

2022



BERKSHIRE NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.



Welcome to Berkshire Nature Camp

At Berkshire Nature Camp, campers ages 3-17 discover nature and make friends while adventuring across our wildlife sanctuaries in Lenox and Pittsfield. Through trail explorations, wildlife observation, outdoor play, hands-on activities, games, and crafts, campers connect with each other and the natural world of Massachusetts.

We are excited to offer Berkshire Nature Camp in two locations in 2022!

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is our 1,400-acre sanctuary in Lenox and has been the home of Berkshire Nature Camp for almost 80 years.

NEW! Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary is a 250-acre sanctuary with beautiful fields, forests, wetlands, and streams. Located just one mile from the center of Pittsfield, Berkshire County's largest city, Canoe Meadows is known for attracting warblers, turtles, ospreys, and beavers. See page 5 to learn more.

A DAY AT CAMP

8:45 am	Camper Drop-off & Health Screening
9:10 am	Small Group Morning Circles
9:30 am	Nature Explorations, Activities, & Crafts Using Natural Materials
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Camper Choice Time: Active Games & Quiet Activities
1:00 pm	Half-Day Camper Pick-up; Nature Explorations, Games, & Team-Building Challenges
2:45 pm	Small Group Closing Circles
3:00 pm	Camper Pick-Up

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 413-637-0320

Email berkshirecamp@massaudubon.org

Visit massaudubon.org/berkshirecamp



OUR CAMP STAFF

Our enthusiastic camp counselors provide campers with a fun and memorable summer. Staff are carefully selected based on their teaching experience, nature knowledge, and deep commitment to engaging campers with the outdoors. Many counselors were once campers themselves and have returned to share their appreciation of nature. We pride ourselves on our staff's longevity and devotion to campers' wellbeing.

All staff undergo background checks, are certified in CPR and first aid, and receive training in health and safety procedures, child development, natural history, and environmental education best practices.

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

OUR CAMP DIRECTOR

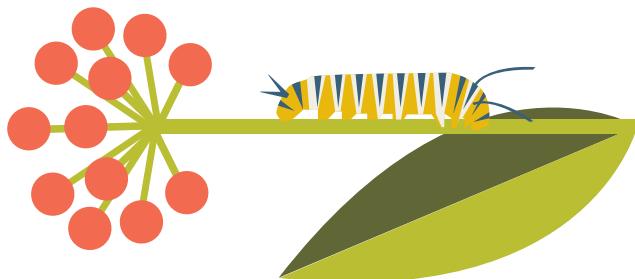
Berkshire Nature Camp's Director Max Galdos-Shapiro (they/them) is a dedicated naturalist and educator with 15 years experience in the camp field. A fervent believer in the power of summer camp to change lives, Max seeks to bring joy and reverence for the natural world into everything they do. When not working on camp, Max serves as an Education Coordinator for Mass Audubon's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, providing programming for schools throughout the county.

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.

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.



NEW!

SLIDING SCALE PRICING

Mass Audubon is committed to ensuring that every family that wants their child to experience summer camp should have the opportunity to do so. A sliding scale model helps us work toward that goal through an easy and dependable process for families. To learn more, see page 7 and visit massaudubon.org/camps.

To provide equal access to camp for everyone, we request that you register for no more than four sessions of camp 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.





HALF-DAY NATURE CAMP

KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS

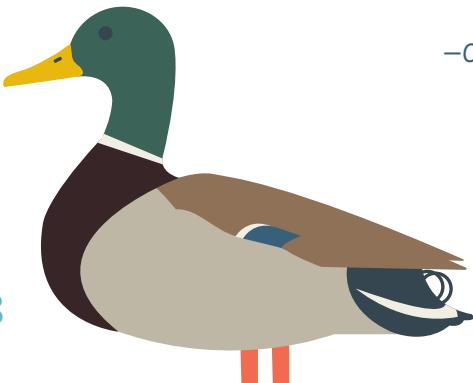
Ages 3–4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Discover the wonders of nature this summer! Explore the trails at Pleasant Valley, play games, sing songs, make crafts, and listen to stories. Counselors are specially selected based on demonstrated ability to lead younger children in the outdoors. Campers must be at least age 3 by June 1.

