

2023

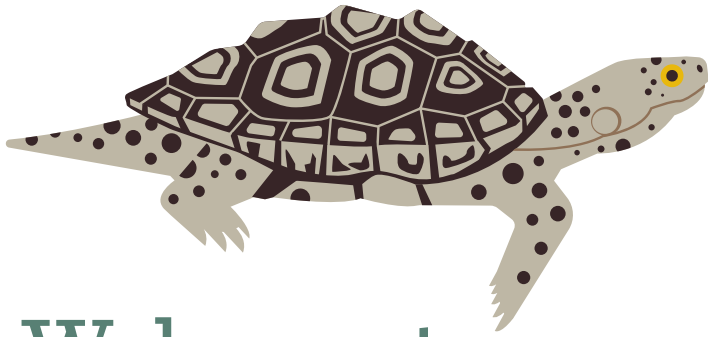


# WELLFLEET BAY NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.







# Welcome to Wellfleet Bay Nature Camp!

Wellfleet Bay Nature Camp inspires a child's lasting curiosity and excitement about nature. Campers ages 4-13 have fun and make friends as they explore the nature of Cape Cod at our 1,100-acre wildlife sanctuary. Our goals are to instill awareness and appreciation of nature, to demonstrate responsibility for the environment, and to promote nature as an accessible and inclusive place for all. Above all, we create memorable outdoor experiences for our campers.

## A DAY AT CAMP

|              |                                       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9:00 am      | Camper Drop-off & Craft Activity      |
| 9:15 am      | Morning Circle & Schedule             |
| 9:45 am      | Introduction to Daily Theme           |
| 10:15 am     | Snack (brought from home) & Bathrooms |
| 10:40 am     | Habitat Hike                          |
| 12:00 pm     | Lunch (brought from home) & Bathrooms |
| 12:30 pm     | Afternoon Games                       |
| 1:00 pm      | Science Activity                      |
| 1:00 pm      | Free Nature Play/<br>Closing Circle   |
| 2:15-2:45 pm | Camper Pick-up                        |

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Call** 508-349-2615

**Email** [wellfleetbaycamp@massaudubon.org](mailto:wellfleetbaycamp@massaudubon.org)

**Visit** [massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp](https://massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp)





## OUR CAMP STAFF

Our staff members are chosen for their enthusiasm, experience, knowledge, inclusivity, and ability to work with children in the outdoors. They are college graduates or undergraduates currently enrolled in an environmental and/or educational field of study. All are certified in first aid and CPR and participate in a pre-camp training in safety (including COVID-19 protocols), child development, and natural history.

## CAMP DIRECTOR

Morgan Peck (she/her) has been an educator with Mass Audubon since 2013 and based at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary since 2016. Throughout the year, Morgan teaches and coordinates educational nature programming for schools and visiting groups. When not teaching, Morgan helps stranded/entangled sea turtles and other marine wildlife as well as organizing local efforts to combat the climate crisis on Cape Cod with the Youth Climate Leadership Program.

## ASSISTANT CAMP DIRECTOR

Laura Baghetti (she/her) has been an educator with Mass Audubon since April 2022. During the school year, Laura teaches environmental programs to area school groups. Laura's favorite camp activity is hiking with campers to the tidal flats and making observations along the way!

## 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.

## 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 safe summers of camping for the past three years will guide us into another great summer in 2023. See page 10 for more information.

## Too Young for Camp?

Visit [massaudubon.org/programs](https://massaudubon.org/programs) to find guided programs for families with young children.

## You're Never Too Old for Camp!

See page 9 for opportunities for high school students.







## DISCOVERERS

Entering pre-K  
or Kindergarten (ages 4–5)

Discoverers must be age 4 by June 1.

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Half Day: 9:00 am–12:30 pm

Full Day: 9:00 am–2:30 pm

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The Discoverers program is designed to encourage a young child's curiosity, increase sensory awareness, and introduce nature exploration. Sessions are half-day (with a mid-morning snack brought from home) or full-day (with snack and lunch brought from home).

