IPSWICH RIVER NATURE DAY CAMP

Topsfield
Welcome to Ipswich River Nature Day Camp!

Ipswich River Nature Day Camp gives campers ages 5–11 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.

**A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP**

8:30 am  Camper Check-in, Health Screening, and Games
9:30 am  Opening Circle
9:45 am  Morning Hike and Activities
12:00 pm Lunch
12:45 pm Game, Craft, or Nature Play
1:45 pm  Theme-Based Activity Time
2:45 pm  Closing Circle
3:00 pm  Camper Check-out

**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. All staff undergo background checks and participate in safety training (including COVID-19 protocols) prior to the start of camp.

**OUR CAMP DIRECTOR**
This summer, North Shore Region Education Manager Scott Santino (he/him) returns for his 20th season as Camp Director.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
Call 978-887-9264
Email ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org
Visit massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp

**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 will guide us into another great summer in 2021. 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.

We anticipate that we will continue to practice the wearing of masks, physical distancing, small group sizes, enhanced sanitizing protocols, and all other recommended health and safety guidelines. As we learn more from working closely with partners in public health, childcare, and camping, we will continue to keep our camp community updated.

*Please note that any photos depicting children without face coverings were taken prior to 2020. All Mass Audubon program participants are now required to wear masks.*
Young Naturalists
Ages 5–6

PROGRAM DETAILS
Monday–Friday
8:30 am–3:00 pm
Weekly sessions from
June 21–August 20
$380 members;
$445 nonmembers per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5
Spend five fun-filled days exploring nature. On daily walks, campers will learn about the natural world through age-appropriate, hands-on activities that teach appreciation and respect for nature. Activities include nature investigations, games, songs, stories, arts and crafts, and visits to the pond, river, forest, and meadow. Join us for one or more of these exciting themes.

**Mammal Ramble**  
**June 21–25 • July 26–30**  
Ramble along looking for furry animals that live on the sanctuary, including squirrels, deer, Muskrats, and Groundhogs. On the trails, we’ll 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 28–July 2 • August 2–6**  
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.

**Wildlife Detectives**  
**July 6–9* • August 9–13**  
Become a detective searching for nature mysteries that need to be solved during short walks with nets and terrariums in hand. Discover how animals catch food, find places to sleep, and move around the sanctuary.

*Camp will not be held on July 5; the prorated session cost is $305 members; $370 nonmembers.

**Wetland Wonders**  
**July 12–16 • August 16–20**  
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 long.

**Amazing Amphibians**  
**July 19–23**  
Frogs and salamanders are well-adapted to live in ponds, fields, and 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 these amazing amphibious animals live both in water and on land.

“My son absolutely loved his week at camp! We were impressed by the safety precautions put into place and felt very comfortable with him attending this week.”

—2020 Camp Parent
Investigators
Ages 7–8

PROGRAM DETAILS
Monday–Friday
8:30 am–3:00 pm
Weekly sessions from
June 21–August 20
$380 members;
$445 nonmembers per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8
Explore and learn about a variety of habitats including the forest, field, pond, and Ipswich River. Take daily hikes to the Rockery, Stone Bridge, or observation tower to gain a greater appreciation for the outdoors and the plants and animals that depend on them.

**Carnivore Camp**  
**June 21–25 • July 12–16**  
Carnivores are animals with amazing predatory adaptations that allow them to capture and eat other animals. We’ll search low for snakes and frogs and high for hawks and dragonflies to find out what these carnivores like to eat.

**NSI: Nature Scene Investigators**  
**June 28–July 2 • July 19–23**  
Have you ever wondered what kind of animal left chew marks on the nuts you found under a tree? Or what type of owl coughed up that furry pellet? And what made those tracks in the riverbank? As a NSI, we’ll work to solve nature puzzles as we explore field, forest, and wetlands.

**Into the Wild**  
**July 6–9* • July 26–30**  
The wilds of Topsfield are rich with wildlife. Using equipment including nets, microscopes, and binoculars, search for interesting insects, fantastic flowers, beautiful birds, awesome amphibians, and more.

*Camp will not be held on July 5; the prorated session cost is $305 members; $370 nonmembers.

