2020
IPSWICH RIVER
NATURE DAY CAMPS
In Topsfield, Marblehead, & Essex

Welcome to Ipswich River Nature Day Camps!

Ipswich River Nature Day Camps give campers ages 4–14 a unique opportunity to learn about nature, meet new friends, and have fun outside. Our knowledgeable staff encourages an educational, non-competitive camp environment for memories that will last a lifetime. Locations include Topsfield, Marblehead, and Essex.

Our Camp Staff

We take pride in offering a fun, caring, organized, and educational program. Staff are carefully selected for their competence in outdoor education and leadership. Counselors have teaching experience and a commitment to educating children about nature.

Our Camp Director

This summer Ipswich River Teacher Naturalist Scott Santino returns for his 19th season as Camp Director.

After Camp Program

Monday–Friday, 3:00–4:00 pm
$9 per day; $35 per week

We offer an optional extended day program for campers enrolled in full-day sessions at Topsfield and Marblehead. Preregistration is required.

New this Year!

Canoe the beautiful Ipswich River to Perkins Island during Island Adventures for ages 7–8 during the week of August 17–21.

Trekkers, Mega Mayhem, and Survival of the Fittest sessions will get a chance to climb inside a life-size inflatable Humpback Whale while learning all about this enormous mammal.

Multi-Session Discount

Register for two or more one-week sessions on pages 2 and 3 and receive 10% off the camp fee for each week. Offer is only good for individual campers attending multiple weeks.
# YOUNG NATURALISTS

**Ages 5–6**
8:30 am–3:00 pm  
$340 members;  
$405 nonmembers, per week  
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

**Mammal Ramble**
June 22–26  
July 27–31  
Search for squirrels, Muskrats, and Groundhogs. Ramble along looking for furry animals that live on the sanctuary. On the trails keep an eye out for mammal tracks, scat, and chews, and discover the many differences between plant-eaters and meat-eaters by examining skulls and bones.

**Cool Colorful Critters**
June 29–July 2*  
August 3–7  
How many colors can you find outside? Search for Green Frogs, Eastern Bluebirds, Red-backed Salamanders, Gray Squirrels, and other colorful critters. After gathering inspiration, create colorful nature art. *Camp will not be held on July 3; the prorated session cost is $272 members; $337 nonmembers.

**Wildlife Detectives**
July 6–10  
August 10–14  
During short walks with nets and terrariums in hand, discover how animals catch food, find places to sleep, and move about the sanctuary. Become a detective searching for nature mysteries that need to be solved.

**Wetland Wonders**
July 13–17  
August 17–21  
Wetlands are wonderful places to look for exciting animals including frogs, herons, and turtles. Capture water bugs in the river and visit a beaver lodge at Rockery Pond. Water games, songs, and stories will keep you smiling all week.

**Amazing Amphibians**
July 20–24  
Frogs and salamanders are well adapted to live in ponds, fields, and the forests. Search in a vernal pool, river, and Rockery Pond for tiny tadpoles and big frogs. In the forest, look under logs for salamanders, toads, and Wood Frogs. See how amazing amphibious animals live in water and on land.

**INVESTIGATORS**

**Ages 7–8**
8:30 am–3:00 pm  
$335 members;  
$400 nonmembers, per week  
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

**Carnivore Camp**
June 29–July 2*  
Look out for snakes, frogs, hawks, and dragonflies and find out what these carnivores are eating. Special guest raptor rehabilitator Jane Kelly of On the Wing will stop by to present live birds of prey. *Camp will not be held on July 3; the prorated session cost is $268 members; $333 nonmembers.

**NSI: Nature Scene Inspector**
July 6–10  
July 20–24  
Have you ever wondered what kind of animal chewed the nut under a tree? Or what type of owl coughed up the furry pellet? And what made those tracks in the riverbank? As a NSI, work on nature puzzles along trails and by canoe on the Ipswich River. Native American storyteller Pat Bade will tell stories of how her ancestors solved nature's many mysteries.