## ADVENTURERS

Entering Grade 1 (ages 6–7)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Half Day: 9:00 am–12:30 pm

Full Day: 9:00 am–2:30 pm

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The Adventurers program provides continued field experience and to increase a child's comfortability in nature. Using exploration, crafts, and creative games, we focus on animals and their habitats. Sessions are half day (with a mid-morning snack brought from home) or full day (with snack and lunch brought from home).



# DISCOVERERS & ADVENTURERS THEMES

## Bug Bazaar

June 26–30

Insects are all around us and a crucial part of our food webs. Get comfortable with bugs of all kinds and learn why they are such good friends to us through games and crafts. From grasshoppers to crickets, bees and butterflies, no bug is too big or small to examine.

## Earth and Sky

July 5–7\*

*\*No camp on July 3–4; session prorated accordingly*

Hunt for earthworms, watch clouds, and roam the field and forest as we explore high, low, and everywhere in between. Learn about the many wonders of nature on our big, beautiful planet.

## Mighty Mammals

July 10–14

An otter can swim, so why is it a mammal and not a fish? Discover the differences between mammals and other groups of animals like fish, birds or reptiles. Feel mammal fur, and search for the ones that make their home on Cape Cod!

## Animal Instincts

July 17–21

Think like a rabbit, hiding and hopping through the field, and hear like a deer using special ears. Nature-themed games and activities will help us understand animal behavior. Discover how different animals see, smell, hunt, hide, and travel.

## Dig It!

July 24–28

There is a world beneath your feet! Slippery salamanders, many-legged millipedes, spitting clams, and camouflaged crabs are some of the fascinating wildlife you might find on our daily explorations. Gently uncover these creatures as we play in the sand, dirt, and mud!

## Rad Reptiles

July 31–August 4

What makes reptiles and amphibians unique from their furry counterparts? Find out by investigating shed snake skin and a turtle's shell, and discover where reptiles lay their eggs. Travel to nearby ponds or vernal pools to look for salamanders and catch tadpoles, frogs, and turtles. Get wet and muddy searching for our scaly friends!

## Things with Wings

August 7–11

Hummingbirds hover, hawks soar, and dragonflies zip through the sky. Animals that fly are fun and exciting to observe. Use binoculars, nets, and bug houses to get a close look at the adaptations that allow these animals to fly so high.

## Habitat Investigators

August 14–18

Study the homes of Cape Cod's wildest residents as we trek through the sanctuary's field, forests, and wetlands. Use your sense of smell, touch, and hearing to get a closer look at our often-overlooked creatures. Keep a nature journal of what we find and have plenty of time to explore the outdoors.

## Music of Nature

August 21–25

What is that sound you hear? A bee buzzing, a bird singing, the wind rustling leaves? Use your ears to listen to all the sounds that nature makes, and understand why. We'll mimic calls, and make instruments out of natural materials to play.







## EXPLORERS

Entering grades 2–3 (Ages 7–8)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8  
9:00 am–2:45 pm

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The Explorers program emphasizes the natural history of animals and the interrelationships of all living things through observation and hands-on field activities. Sessions are full-day with time for snack and lunch.



## NATURALISTS

Entering grades 4–5 (Ages 9–10)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8  
9:00 am–2:45 pm

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The Naturalists program allows those interested in science to participate in field activities while learning methods and techniques used in wildlife conservation biology. This program also includes one weekly field trip off-site relevant to the subject being studied, as well as fun nature-based games and crafts! Sessions are full-day with time for snack and lunch.



# EXPLORERS & NATURALISTS THEMES

## Survival Specialists

June 26–30

Investigate unique adaptations that help animals and plants survive in Wellfleet Bay's diverse habitats, including a salt marsh, pond, forest, and field. Learn about specialized survival skills through games, shelter building, and more.

## Rock On!

July 5–7\*

**\*No camp on July 3–4; session prorated accordingly**

Dig deep into the history of land, soil, and rocks! Through scientific explorations and a fossil collection, you'll uncover the secrets of pebbles, boulders, and bedrock, learning where they came from, why they matter, and how they impact the ecosystem and wildlife found at Wellfleet Bay. Design your own creation inspired by the wonderful world of geology.

## Day and Night

July 10–14

What happens at Wellfleet Bay when the sun goes down? Bats, owls, muskrats, and other creatures of the night reign while daytime animals (and campers) sleep. Learn how nocturnal animals use the dark of night to their advantage.

