IPSWICH RIVER NATURE CAMP

Topsfield & Marblehead
Welcome to Ipswich River Nature Camp!

Ipswich River Nature Camp gives campers ages 5–14 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.

A DAY AT CAMP

8:30 am  Camper Drop-off 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
4:00 pm  After Camp Pick-up (Topsfield only)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call  978-887-9264
Email  ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org
Visit  massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
OUR CAMP STAFF
Ipswich River Nature Camp staff 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 are at least 18 years of age, undergo background checks, and participate in safety training (including COVID-19 protocols) 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.

CAMP DIRECTOR
This summer, North Shore Education Manager Scott Santino (he/his) returns for his 21st season as Camp Director.

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.

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 Ipswich River Nature Camp, financial assistance is available based on demonstrated financial need and available funds. Financial aid is limited to one 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 an application.

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.

After Camp Program
Topsfield
Monday-Friday, 3:00–4:00 pm
$10/day or $45/week
We offer an optional extended day program for campers enrolled at the Topsfield location.
Topsfield Programs

at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
87 Perkins Row, Topsfield, MA 01983

Explore the forests, fields, ponds, and river at the sanctuary. Take daily walks to the Rockery Pond, vernal pool, or canoe landing to gain a greater appreciation for the outdoors.
YOUNG NATURALISTS
Ages 5–6
Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm
Weekly Sessions from June 20–August 19
$395 members; $465 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.

My child got in the car the first day and exclaimed ‘This is the BEST CAMP EVER!’

—Camp Parent

Hawks, Owls, and Eagles, Oh My!
June 20–24
July 25–29
Learn how special adaptations help birds of prey see, hear, fly, and catch animals to eat. Equipped with binoculars, search for Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and Barred Owls while investigating the important jobs they have in keeping the environment healthy. Campers will dissect an owl pellet and discover what they like to eat.

Amazing Amphibians
June 27–July 1
August 1–5
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.

Pond Patrol
July 5–8*
August 8–12
Patrol around sanctuary ponds, vernal pools, and the Ipswich River looking for basking turtles, hopping frogs, hunting herons, and splashing fish. After daily hikes, we’ll play water games, sing songs, and tell stories about our pond adventures.
*Camp will not be held on July 4; the prorated session cost is $316 for members; $391 for nonmembers.

Wildlife Detectives
July 11–15
August 15–19
Become a detective by searching for nature mysteries that our group would like to solve. During short walks with nets and terrariums in hand, observe how animals catch food, find places to rest, and move about the sanctuary.

Buggin’
July 18–22
Are all bugs insects, or are all insects bugs? Discover the answer by searching high and low for pill bugs, butterflies, grasshoppers, ladybugs, and more. Through observation, songs, and games, learn about camouflage, body structures, life cycles, and what makes a bug a bug.
INVESTIGATORS
Ages 7–8
Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm
Weekly Sessions from June 20–August 19
$395 members; $465 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.

Herpetology Time
June 20–24
July 11–15
If you like amphibians and reptiles you just might be a herpetologist. Enjoy a fun-filled week of looking for frogs, turtles, salamanders, and snakes around the sanctuary ponds, vernal pools, and the Ipswich River.

Fur, Feathers, Shells, and Scales
June 27–July 1
July 18–22
Discover the many differences between reptiles, mammals, fish, amphibians, and birds. While exploring a new, exciting location on the sanctuary each day, we’ll observe different survival adaptations of common animals, including Gray Squirrel, Painted Turtle, Canada Goose, and more. Close, in-hand study of furs, feathers, and shells will help campers make conclusions of their very own.

Animal Architects
July 5–8*
July 25–29
People are not the only animals that build structures for survival. These weeks highlight amazing animal builders. Search for beaver dams and lodges, bird nests, chipmunk dens, caterpillar cocoons, and many other examples of animal architecture.
*Camp will not be held on July 4; the prorated session cost is $316 for members; $391 for nonmembers.

Super Scientists
August 1–5
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 8–12
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.

Carnivore Camp
August 15–19
Carnivores are animals with amazing predatory adaptations that allow them to capture and eat other animals. We’ll search long for snakes and frogs and high for hawks and dragonflies to find out what these carnivores like to eat.
NATURALISTS
Ages 9–11
Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm
Weekly Sessions from June 20–August 19
$395 members; $465 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.