**Mega Mayhem**
July 13–17  
July 27–31  
This week is sure to be big as we focus on large animals. Look for big creatures including White-tailed Deer, Snapping Turtles, Water Snakes, Red-tailed Hawks, and Great Blue Herons. Learn about a super-huge endangered animal, the Humpback Whale. Crawl inside a life-size inflatable whale with special guest and expert Cynde McInnis from Whalemobile.

**NEW! Island Adventures**
August 17–21  
Islands are great places to find interesting plants and animals. Canoe the beautiful Ipswich River to Perkins Island and enjoy a picnic lunch and games. Hike boardwalks over a fast-flowing stream to a forest with gigantic trees on Averill’s Island. Every day will be an adventure.

**NATURALISTS**

**Ages 9–11**
8:30 am–3:00 pm  
$335 members;  
$400 nonmembers, per week  
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

**Predator Prowl**
June 29–July 2*  
Predators need to be strong, fast, cunning, and persistent to catch their prey. Search for hawks, snakes, frogs, fish, and dragonflies that are on the hunt. Special guest raptor rehabilitator Jane Kelly of On the Wing will stop by to present live birds of prey. *Camp will not be held on July 3; the prorated session cost is $268 members; $333 nonmembers.

**Woods Walkers**
July 6–10  
July 20–24  
Indigenous people have a strong connection to the natural world, and much can be learned from their history and lore. Build a shelter with natural materials, paddle the Ipswich River, and walk through the forest silently as Native Americans once did. Native American storyteller Pat Bade will tell stories of how her ancestors once navigated these wild lands.

**Survival of the Fittest**
July 13–17  
July 27–31  
Stealthy flight, tough armor, or wily ways—which would you choose to stay alive in the wild? Discover the special adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive. Learn about the endangered Humpback Whale and crawl inside a life-size inflatable whale with special guest and expert Cynde McInnis from Whalemobile.

**Fun with Nature Photography**
August 17–21  
Capture all the amazement nature has to offer with your camera! Learn basic photography skills and a few tricks to take wildlife and landscapes photos from average to great. Families are invited to a Friday afternoon photo show. Campers must bring their own digital camera.
SPECIAL INTEREST CAMPS

**Ages 7–8 & 9–11**
8:30 am–3:00 pm
$305 members; $370 nonmembers (unless otherwise noted), per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

**River Ramble**
June 22–26
Canoe to not one but two islands located along the Ipswich River. Families always ask us for more canoe trips, and this session won’t disappoint! Canoe upstream to Perkins Island, build gnome homes, and take a second boat trip downstream to Colt Island to play camouflage. Campers will be divided into two groups: 7-8-year-olds and 9-11-year-olds.

**A Closer Look**
August 3–7
$350 members; $415 nonmembers
Take a closer look at nature by focusing on a new topic each day. Explore the sanctuary with a wildlife tracker to search for mammal signs and an insect specialist to learn amazing facts about butterflies. The 7-and 8-year-old group will take a lobster boat cruise, while the 9-11-year-olds experience a whale watch.

**Natural Landscape Art**
August 3–7
Paint panoramas, draw backdrops, and collage countryside vistas. Experiment with different techniques and various media such as watercolor and charcoal to create dynamic landscapes inspired by exploration of the sanctuary. Families are invited to a Friday afternoon art show.

**Super Scientists**
August 10–14
Kids dream of becoming scientists when they grow up, and this week they’ll do real science. Catch and study insects up close, observe and feed wild birds, solve a nature mystery, and design experiments using real scientific tools. Campers will be divided into 7-8-year-olds and 9-11-year-olds.

**Animal Art**
August 10–14
The leaping, swimming, and soaring animals of the sanctuary will be your subjects for painting, drawing, sculpting, and more. Investigate along trails to observe creatures, engage in activities and games to learn about animal adaptations, and capture their likeness in clay and on canvas. Families are invited to a Friday afternoon art show.

TWO-WEEK SESSIONS

**Ages 7–11**
8:30 am–3:00 pm
$560 members; $625 nonmembers, per session
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

**Trekkers**
July 6-17
July 20–31
Spend a day learning how to canoe on the Ipswich River and paddle to Perkins Island. Once there, have lunch, play games, and build gnome homes. Listen to Native American stories told by storyteller, Pat Bade. Visit all of the amazing locations our sanctuary has to offer, including the Rockery, vernal pool, stone bridge, and observation tower. Learn about the endangered Humpback Whale and crawl inside a life-size inflatable whale with special guest and expert Cynde McInnis from Whalemobile. At the end of each session, play the camp favorite Predator/Prey game.