## Bird Olympics

July 17–21

Have you ever wondered why different species of birds look so different from one another? They are the elites of the adaptation world! Determine which ones are master builders, long distance fliers, and top-level predators. Learn how to use binoculars and track different patterns and cycles of summer birds on Cape Cod.

## Into the Woods

July 24–28

Life within the pine and oak forests nearby hide some wonderful wild friends! We'll examine the leaf litter of the forest floor for box turtles, roll logs for salamanders, and listen for woodpeckers. This week, we'll use special guides to identify kinds of trees, and do leaf rubbings to learn all about this habitat.

## Carnivore Camp

July 31–August 4

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.

## Ocean in Motion

August 7–11

Why does the tide roll in and out? And what causes all the commotion in the ocean? Discover what makes the waters around Cape Cod move, and which animals and plants can live between these changing tides.

## Fascinating Food Webs

August 14–18

Organisms big and small are all connected by a web of life. Find out how our ecosystems and creatures interact and rely on one another. Use microscopes to identify some of the smallest critters and visit all the habitats that are crucial to one another.

## From Streams to Sea

August 21–25\*

**\*This week is only offered for the Explorers age group**

Explore freshwater habitats for various aquatic life, from stream to sea. Set eel traps while learning about their lifecycle, and see unique changes that these running freshwater bodies of water undergo as they empty into an estuary. Collect water specimens to observe their behaviors and adaptations.

“We loved the unique experience of attending a camp they enjoyed so much but also learned so much! It was entirely different than the other camps they are attending this summer in such a positive way. Each day they enjoyed it more than the last. And they've already begged to return next year.”

—Camp Parent







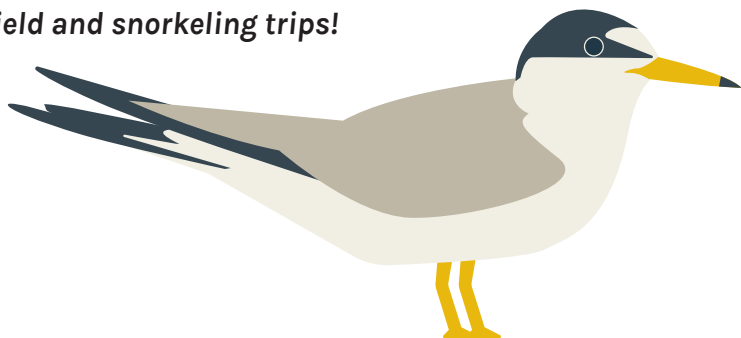
## ECOLOGISTS

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

9:00 am–2:45 pm

Ecologists go beyond basic natural history knowledge by working closely with Mass Audubon specialists and science staff to participate in inquiry-based activities, research, and ecological management studies. All sessions include opportunities to learn practical field techniques and practices for working with wildlife, as well as fun games and team-building activities to develop lasting friendships.

**Ecologists travel off-site via van for specialized field and snorkeling trips!**



## Entering Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–13)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

### Animal Artisans

June 26–July 30

**Field Trip: Kayaking Nauset Marsh**

The leaping, swimming, and soaring animals of the sanctuary will be your subjects for painting, drawing, sculpting, and more. Investigate how these animals themselves are artisans in nature as you take detailed observation of your subjects. Set out with your nature journal to help capture their likeness in clay and on canvas, and bring home a masterpiece.

### Amazing Amphibians

July 5–7\*

**No camp on July 3–4; session prorated accordingly**

**Field Trip: Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary**

Amphibians have a unique and fascinating life cycle, with some amazing adaptations! The Cape is home to many species of salamanders, frogs and toads to see. We'll explore special vernal pool habitats where these species breed, catch fowlers toads in the grasses, watch bullfrog tadpoles swim, and learn why they are the true masters of evolution.



## One Planet

July 10–14

### Field Trip: Horseshoe Crab Tagging

From our oceans here on Cape Cod, to lush rainforests in the Amazon, all habitats on earth are interconnected. The relationships between humans and wildlife are needed for survival, yet wild spaces are rapidly declining. Why do humans and shorebirds both rely on Horseshoe Crabs? How do salt marshes protect us, as well as terrapin turtles? This week, delve into some of the deep connections within our local habitats, and how we can support them!

