FERN & FEATHER
NATURE CAMP
Welcome to Fern & Feather Nature Camp

At Fern & Feather Nature Camp in Edgartown, we encourage children’s lasting curiosity and care for the natural world. Campers ages 5–14 have fun and make friends as they explore the nature of Martha’s Vineyard at our 350-acre wildlife sanctuary. Outdoor games, hands-on nature activities, wildlife observations, hikes, stories, crafts, and camp songs make ours a one-of-a-kind summer experience!

A DAY AT CAMP

8:45–9:15 am Camper Drop-off & Choice Time
9:15 am Morning Circle
9:30–10:30 am Nature Theme Intro & Snack
10:30 am–12:00 pm Activities & Explorations
12:00–12:45 pm Lunch & Story Time
12:50–2:15 pm Activities, Crafts & Games
2:15–2:45 pm Full-Day Camper Pick-up

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 508-627-4850
Email felixneckcamp@massaudubon.org
Visit massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp
OUR CAMP STAFF
Camp staff members are chosen for their enthusiasm, experience, nature knowledge, and ability to work with children outdoors.

All staff undergo background checks, are certified in CPR, first aid, and/or lifeguarding, and receive training in health and safety procedures, child development, natural history, and environmental education best practices prior to the start of camp.

Mass Audubon requires that all staff, regardless of their work location, disclose their vaccination status. Proof of vaccination status is required immediately upon hire.

FINANCIAL AID
We believe connection with the natural world should be available to all. If finances are getting in the way of a summer at Fern & Feather Nature Camp, financial assistance is available to year-round Island residents based on demonstrated financial need and available funds. Requests are limited to four sessions per child; however, all applications are considered and will be accepted on a rolling basis. Payment plan options are also available. Please visit massaudubon.org/campforms to download a financial aid application.

SESSION LIMIT
To ensure equal access to camp for everyone, we ask that families register for no more than four sessions per child.

COVID-19 SAFETY
The health and welfare of our campers and staff remains our highest priority. We feel confident that the success of Mass Audubon Camps in designing and offering a safe summer of camping in 2020 and 2021 will guide us into another great summer in 2022. We will continue to stay informed and engaged with the work of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the American Camp Association to ensure best practices with regard to staying safe as we move through the developing phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the latest updates on COVID-19 safety at camp, visit massaudubon.org/camps.

OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
At Mass Audubon Camps, we strive to create a safe, inclusive, and caring camp environment where each person is respected and supported in their learning and growth. We believe that diversity—both in nature and in our human communities—is essential to strength, resilience, and innovation, and we are committed to recognizing the unique contributions of each community member.
The Pathfinders program balances play, art, sensory exploration, and hands-on activities as campers explore nature. Activities include hiking, nature-themed games, making crafts, exploring with nets, and storytelling. *Price includes a camp T-shirt, a camp patch, and a group photo.*

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

**Furry Friends**
*June 27–July 1*
We’ll have a great time discovering different mammals that live on the Island and learn about the differences between mammals and other animals.

**Earth and Sky**
*July 4–8*
Hunt for earthworms, watch clouds, and roam the field and forest as we explore high, low, and everywhere in between. Learn about the many wonders of nature on our big, beautiful planet.

**Wet and Wild**
*July 11–15, August 8–12*
Discover the ins and outs of Felix Neck’s water habitats. While splashing around in our freshwater and saltwater ponds, take a close look at the plants and animals that call them home.

**Backwoods Explorers**
*July 18–22, August 15–19*
Make a pair of binoculars, grab a map and compass, and hit the trails to explore Felix Neck! Discover different wildlife species and learn about their various survival techniques.

**Mighty Mammals**
*July 25–29*
An otter swims, so why is it a mammal and not a fish? Discover the differences between mammals and other animals such as fish, and find out which mammals make their home on the Island.

**Dig It!**
*August 1–5*
There is a world beneath your feet! Slippery salamanders, many-legged millipedes, spitting clams, and camouflaged crabs are some of the fascinating wildlife you might find on our daily explorations.