Campers will be grouped by age, and the activities will be appropriate to their age level. All campers will join together for group choice activities each afternoon.
TRAVELING ADVENTURES

Ages 12–14
8:30 am–3:00 pm
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 6

Nature Photography
July 13–17
$450 members; $515 nonmembers
Take your photography skills to the next level as we trek to locations near and far to capture the wonder of the natural world with our cameras. Learn tricks to improve pictures of mountaintop vistas, forested trails, coastal landscapes, and wildlife in the Middlesex Fells Reservation, Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Gloucester, and atop Mount Agamenticus Conservation Region in York, Maine. While in Maine visit the Center for Wildlife where you can photograph up close owls, raptors, and other animal ambassadors! Campers must bring their own digital camera.

Mountaintops Treks
July 20–24
$475 members; $540 nonmembers
Trek the Overlook Trail in Lynn Woods and through the boulder field at Pawtuckaway State Park in New Hampshire. Thursday, head to Wildwood, Mass Audubon’s overnight camp in Rindge, New Hampshire, and take on nearby Mount Monadnock and paddle canoes on Hubbard Pond. Camp out Thursday night and enjoy an evening of storytelling and s’mores around a campfire.

CANOE ADVENTURES

Ages 12–14
8:30 am–3:00 pm
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 6

Programs are led by staff who have been trained in Water Rescue and Small Craft Safety.

Ipswich River Adventures
August 3–7
$360 members; $425 nonmembers
Canoeing opens up a whole new world that is usually out of reach. Learn paddling techniques, water safety, and teamwork skills as you explore the Ipswich River and its islands every day. Discover insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals that depend on the river and lurk in the backwaters.

Further River Adventures
August 10–14
$380 members; $445 nonmembers
Paddle less-visited sections of the Ipswich River while searching for frogs, turtles, fish, and other animals that inhabit its banks and islands. Cool off in the river while learning watercraft safety skills. At the end of the week camp out on Perkins Island as we pitch tents, enjoy s’mores around a campfire, and observe nocturnal animals such as owls, bats, and beavers. Campers must know how to swim.

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING

Ages 14–16
8:30 am–3:00 pm
$195 members; $260 nonmembers, per session

Topsfield
Session 1: June 22–July 2
Session 2: July 6–17
Session 3: July 20–31
Session 4: August 3–14

Marblehead
Session 1: July 13–24
Session 2: July 27–August 7

Our Counselors-in-Training (CIT) program is for teens who want to gain experience working with children in an outdoor setting. Participate in lesson development trainings, lead games, assist camp groups, and learn to teach activities. An application is required, and space is limited. For more information and an application, contact Camp Director Scott Santino at ssantino@massaudubon.org.
Marblehead
Church of Saint Andrew
135 Lafayette Street
8:30 am–3:00 pm
Explore the forests, fields, ponds, and coastal surroundings of Marblehead. Wander the Wyman Woods trails, watch for turtles in Hawthorn Pond, and search a salt marsh for herons along the Forest River. An extended-day program is available from 3:00–4:00 pm. See page 1 for details.

YOUNG EXPLORERS
Ages 5–6
$340 members; $405 nonmembers, per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5
July 6–10
Young children are natural explorers with big imaginations. With counselors by your side, go on nature hikes, sing camp songs, listen to stories, play games, and create nature crafts to nurture a joyful and memorable connection with wildlife and wild places.

EXPLORERS
Ages 7–8 & 9–12
$325 members; $390 nonmembers per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8
Nature Sleuths
July 13–17
Where does that trail lead? What lives in this field? How fast is a snail? This week investigate your burning questions using your senses and real scientific tools like microscopes, nets, and soil probes. Visit wildlands, catch creatures for a closer look, and develop experiments. Bring your curiosity and sense of adventure!

Wildlife Superheroes
July 20–24
The wild plants and animals around us have amazing abilities like speeding through the air, breathing underwater, and defending themselves with slime, sting, and stink. Search for these local legends and learn about their super skills through games, crafts, and exploration of their secret hideouts.

