  
**Thursdays:** October 1st – November 19th  
Morning (10am – 12pm) or Afternoon (1:30pm – 3:30pm)

**Cost:** $160 members, $195 nonmembers

Our Groups

**Chickadees (Ages 4 & 5 with an adult)**  
Wednesdays – Lisa Hutchings  
Thursdays – Kathy Smith

**Red-Tailed Hawks (Ages 6 to 8)**  
Wednesdays AM – Morgan Davidson and Sarah Hall  
Wednesday PM – Stephanie Majeau and Sarah Hall  
Thursdays – Abby Armstrong and Madison McKenna

**Great Blue Herons (Ages 9 to 11)**  
Wednesdays and Thursdays AM and PM  
Cori Brauer and Bruce Menin

Class Description
This season we will be investigating the incredible diversity of life at the sanctuary. Each day will focus on a different group of living things (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, plants, and more). We will explore the sanctuary, carefully catch and observe live creatures, and make time each day for questions, creativity, and nature play. All groups will cover same topics, but with the content and activities tailored to the ages, interests, and needs of the group.

Drop off/pick is outside in front of the sanctuary buildings. Please come dressed for the weather as we will be outside for the entire class. For the Chickadee class an adult must come along with the group for each class. For the Red-tailed Hawks and Great Blue Herons, this is a drop-off class and we cannot accommodate parents/guardians coming along for the class.

All participants must wear a mask and complete a Covid-19 self-health assessment check form prior to each class. More information including a full Covid-19 safety protocol will be provided.

Field Trip Programs
For adults and children (ages 7 to 14)  
Sign up for one, some or all!

**Cost:** Members: Adult $12, Children: $10  
Nonmembers: Adult $15, Children: $17

Come explore some of our most amazing north shore wild places with Joppa Flats Education Coordinator, Lisa Hutchings. "Miss Lisa" will lead families with hands-on activities, identification of wildlife, and a new way to look at nature; through the eyes of a naturalist.

**Fall Friday Field Trips (10am – 12pm)**

**October 2:** Ponding Exploration  
Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield MA

**October 9:** Tide Pooling  
Sandy Point State Reservation

**October 16:** Fall Foliage Walk  
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

**October 23:** Sand Flats and Clamming  
Pavilion Beach, Ipswich MA

**October 30:** iNaturalist Nature Walk  
Rough Meadows, Rowley MA

**November 6:** Coastal Erosion & Weathering  
Photo Journal Challenge - Plum Island

**November 13:** Sketching & Photographing Waterfowl  
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

**November 20:** Snowy Owl & Raptors  
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

You must provide your own transportation for trips. Driving directions will be provided along with our Covid-19 safety protocol. All participants must wear a mask and complete a Covid-19 self-health assessment prior to the program.

This is NOT a drop off class and all children must be accompanied by at least one adult.
Important Homeschool Safety Information Fall 2020

Dear Homeschool Family:

Mass Audubon has made changes to homeschool this fall to reduce the possibility of transmission of COVID-19 among children, staff, and their families. Please continue reading so you are ready for the first day of homeschool.

**Homeschool Groups and Class Experience**
Though we will still take part in much of the usual nature play, exploration, and learning experiences as before, this fall the series class program will have some changes from years past. Groups will be no more than twelve people, including the Mass Audubon instructors. Groups will not mingle with one another during the program. While the Chickadee class is still an adult/child program, with an adult staying with their child for the class, the older groups are now DROP-OFF ONLY and we are not able to accommodate adults or siblings coming along for the class. The entire class program will now be held outside with no time spent in buildings except for bathroom breaks and in case of sudden bad weather.

**Screening**
To minimize the spread of COVID-19 participants and staff are required to take part in health screening each time they come to class. This screening is a digital form asking several questions about the health and possible exposure of your family. The link will be sent to you after you sign up. We will also have physical paper forms available in the event that you forget to submit your form before drop-off. Families will be asked to monitor their health prior to class and will be asked to keep their children home if they suspect a household member is sick or has come into contact with someone with a positive case of COVID-19. Families (except for enrolled adults in the Chickadees program), contractors, delivery people, and other sanctuary visitors will be asked not to enter the program area. If they do need to enter the program area, they will need to go through the screening process. Bathrooms are not available for anyone other than signed-up participants who have gone through screening.

**Drop-Off and Pick-Up**
Each homeschool group (Chickadees, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Great Blue Herons) will have a specific drop off and pick up spot to reduce interaction between families and to streamline the screening process. Locations will be marked with signs when you arrive.
Masks and Hand Cleaning
A face covering must be worn at all times during the program including pick up and drop off. When participants need to remove their masks to take a drink or water or take a breather, they will be asked to move at least six feet apart from each other. Staff will wear masks at all times.

Staff will help homeschool students with proper mask use, hand cleaning, and social distancing. Families must provide permission for their child(ren) to use hand sanitizer. This will be demonstrated and talked about on the first day of the program with gentle reminders throughout the program as needed.

Bad Weather Days
Homeschool classes will be cancelled due to bad weather. In the event of a bad weather day (thunderstorms, severe cold, steady showers). You will be contacted by email if class will be canceled and we will attempt to cancel the day before when bad weather is in the forecast. Should the weather look uncertain but class has not been canceled, you can call 978-887-9264 to find out if class will be held.

Cleaning Intensified
Cleaning procedures will be intensified at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary and will follow the recommendations of the Topsfield Board of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). All staff will be trained in proper cleaning procedures. Materials and equipment will be sanitized after each use and will be utilized in a way that minimizes sharing and encourages distancing.

Communication
If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in a student at our homeschool classes, families, staff, and the local board of health will be notified immediately. To protect privacy, the name and age of the person will not be disclosed. The notification will be sent by email to all participants. Mass Audubon has developed plans for identifying, handling, isolating, discharging, and transporting sick, symptomatic, and exposed children or staff.

COVID-19 Oversight
Cori Brauer, Education Coordinator, will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and oversight of COVID-19 procedures and policies. Questions and concerns about these procedures and policies should be directed to Cori at cbrauer@massaudubon.org.

Scott Santino, Camp Director (ssantino@massaudubon.org) or Amy Weidensaul, Sanctuary Director (aweidensaul@massaudubon.org) will be responsible for COVID-19 oversight if Cori Brauer is not available.

Thank you so much for helping us to keep our program safe!

Sincerely,

Cori Brauer