

Mass Audubon's Code of Conduct for Research

No person who is not a Mass Audubon staff member can begin a research project on a Mass Audubon property without first submitting a research application and having that application approved.

Research projects shall minimize negative impacts to the organisms and habitats of the sanctuaries. Projects requiring destructive impacts to particular organisms or habitats, such as those designed to test ecological management techniques or control exotic species, will be designed to minimize collateral impacts to non-target organisms or areas.

Researchers shall comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations including those concerning the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials, the treatment of living, vertebrate animals, or requirements for working with state or federally endangered species.

Researchers shall remove all introduced materials (e.g. sampling equipment) from their site when they complete their project.

Researchers shall conduct themselves in a professional manner when conducting research on Mass Audubon sanctuaries. Any breach of the conditions in the Code of Conduct or Agreement of Permission will be grounds for immediate withdrawal of permission to carry out the research.

Research projects shall be designed to minimize negative impacts to sanctuary visitors. Researchers will likely come in contact with sanctuary visitors who may be curious about what they are doing. While researchers may not always have time to answer in much detail, we expect that researchers will address questions from visitors in an appropriately respectful and polite manner.

Researchers shall be aware of the hours of operation of the sanctuary and shall make every attempt to coordinate their schedule with the sanctuary. Exceptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the regional director.

Researchers shall provide a schedule to the sanctuary before the field season begins detailing when they plan to be at the sanctuary. They will check in with the sanctuary office when they arrive.

If a departure from their regular schedule is necessary, the researcher will contact the sanctuary beforehand to make sure that their presence will not interfere with any sanctuary programs or staff operations. This is particularly critical if the researcher needs to be present when the sanctuary is closed to visitors.