Earth, Air, & Water Wonders
July 27–31
Splashing around tide pools, squishing in the mud, and watching puffy clouds sail across the sky are all important parts of a summer well spent at camp. Collect samples from fields, forest, and salt marsh; paint mud murals; play water games; create mini nature sail boats; and catch creatures that call the soil, water, and air their home.

Nature & Art
August 3–7
Enjoy nature and unlock your inner artist. Make paintbrushes, paint with watercolors at the pond, build sculptures with natural materials, and much more. Get inspired by closely observing wild plants and animals, hiking to beautiful ocean views, and learning about famous nature artists.

Essex
Essex County Greenbelt’s Cox Reservation
82 Eastern Avenue
9:00 am–3:00 pm
Discover the amazing coastal creatures that live at Essex County Greenbelt’s Cox Reservation, located along the Essex River. An artist’s studio barn will provide a unique base for our games and activities.

ESSEX EXPLORERS
Ages 7–10
$295 members; $360 nonmembers, per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8
Ocean in Motion
August 3–7
Ride the tide of discovery to reveal the secrets of plants and animals that live where the Essex River meets the sea. Scour the intertidal flats for snails and clams, eye the skies for egrets and herons, and search upland fields for grasshoppers and Monarch Butterflies. Partake in crafts, nature activities, and games, all inspired by our seaside surroundings. Spend a special day at Mass Audubon’s Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Gloucester to explore the teeming rocky tide pools.

Marsh Muckers
August 10–14
Dive deep into salt marsh wonders and catch the craze for exploration. Coastal Cape Ann will be your laboratory as you investigate the amazing animals and plants that call marine places home. Binoculars, nets, and microscopes will help you observe nesting birds and capture crabs, periwinkles, and mummichogs along the river. Take a field trip to Mass Audubon’s Eastern Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Gloucester to explore dunes and upland forests. Play nature games, make crafts, and take on exciting hands-on science activities all week alongside beautiful seasapes.
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER FOR CAMP:
massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
Call 978-887-9264
Mail or bring camp registration form and payment to:
Ipswich River Nature Day Camps
87 Perkins Row • Topsfield, MA 01983

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 per camper, per 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 camp location. If registering after May 15, payment in full is required (unless a payment plan has been established with the Camp Director.)

REFUND POLICY
A full refund, minus the nonrefundable deposit, is provided to camp families who cancel in writing on or before May 15. After May 15 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. Register for two or more one-week sessions and receive 10% off the camp fee for each week. Offer is only good for individual campers attending multiple weeks.

FINANCIAL AID
Financial assistance is available based on demonstrated economic need and available funds, and is generally limited to one session per child; however, all applications are considered. Applications are due by April 30. Please call to request an application or download one at massaudubon.org/campforms.

PAYMENT PLANS
Payment plan options are available. Please contact the Camp Director for more information.

IMPACTFUL DEADLINES
All camp forms, waivers, and the balance of your camp tuition are due by May 15.

If registering after May 15, payment in full is required and a specific camp form deadline will be set for you. A camper cannot attend camp and his/her spot is not guaranteed until all forms, waivers, and payments are completed (or a payment plan has been established).

CAMPER REQUIREMENTS
Campers are expected to meaningfully participate in age-appropriate activities, including outdoor exploration and nature study. To ensure a successful camp experience, please discuss any pertinent information regarding your child’s special needs with the Camp Director. We can accommodate on a case-by-case basis in order to establish the best strategy for a great summer camp experience. Campers must follow stated behavior expectations and safety rules. 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 or the functioning of the group or activity or violates the camp’s behavior policy. 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
Our camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the Topsfield, Marblehead, and Essex boards 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, health care, discipline, bullying, and grievance policies at any time.

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. We will try to honor requests for one friend to be placed in the same group with your child, depending on the experience and ages of both campers.

CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION
Scott Santino, Camp Director
Ipswich River Nature Day Camps
87 Perkins Row
Topsfield, MA 01983
978-887-9264
ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
With more than 135,000 members and supporters, Mass Audubon protects more than 38,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at massaudubon.org.

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