“ The friends he made at camp played a huge part in his enjoyment. He came home with a huge smile on his face and told us stories for hours about his new camp friends. ”

—Camp Parent



Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm
8 week-long sessions, June 27–August 19



FULL-DAY NATURE CAMP

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
8 week-long sessions, June 27–August 19

DISCOVERERS

Ages 5–6

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Nature truly is a magical place where wonder and adventure are waiting to be discovered behind each and every tree. Explore Pike's Pond, Yokun Brook, and the fields and forests at Pleasant Valley; play games; and sing camp songs. Look for pond creatures and build secret “gnome home” villages in the woods. Gain a greater connection to nature and curiosity about the outdoors, and learn how you can be a steward of the natural world.

EXPLORERS

Ages 7–9

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 7

Get curious this summer as you explore the far reaches of Pleasant Valley in search of the hidden wonders of the natural world. Be ready for days packed with new sights, sounds, smells, and games as you get to know the sanctuary’s many habitats: Hemlock forests, vernal pools, and beaver ponds await! Build survival shelters and learn to identify plants and animals. On Wednesdays, hike to the top of Lenox Mountain and on Thursdays, venture to the far reaches of Pleasant Valley’s trails where no other camp groups go.

NATURALISTS

Ages 10–13

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Discover the incredible complexity of the natural world. Explore the sanctuary off the beaten path, play games, and use real scientific techniques to investigate the outdoors. Learn how to track wildlife and recognize birds by their songs. Hike the legendary Trail of the Ledges and dive deep into the science of Pleasant Valley!



TEEN PROGRAMS

Ages 13–17

NEW! ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FOR TEENS

June 27–July 1, August 1–5

Jump-start your climate activism skills in this environmental leadership intensive. Develop leadership skills and action steps to combat climate change in your community. Alongside your peers, you’ll learn how to identify areas that are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and locate resources you can utilize to address those vulnerabilities. You’ll participate in service projects around the sanctuary, and see what climate action looks like at Mass Audubon.

At the end of your session, we’ll help you set goals to take on a climate action project of your own in your community. Connect with youth climate groups within Mass Audubon and across Massachusetts, so you can keep the momentum going!

CANOE CAMP

August 8–12

Includes trips to: Multiple sections of the Housatonic River, Buckley Dunton Lake, and Goose Pond

The Berkshires are one of the more water-rich places in North America and contain wonderfully diverse rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Explore by boat some of the most biologically unique places in the county and learn real scientific techniques such as water chemistry tests and microscopy, used to study freshwater ecosystems. Be prepared for full days on the water and get ready to see a side of the Berkshires few people ever do! Canoe Camp staff are all trained in first-aid, CPR, and small watercraft safety.



BERKSHIRE NATURE CAMP

at Canoe Meadows

NEW FOR 2022!

Join us for the return of camp to Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary!



Set along the banks of the Housatonic River, Canoe Meadows is located less than a mile from downtown Pittsfield. The sanctuary is home to a wonderful diversity of habitats including extensive fields, forests, wetlands, and the restored Sackett Brook and its floodplain forest.

PAINTED TURTLES

Ages 5–7

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Learn about plants and animals, hike the property, use your senses to explore the environment, and play with new friends. Small group size ensures that each child is heard and has opportunities to contribute.

BLUE HERONS

Ages 8–10

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 7

Work cooperatively to explore Canoe Meadow's various ecosystems, play interactive games, and dig deeper into native species' adaptations, behaviors, and food webs. Learn about our climate here in Massachusetts and how you can play a role in conserving the nature of our state.