Island Investigation
June 20–24
July 11–15
Explore less-visited areas of the sanctuary looking and listening for wildlife. Trek over wetland boardwalks to Averill’s Island looking for a variety of woodland creatures, including Red-backed Salamanders, Barred Owls, and White-tailed Deer. We’ll also canoe the Ipswich River looking for Muskrats and Painted Turtles and spend a few hours on Perkins Island playing games and build ever-popular “gnome homes.”

Aqua Adventures
June 27–July 1
July 18–22
Each day we’ll hike to a new, different wetland, including a pond, stream, swamp, and vernal pool to seek out aquatic animals big and small. Our special aqua adventure will be canoeing the Ipswich River to Perkins Island for a day of fun games and activities about the importance of water.

Wily Wetland Predators
July 5–8*
July 25–29
What do dragonflies, otters, snakes, herons, and catfish all have in common? They’re wetland predators! Spend the week scouring wet places looking for evidence of these fascinating carnivores. We’ll get up close views of some wily wetland predators during a canoe trip on the Ipswich River.

*Camp will not be held on July 4; the prorated session cost is $316 for members; $391 for nonmembers.

Super Scientists
August 1–5
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 8–12
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 15–19
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.
**SPECIALTY CAMP PROGRAMS**

**Trekkers**

_Ages 7–10_

- June 20–July 1
- July 5–15*
- July 18–29 (two weeks)

$790 members; $865 nonmembers

_Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8_

This two-week program allows campers to visit all of the amazing locations the sanctuary has to offer, including the Rockery, vernal pool, the stone bridge and the observation tower. Spend a day learning how to paddle a canoe on the Ipswich River to Perkins Island. Once there, we'll have lunch, play games, and build gnome homes. At the end of each session, campers will play the camp favorite Predator/Prey game. *No camp on Monday, July 4; session prorated to $711 for members; $786 for nonmembers*

**Environmental Leadership for Teens (ELT)**

_Ages 12–14_

- July 18–29 (two weeks)

$790 members; $860 nonmembers

Jump-start your introduction to climate action in this two-week environmental leadership camp. Alongside your peers, learn how to identify areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, locate resources to address those vulnerabilities, and become an advocate for climate justice. You'll participate in service projects around the sanctuary, and see what climate action looks like at Mass Audubon. At the end of the session, we'll help you set goals to take on a climate action project in your own community.
Canoe Adventures
Ages 12–14
$425 members; $500 nonmembers
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 6
Participants must know how to swim. Programs are led by staff who have been trained in Water Rescue and Small Craft Safety.

Ipswich River Adventures
August 1–5
Canoeing opens up a new world that’s 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 back waters.

Further River Adventures
August 8–12
Paddle less-visited sections of the Ipswich River while searching for frogs, turtle, fish, and other animals that inhabit its banks and islands. Cool off in the river while learning watercraft safety skills. Play games and activities that focus on the importance of water and learn why the Ipswich River is one of North America’s most endangered rivers.

Counselors-in-Training (CIT)
Ages 14–16
Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm
$395 members; $465 nonmembers, per session

Topsfield
June 27–July 8
July 11–22
July 25–August 5
August 8–19

Marblehead
July 11–22
July 25–August 5

The 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 not all applicants will be selected; space is limited. For more information and an application, contact Camp Director Scott Santino at ssantino@massaudubon.org.
MARBLEHEAD PROGRAMS

Church of Saint Andrew
135 Lafayette Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

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.
EXPLORERS
Ages 7–8 & 9–11
Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm
July 18–22

$395 members; $465 nonmembers, per week
Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Nature Sleuths
July 18–22
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 25–29
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.

Nature & Art
August 1–5
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.

Counselors-in-Training: see page 8 for more info
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR CAMP
Visit  massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
Call  978-887-9264

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 2, 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 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.

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 Ipswich River Nature Camp, financial assistance is available based on demonstrated financial need and available funds. Financial Aid is limited to one session per child; however, all applications are considered and will be accepted on a rolling basis until April 30, 2022. Payment plan options are also available. Please visit massaudubon.org/campforms to download an application or contact us at ipswichcamp@massaudubon.org.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES
All camp forms, waivers, and the balance of your camp tuition are due by May 2. If registering after May 2, payment in full is required and a specific camp form deadline will be set for you. 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).

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
Our camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the Topsfield and Marblehead 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, healthcare, 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 INFO
Scott Santino, Camp Director
Ipswich River Nature Camp
87 Perkins Row Topsfield, MA 01983
978-887-9264
ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
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.

WE’RE HIRING!
For information on employment opportunities, visit massaudubon.org/jobs.

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.

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, ages 14–17
• Environmental Leadership for Teens, ages 16–17
• Family Camp, all ages!

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

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