“I love camp so much I wish I lived there,” says our daughter. LOL

—Camp Parent
EXPLORERS

Explorers investigate and interact with different plants and animals, furthering campers’ connection to the natural world. *Price includes a camp T-shirt, a camp patch, and a group photo.*

**Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8**

**Ages 7–8**

$418 members | $493 nonmembers
Monday–Friday 9:00 am–2:30 pm

**Swamp Romp**

*June 27–July 1*

What is life like for insects, amphibians, and reptiles that live in a muddy, squishy swamp? Get dirty building mud huts, rolling logs, and learning how to safely handle critters from the swamp like salamanders, frogs, and slugs.

**Metamorphosis Magic**

*July 4–8*

Are you fascinated by certain creatures’ amazing ability to transform? Learn all about different animals’ ability to change, from butterflies and moths to dragonflies and tadpoles—even mosquitos!

**Bold and Bright**

*July 11–15*

Search for the brightest flower, the most vibrant bird, and other unique patterns and markings as you learn the importance of color in nature. Draw, paint, or create the beautiful nature you see. From camouflage to toxic warnings, an organism’s color can tell you a lot about them and how they interact with the ecosystem around them.

**Bug Bazaar**

*July 18–22*

Insects are all around us and a crucial part of our food webs. Get comfy with bugs of all kinds and learn why they are such good friends to us through games, crafts, and an insect zoo. From earthworms to crickets to bees and butterflies, no bug is too big or small to examine.

**Predators!**

*July 25–29*

Ospreys, garter snakes, and giant water bugs—discover the cunning strategies these predators use to survive, and find out how we fit into nature’s predator/prey dynamic. Take a close look at animal skulls to determine the different characteristics of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.

**Bird Olympics**

*August 1–5*

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different kinds of birds? They are the elites of the adaptation world! Determine which ones are master builders, long distance fliers, and top-level predators. Learn how to use binoculars and track different patterns and cycles of summer birds on Martha’s Vineyard.

**Ocean in Motion**

*August 8–12*

Why does the tide roll in and out? And what’s all the commotion in the ocean? Find out what makes the waters around the Island move, and which animals and plants live beneath the waves by getting wet in our saltwater habitats.

**Day and Night**

*August 15–19*

What happens at Felix Neck when the sun goes down? Bats, owls, muskrats, and other creatures of the night reign while daytime animals (and campers) sleep. Learn how these animals use the dark of night to their advantage.
Dive deeper into nature with hiking, nature experiments, games, snorkeling and more. **Price includes a camp T-shirt, a camp patch, and a group photo.**

Fascinating Food Webs
June 27–July 1
Organisms big and small are all connected by a web of life. Find out how our ecosystems and creatures interact and rely on one another. Use a seine net at the pond and tow for plankton to observe some of the most important species in the ocean. Use microscopes to identify some of the smallest critters and visit all sorts of fun places to discover what ties our habitats together.

Survival Challenge
July 4–8
Investigate unique adaptations that help animals and plants survive in Felix Neck’s diverse habitats, including seashore, marsh, pond, forest, and field. Test your own survival skills through games, shelter building, and more!

Living with Wildlife
July 11–15, August 15–19
Humans and wildlife have been living side-by-side since the beginning of our species, yet wild spaces are declining. Delve into the various ways that we can protect our wildlife neighbors, and how you can be a true nature hero! Monitor Horseshoe Crabs, Osprey nests, salamander coverboards, and important shorebird habitats.

Ocean Odyssey
July 18–22
Gain new understanding of the Island’s marine communities, including Sengekontacket Pond, Nantucket Sound, and the salt marsh. Compare whales, sharks, and dolphins and their various bone structures by looking at real life specimens. Use seine nets and fish traps to get an up-close look at some of our amazing oceanic creatures.

Earth Heroes
July 25–29
Do you like the outdoors and care about wildlife? Learn to be a hero of the Earth: Hike trails without leaving a trace, create art with recycled material, and help with invasive species removal.

Micro to Macro
August 1–5
Nature’s food chain depends on creatures of all sizes and shapes—from microscopic plankton to massive whales. Investigate how these micro- and macro-organisms interact with one another.

Island Explorations
August 8–12
Explore the habitats of Felix Neck and Martha’s Vineyard with a close eye. Learn about wildlife that call the Island home and the important role they play in our ecosystem through games, activities, and research.