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm
4 week-long sessions, July 4–July 29



COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

Ages 14–17

*This is a volunteer program and requires an application but does NOT include a cost

Training Date: Friday, June 24

Do you love being outdoors and working with kids? Become a Counselor-In-Training (CIT) and share your love of nature with younger campers while acquiring valuable leadership skills. CITs are a vital part of our camp program, and many go on to become full camp counselors.

An application is required and CITs must attend training on Friday, June 24. To request an application, please contact Berkshire Nature Camp Director, Max Galdos-Shapiro at 413-637-0320 or mshapiro@massaudubon.org. CIT positions are limited, so please apply early!



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Call 413-637-0320

Visit massaudubon.org/berkshirecamp

To provide equal access to camp for everyone, we request that you register for no more than four sessions of camp 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 \$50/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 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 31. After May 31 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.

SLIDING SCALE

Under the sliding scale model, every family will enroll for camp at a tuition rate based on their annual gross income. At registration, you will have the opportunity to select the pricing that best fits your family's gross income bracket. You will be asked to upload income verification documentation at a later time if you selected Tiers 1-4. Registrants at Tier 5 are not required to provide income verification. A deposit

is due at the time of registration; the final balance and all paperwork are due by May 2, 2022. If cost is still a barrier under the tiered structure, financial assistance (in the form of scholarships) is also available.

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 Tri-Town 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.

(continued)

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 Berkshire Nature Camp, financial assistance is available based on demonstrated financial need and available funds. Scholarships are 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.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION (continued)

CAMP POLICY REQUESTS

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

SESSION TRANSFERS

Sessions transfer requests will be honored if there is space available and if a request is made at least two weeks prior to your camper's session start date.

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Max Galdos-Shapiro, Camp Director

Berkshire Nature Camp
472 W Mountain Road
Lenox, MA 01240
413-637-0320

berkshirecamp@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/berkshirecamp



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



PRICING & AFFORDABILITY

Under the sliding scale model, every family will enroll for camp at a tuition rate based on their annual gross income. At registration, you will have the opportunity to select the pricing that best fits your family's gross income bracket. You will be asked to upload income verification documentation at a later time if you selected Tiers 1-4. Registrants at Tier 5 are not required to provide income verification. A deposit is due at the time of registration; the final balance and all paperwork are due by May 2, 2022. If cost is still a barrier under the tiered structure, financial assistance (in the form of scholarships) is also available.

	Tier 1 member/nonmember	Tier 2 member/nonmember	Tier 3 member/nonmember	Tier 4 member/nonmember	Tier 5 member/nonmember
Family Adjusted Gross Income	<\$50,000	\$50,000–\$74,999	\$75,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$174,999	Financial aid not requested
Knee-High Naturalists	\$56/\$126	\$140/\$210	\$182/\$252	\$246/\$316	\$280/\$350
Full-day Camp Programs	\$85/\$155	\$213/\$283	\$276/\$346	\$374/\$444	\$425/\$495
Teen Programs	\$94/\$164	\$235/\$305	\$306/\$376	\$414/\$484	\$470/\$540

*To qualify for the Member rate, you must be a current Mass Audubon member at the Family level or above and be the parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of the camper being enrolled. You may join or renew your membership at the time of registration. If you are unsure of your membership status, please call 413-637-0320.

Can't wait for summer?

School Vacation Camp

Ages 7–12

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

\$300 members,

\$365 nonmembers per week

\$63 members, \$78 nonmembers per day

Winter Adventure Vacation Week

February 21–25

Learn about wildlife that stays active in the cold and snow, and the adaptations that enable them to survive. Our COVID protocols only allow us to be inside for short warm-up breaks so warm winter clothing will be vital for a successful week. Due to this constraint, the program day will need to be shortened or cancelled if conditions are unsafe and families will receive a refund for the time missed.

Spring Explorers Vacation Week

April 18–22

Spring is a great time to experience the natural world as plants and wildlife awaken, energized and full of life. Dress for the weather; mud boots are required.



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.