**Super Scientists**  
**August 2–6**  
Kids who dream of becoming scientists when they grow up won’t want to miss this week, jam-packed with real science. Catch and study insects up close, observe and feed wild birds, solve a nature mystery, and design experiments using real scientific tools.

**Creating Art in Nature**  
**August 9–13**  
Enjoy nature and unlock your inner artist. Experiment with different techniques and various media such as watercolors, charcoal, and much more. Be inspired by observing plants and animals and learning about famous nature artists.

**Reptile Roundup**  
**August 16–20**  
Warm summer weather is the perfect time to search for dinosaur-like reptiles, including snakes and turtles, with their scaly skin and bony backs. Search the sanctuary’s river, vernal pool, and ponds for these creatures and discover why they’ve survived on earth for millions of years.
Naturalists
Ages 9–11

PROGRAM DETAILS
Monday–Friday
8:30 am–3:00 pm
Weekly sessions from
June 21–August 20
$380 members;
$445 nonmembers per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8
These exciting theme-based programs allow campers to learn about local plants and animals. Each week will blend outdoor exploration, hikes, games, and nature journaling. Sessions are designed to increase knowledge and awareness of nature while having fun and developing exploration skills.

**Predator Prowl**  
**June 21–25 • July 12–16**  
Predators need to be strong, fast, cunning, and persistent to catch their prey. Search the sanctuary for hawks, snakes, frogs, fish, and dragonflies that are on the hunt.

**Animal Architects**  
**June 28–July 2 • July 19–23**  
Beavers build dams, birds build nests, and moths build cocoons. Taking inspiration from these and other natural builders, use natural materials to create shelters in woodlands, nests in fields, mini-boats to float down the river, and more.

**Survival of the Fittest**  
**July 6–9* • July 26–30**  
Stealthy flight, tough armor, or wily ways—which would you choose to help you stay alive in the wild? Discover the special adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive.

*Camp will not be held on July 5; the prorated session cost is $305 members; $370 nonmembers.

**Super Scientists**  
**August 2–6**  
Get a taste of what it’s like to be a real scientist. Catch and study insects up close, observe and feed wild birds, solve a nature mystery, and design experiments using real scientific tools.

**Creating Art in Nature**  
**August 9–13**  
Enjoy nature and unlock your inner artist. Experiment with different techniques and various media such as watercolors, charcoal, and much more. Be inspired by observing plants and animals and learning about famous nature artists.

**Fun with Nature Photography**  
**August 16–20**  
Capture all the wonder 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. Campers must bring their own digital camera.

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“*My daughter loves your camp, looks forward to it each day, and comes home very happy.*”  
—Camp Parent
TO REGISTER FOR CAMP
massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
Call 978-887-9264
Mail the registration form
and payment to:
Ipswich River Nature Day Camp
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.

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

IMPORTANT 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 be able to follow
all COVID-19 safety protocols, including
wearing masks and maintaining social
distancing. Camp families will be required
to complete a daily health screening
and attestation before their child can be
admitted to camp.

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. All
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 smooth 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
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

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 March 15. Please contact
the Camp Director to request an
application or download one at
massaudubon.org/campforms.
There’s more to explore at Wildwood, Mass Audubon’s overnight camp in New Hampshire:

• Overnight Camp, ages 7–14
• Day Camp, ages 6–11
• Teen Adventure Trips, grades 9–12
• Environmental Leadership for Teens, grades 10 & 11
• Family Camp, all ages!

Visit massaudubon.org/wildwood or call 866-627-2267 to learn more.

Mass Audubon protects more than 38,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. As Massachusetts’ largest nature conservation nonprofit, we welcome more than a half million visitors a year to our wildlife sanctuaries and 20 nature centers. From inspiring hilltop views to breathtaking coastal landscapes, serene woods, and working farms, we believe in protecting our state’s natural treasures for wildlife and for all people—a vision shared in 1896 by our founders, two extraordinary Boston women. Today, Mass Audubon is a nationally recognized environmental education leader, offering thousands of camp, school, and adult programs that get over 225,000 kids and adults outdoors every year. With more than 135,000 members and supporters, we advocate on Beacon Hill and beyond, and conduct conservation research to preserve the natural heritage of our beautiful state for today’s and future generations. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at massaudubon.org.