*No overnights due to COVID-19, subject to change.*

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

**ADVENTURERS**

Ages 9–11

$433 members | $508 nonmembers

Monday–Friday * 9:00 am–2:30 pm

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ECOLOGISTS

Ecologists participate in inquiry-based projects that introduce the methods and techniques scientists use to study and interpret nature. Programs include community science research, snorkeling, kayaking, and more. **Price** includes a camp T-shirt, a camp patch, and a group photo.

*No overnights due to COVID-19, subject to change.

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

**Rad Raptors**
July 11–15
See all the wonders of our Island’s predatory birds: Examine their specialized eyes, beaks, and wings to determine what makes them such successful hunters. Explore owls, ospreys, hawks, and their prey sources to learn how they all fit together in the web of life.

**Mission: Decomposition**
July 18–22
Why does the salt marsh smell so weird? What’s the muck at the bottom of the pond? Decomposition (the process that creates broken-down dead stuff) is an extremely important part of any healthy habitat. Examine the science behind why we need decomposers in our ecosystem. From mushrooms to insects and snails to salamanders, follow small creatures who will show you what was once alive.

**Nature Detectives**
July 25–29
Natural mysteries are all around us. Who dug up those turtle eggs? Why are all these feathers on the ground? How did that tree fall down? Look outside to locate something puzzling, collect nearby clues for a potential hypothesis, and submit your case to the rest of your group for review. Step into the mind of a true detective to make sense of the evidence that’s right under your nose.

**Pollinator Power**
August 1–5
From birds to butterflies to bees, investigate the adaptations that make pollinators unique from other animals. Learn to grow and nurture plants to bring home for your own garden, build feeders, and learn what makes this group of animals so important to our world.

**Power of the Coastline**
August 8–12
The shape of the coastline on Martha’s Vineyard is constantly changing. Learn about the many coastal processes that affect our beaches and contribute to their ever-changing nature and resilience. Hear from the people whose careers are dedicated to protecting coastal habitats and wildlife, and find out what you can do to protect the beautiful marshes, beaches, and animals that live here.

We loved it so much we extended our stay and are returning for a second week! — Camp Parent
WE’RE HIRING!

CAMP STAFF POSITIONS

Ages 16+

Love nature and working with kids? Too old for camp, but still want to spend your summer at Felix Neck? We’re looking for you!

- Environmental Educators/Counselors (Ages 18+)
- Junior Counselors (Ages 16+)

We hire enthusiastic people who want to enrich the lives of children. Instructors supervise campers’ health and safety; promote positive youth development; teach nature-based activities, games, and crafts; and communicate with parents and other staff. Please note: current CPR/first-aid certifications are required for all positions; lifeguard certification is a plus.

Visit massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp to apply and for more information.

“The staff have been absolutely amazing!!! We are so thankful for their kind and professional leadership, for involving and engaging our son in interesting and fun activities, and for their positive encouragement. We’re looking forward to our son participating in more weeks of camp this summer!”

—Camp Parent

SCHOOL VACATION PROGRAMS

Winter Vacation Programs

10 am-2 pm
$82/day members | $92/day nonmembers

Come for one day or all four days of winter fun and exploration during winter vacation week. **Registration required; $10 discount when you sign your child up for all four days.**

- March 1: Nature Heroes
- March 2: Wild Wonders
- March 3: Track-tastic
- March 4: Into the Wild

Spring Vacation Programs

Save the Date! April 18–22: Spring Into Nature

Visit massaudubon.org/felixneck to learn more and register for vacation week programming.
TO REGISTER FOR CAMP
Visit massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp
Call 508-627-4850
Registration opens January 31, 2022. Early registration is encouraged to secure your preferred dates. To ensure equal access to camp for everyone, we ask that families register for no more than four sessions per child.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION
A confirmation letter/e-mail containing important documents and information will be sent once your camper’s registration has been processed.

DEPOSIT
A nonrefundable deposit of $75/camper/session is required to register for camp. The deposit will be applied to your camp tuition and cannot be transferred to another camper, family, or location. If registering after May 2, payment in full is required (unless a payment plan has been established with the Camp Administrator).