## Nature Photography

July 17–21

### Field Trip: White Cedar Swamp

Set your focus on photographing turtles, frogs, crabs, and other Cape Cod wildlife. Bring your phone or camera to get a lesson on how to compose and capture images and then photograph wildlife both on and off the sanctuary and work with professionals in the nature photography field. You'll have the opportunity to take plenty of pictures and identify and document as many plants and animals as possible during a "bio-blitz." Showcase your work for family at the end of the week.

## Shark Enthusiasts

July 24–28

### Field Trips: Chatham Seal Cruise/AWSC Center

Immerse yourself in shark biology and marine science through hands-on labs and field trips to several local destinations. Engineer hydraulic arms to complete sampling challenges, learn about the various tags used in tracking sharks, study the anatomy of a shark by completing a shark dissection, and take a boat to observe the white shark's primary food source—seals! Offered in partnership with the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC).

## Aquatic Adventures

July 31–August 4

### Field Trip: Marine Life Cruise

Explore the outer beaches of Cape Cod and better understand the amazing impacts that the open ocean has on our habitats. Take a dive into some of the research that Mass Audubon is working on to help protect wildlife and human communities near barrier beaches. Survey coastal water-birds, pull fish pots, and go netting for microorganisms at high tide.

## Endangered Species

August 7–11

### Field Trip: Whale Watch

Cape Cod sees some of the world's most amazing creatures, but some have become a rarity to see in the wild! This week, we'll learn about Endangered Species to understand their biggest threats, and what we can do to help. From terrapin turtles to Piping Plovers to spotted salamanders, we'll part-take in some specialized projects helping strengthen these populations of animals.







# COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING

## High Schoolers (Ages 14–17)

9:00 am–2:45 pm

If you are a teen who enjoys being outside in nature, working with children, and wants to learn leadership skills, then apply to our CIT program!

Participate in training sessions and assist counselors by creating activities and helping with camp activities. You will develop leadership and educator skills while honing your natural history knowledge. CITs must participate in at least 2 sessions in order to create meaningful bonds with their camper groups and counselors. Please have your teen contact the Assistant Camp Director to request an application and set up a meeting to go over the program information to make sure this program is the right fit. To apply, please contact Laura Baghetti at [lbaggetti@massaudubon.org](mailto:lbaggetti@massaudubon.org)



## Work with us!

### Camp Staff Positions (Ages 18+)

Love nature and working with kids? Too old for camp, but still want to spend your summer at Wellfleet Bay? We're looking for you!

We hire enthusiastic people who want to enrich the lives of children. Instructors supervise campers' health and safety; promote positive youth development; teach nature-based activities, games, and crafts; and communicate with parents and other staff. Please note: current CPR/first aid certifications are required for all positions; lifeguard certification is a plus.

To apply, visit [massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp](https://massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp).





# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Visit [massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp](https://massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp)  
Call 508-349-2615

## REGISTRATION POLICY

Registration begins in January for Cape Cod Residents only (campers must provide proof of attendance to a Cape Cod school). All other registrations will open in February. Mailed registrations will be stamped with the date of receipt and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will be limited to no more than 4 sessions per camper.

## REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

A confirmation letter/email containing important documents and information will be sent once your camper's registration has been processed.

## DEPOSIT

Registration must include payment for 50% of the total camp fees and includes a nonrefundable deposit of \$75 per camper, per session. This deposit is 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.

## 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.

## 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. If you are unsure of your member status, please contact

Mass Audubon Member Services by calling 781-259-9500 or by emailing [membership@massaudubon.org](mailto:membership@massaudubon.org).

## 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 their spot is not guaranteed until all forms, waivers, and payments are completed (or a payment plan has been established).

## 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 safe summers of camping for the past three years will guide us into another great summer in 2023. 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 continue to navigate COVID-19. For the latest information on COVID-19 safety at Mass Audubon Camps, please visit [massaudubon.org/camps](https://massaudubon.org/camps).

## CAMPER REQUIREMENTS

Campers are expected to be able to follow all safety protocols, including COVID-19 policies, to be determined by the start of camp based on the latest guidelines from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Visit [massaudubon.org/camps](https://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 Wellfleet 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.

## CAMP POLICY REQUESTS

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

## AGE/BUDDY REQUESTS

You may request that your camper be placed in a group with a friend of the same age. 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 are unable to accommodate buddy requests on the first day of camp.

## SESSION TRANSFERS

Session transfer requests will be honored if there is space available and if a request is made at least two weeks prior to the session start date, after which transfers are not permitted.

## CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

Morgan Peck, Camp Director  
Wellfleet Bay Nature Day Camp  
P.O. Box 236  
291 State Highway Route 6  
South Wellfleet, MA, 02663  
508-349-2615  
[wellfleetbaycamp@massaudubon.org](mailto:wellfleetbaycamp@massaudubon.org)  
[massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp](https://massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp)





## 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 any Mass Audubon 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. Please visit [massaudubon.org/campforms](https://massaudubon.org/campforms) to download a financial aid application.



## SLIDING SCALE PRICING

Each 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 tier that best fits your family's gross income. If you select Tiers 1–3, you will be asked to upload income verification documentation at a later time. **Campers who reside on Cape Cod year-round automatically qualify for Tier 3. Proof of the camper's enrollment in a Cape Cod school district in the form of a report card, progress report, or letter from the school must accompany registration.** All other camper families will fall into Tiers 4 or 5, and do not need to provide proof of income. If cost is still a barrier under the tiered structure, financial aid is also available.

|  | Tier 1<br><i>member/nonmember</i> | Tier 2<br><i>member/nonmember</i> | Tier 3<br><i>member/nonmember</i>                                | Tier 4<br><i>member/nonmember</i>                     | Tier 5<br><i>member/nonmember</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Family Adjusted Gross Income                   | <\$50,000                         | \$50,000–\$59,999                 | \$60,000–\$89,999<br>OR camper is a year-round Cape Cod resident | \$90,000–\$129,999<br>No income verification required | No income verification required   |
| Discoverers, Adventurers, Explorers (Full-Day) | \$116/\$132                       | \$290/\$331                       | \$377/\$430  | \$493/\$563   | \$580/\$662                       |
| July 4th Week (Full-Day)                       | \$70/\$87                         | \$175/\$216                       | \$228/\$281  | \$298/\$368   | \$351/\$433                       |
| Half Day Camps (Discoverers, Adventurers)      | \$76/\$92                         | \$190/\$231                       | \$247/\$300  | \$323/\$393   | \$380/\$462                       |
| July 4th Week (Half-Day)                       | \$50/\$66                         | \$125/\$166                       | \$162/\$216  | \$212/\$282   | \$250/\$332                       |
| Trip Camps (Naturalists, Ecologists)           | \$125/\$141                       | \$312/\$353                       | \$406/\$460  | \$531/\$601   | \$625/\$707                       |
| July 4th Week (Full-Day)                       | \$76/\$92                         | \$190/\$231                       | \$247/\$300  | \$323/\$393   | \$380/\$462                       |
| Shark Enthusiasts Week                         | \$141/\$158                       | \$353/\$394                       | \$459/\$512  | \$600/\$670   | \$706/\$788                       |
| Counselors-in-Training                         | \$60/\$76                         | \$150/\$191                       | \$195/\$248  | \$255/\$325   | \$300/\$382                       |



## WE'RE HIRING!

For information on employment opportunities, visit [massaudubon.org/jobs](https://massaudubon.org/jobs).

## QUESTIONS?

Call us at 508-349-2615

Email us at [massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp](mailto:massaudubon.org/wellfleetbaycamp)

## 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](https://massaudubon.org/membership).



### *There's more to explore at Wildwood, Mass Audubon's overnight camp in New Hampshire:*

- Overnight Camp, ages 7-15
- Teen Adventure Trips, ages 14-17
- Environmental Leadership for Teens, ages 16-17
- Family Camp, all ages!

Visit [massaudubon.org/wildwood](https://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](https://massaudubon.org/kidstocamp)



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 160,000 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](https://massaudubon.org).