REFUND POLICY
A full refund, minus a nonrefundable deposit of $75, is provided to camp families who cancel in writing on or before May 2. After May 2 no refund is available. Deposits are not transferable, and refunds are not given for participant dismissal, failure to attend, absence or sick days. If we must cancel a session, you will receive a full refund.

MEMBERSHIP & DISCOUNTS
Mass Audubon members at the Family level or above receive a discounted rate. To qualify, your membership must be current through your camper’s last session, and you must be the parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of the camper being enrolled. Membership can be purchased or renewed at the time of registration.

Islander discounts are available to year-round Martha’s Vineyard residents: $30/half-day session and $40/full-day session.

FINANCIAL AID
We believe connection with the natural world should be available to all. If finances are getting in the way of a summer at Fern & Feather Nature Camp, financial assistance is available to year-round Island residents based on demonstrated financial need and available funds. Requests are limited to four session per child; however, all applications are considered and will be accepted on a rolling basis. Payment plan options are also available. Please visit massaudubon.org/campforms to download a financial aid application or contact us at felixneckcamp@massaudubon.org.

IMPRESSANT DEADLINES
All camp forms, waivers, and the balance of your camp tuition are due by May 2. The balance of your camp tuition is due two weeks prior to the start of your camper’s session. A camper cannot attend camp and their spot is not guaranteed until all forms, waivers, and payments are completed (or a payment plan has been established). A fee of $25/camper will be charged for incomplete or late forms.

CAMPER REQUIREMENTS
Campers are expected to be able to follow all COVID-19 safety protocols, to be determined by the start of camp based on the latest guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Visit massaudubon.org/camps for the latest information about COVID-19 safety at Mass Audubon Camps.

All campers must follow stated behavior expectations and safety rules. To ensure a successful camp experience, please discuss any pertinent information regarding your child’s needs with the Camp Director. We strive to make camp a great experience for all, and we can accommodate on a case-by-case basis. The Camp Director reserves the right to dismiss a camper when, in their judgment, the camper’s behavior interferes with the rights of others or violates the camp’s safety and behavior policies. In such cases, no refunds will be provided. If you have any questions regarding your child’s ability to participate in our camp program, please contact the Camp Director.

CAMP LICENSE
Fern & Feather Nature Camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the Edgartown Board of Health.

ACA ACCREDITATION
We are proud to be accredited by the American Camp Association. Developed exclusively for the camp industry, this nationally recognized program focuses on program quality, health and safety, management, and camp operations.

CAMP POLICY REQUESTS
You may request copies of our background check, healthcare, discipline, bullying, and grievance policies at any time.

SESSION TRANSFERS
Session transfer requests will be honored if there is space available and if a request is made at least two weeks prior to the session start date, after which time transfers are not permitted.
BUDDY REQUESTS
One buddy request per camper will be honored when possible. Both campers must be the same age and both must request each other. All buddy requests must be made in writing at least one week prior to the first day of camp. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like your camper to be placed with a friend of the same age.

CARPOOL REQUESTS
If you would like to be added to the carpool list, please check the appropriate box on your registration form and your information will be shared with other interested families.

CAMP CONTACT INFO
Josey Kirkland, Camp Leadership Team
Fern & Feather Nature Camp
Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary
PO Box 494 • Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
100 Felix Neck Drive • Edgartown, MA 02539
508-627-4850
jkirkland@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp

MORE FOR MEMBERS
Mass Audubon membership benefits don’t end when the summer’s over: Membership includes year-round free admission to our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries, where the whole family can explore and enjoy the outdoors. Members also enjoy great savings on nature programs and gift shop purchases. Learn more at massaudubon.org/membership.

Mass Audubon is the largest nature-based conservation organization in New England. Founded in 1896 by two women who fought for the protection of birds, Mass Audubon carries on their legacy by focusing on the greatest challenges facing the environment today: the loss of biodiversity, inequitable access to nature, and climate change.

With the help of our 140,000 members and supporters, we protect wildlife, conserve and restore resilient land, advocate for impactful environmental policies, offer nationally recognized education programs for adults and children, and provide endless opportunities to experience the outdoors at our wildlife sanctuaries. Explore, find inspiration, and take action at massaudubon.org.

KIDS TO CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Help make camp attainable for even more kids with a gift to the Kids to Camp Fund.

DETAILS AT
massaudubon.org/kidstocamp