

2023



ARCADIA NATURE DAY CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.



Welcome to Arcadia Nature Camp!

Camp is a special place for kids to investigate nature, play games, make friends, get a little muddy and learn ways to help protect the natural world. What better place to do this than at an incredible wildlife sanctuary?

At Arcadia Nature Camp in Easthampton, campers ages 5-18 share their excitement and curiosity about the outdoors, connect with nature, increase confidence in themselves, and spend time with friends, new and old. Our 734-acre wildlife sanctuary consists of a variety of habitats from forests, meadows, rivers, and vernal pools—the perfect setting to get inspired, learn, create, and have lots of fun!

Our child-directed camp programs allow for learning based on campers' interests in the natural world. Children will leave with a deeper feeling of understanding, belonging, and appreciation for nature. This is a place for campers of all backgrounds to feel supported, both socially and emotionally, and to feel the nourishing benefits of being outside. Our goal is that your camper will continue their own exploration and protection of nature in your neighborhood and beyond. Working together, we will inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

Our camp takes place almost exclusively outside, with the exception of handwashing/bathroom use or in the event of inclement weather.

A DAY AT CAMP

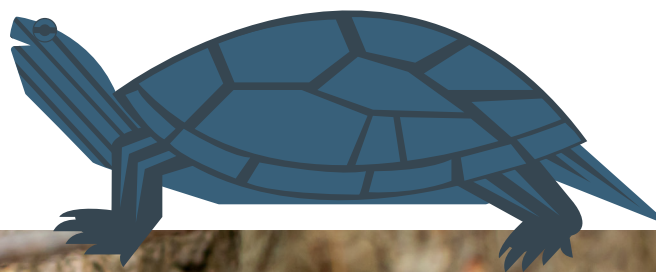
9:00–9:15 am	Camper Drop-off and Games
9:30 am	Opening Circle, Daily Nature Theme Introduction, Mystery, and Riddle
10:00 am	Snack
10:30 am	Morning Hike and Activities
12:00 pm	Lunch, Games, and Stories
12:45 pm	Choice Time: Game, Craft, or Nature Play
1:45 pm	Theme-based Activity Time
2:45 pm	Closing Circle
3:00 pm	Camper Pick-up

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 413-584-3009

Email arcadiacamp@massaudubon.org

Visit massaudubon.org/arcadiacamp



CAMP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Camp Director Tim Donner (he/him) is a dedicated educator and naturalist with over 20 years of teaching experience. This will be his first summer at Arcadia and he is excited to help facilitate the incredible camps that happen at the sanctuary. Tim looks forward to combining his appreciation for nature with his commitment to getting kids learning through hands on self-discovery. Tim's favorite part of camp is watching campers bring their authentic selves to camp where they follow their curiosity, have those "Aha!" moments, and create lifelong memories.

Assistant Camp Director Kim Hoff (she/her) has been in this role with Arcadia Nature Camp since 2019. Kim's favorite parts of camp are overseeing the CIT program and watching campers gain confidence in themselves within the natural world. In the off-camp season, Kim is an Education Coordinator and K-12 educator at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. She develops curriculum and teaches nature programs to school groups at Arcadia and in classrooms. Kim is also a nature writer, with essays published in several natural history magazines and online journals. Through Mass Audubon, she teaches nature writing classes statewide for adults. Kim has an MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England.

OUR CAMP STAFF

Our caring, well-prepared camp staff are actively engaged in teaching and playing with campers. Camp staff bring their enthusiasm for outdoor exploration, a desire to facilitate learning, and a compassionate heart for children. This specialized team works to foster a sense of community among campers and individual connections with nature. Summer staff are carefully selected based on their enthusiasm, teaching experience, natural history knowledge, and deep commitment to engaging campers with nature. All undergo background and reference checks, are certified in CPR and first aid, and attend an intensive training program that includes child development, natural history, environmental education best practices, safety procedures, and COVID-19 protocols prior to the start of camp.

SLIDING SCALE PRICING

Mass Audubon is committed to ensuring that every family that wants their child to experience summer camp has the opportunity to do so. A sliding scale model helps us work toward that goal through an easy and dependable process for families. If cost is still a barrier under the sliding scale structure, financial assistance is also available. See page 7 to learn more.

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 camps will guide us into another great summer in 2023. See page 6 for more information.

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 and supporting the unique contributions of each community member.



NATURE CAMPS



“ Arcadia has helped shape my daughter into someone who is confident and skilled in the woods... and in life! Through her experiences at Arcadia, she has a strong connection to and love for nature. ”

– 2022 Camp Parent



Arcadia Nature Camp offers unique, age-appropriate camp programs for ages 5–12, as well as specialty programs for ages 11–15. Each day of camp has a primary nature theme and includes hands-on investigations, habitat exploration, searching for animals big and small, nature crafts, games, and fun!

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

Hummingbirds

Ages 5–6 (entering grades K–1)

One-week sessions: June 26–30, July 3–7, August 7–11, August 14–18

Two-week sessions: July 10–21, July 24–August 4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

This program is a perfect place to encourage your camper's curiosity, increase their sensory awareness and provide a safe space for engaging in nature connection. Your camper will explore Arcadia's diverse habitats and learn about the plants and animals that call this special place home. Join us for hikes, games, crafts, scavenger hunts, storytelling, and creative play!

Kingfishers

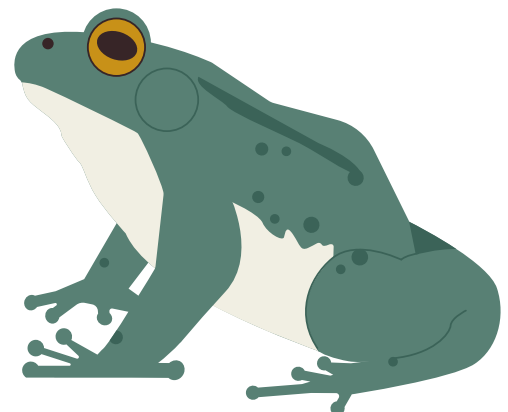
Ages 7–9 (entering grades 2–4)

One-week Sessions: June 26–30, July 3–7, August 7–11, August 14–18

Two-week Sessions; July 10–21, July 24–August 4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Be ready for days packed with new sights, sounds, smells, and games as you explore the sanctuary's many habitats. Investigate the hidden corners of Arcadia, including the clay pits and the always active edges of streams and rivers. Learn to use a net to safely catch frogs, grasshoppers, and other insects and learn about field marks that help us identify the animals we find. Through crafts and activities, piece together the web of life to better understand the meaning of “community” on a variety of levels.



NATURE CAMPS (continued)

Great Blue Herons

Ages 10–12 (entering grades 4–6)

One-week Sessions: June 26–30, July 3–7, August 7–11, August 14–18

Two-week Sessions; July 10–21, July 24– August 4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Explore the nooks and crannies of Arcadia as you search for plants and animals and the unique adaptations that help them thrive. Participate in real research projects, which might include monitoring vernal pools, identifying and recording animal tracks, or surveying bird boxes to see what species are using them. Climb aboard canoes and paddle the wetlands and waterways of Arcadia and see this special place from a unique and new perspective. Spend a day on a special expedition to nearby Mount Tom State Reservation where you will compare and contrast this natural area to Arcadia.

**Please note that families will need to provide drop-off and pick-up for their campers at Mount Tom for the day trip.*

Fireflies

Ages 6–12 (entering grades 1–6)

One-week session: August 21–25

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5 (age 6)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8 (ages 7 and older)

Sign up for this final week of camp and celebrate all things wild and wonderful! Each day will highlight a local nature theme such as mammals, things with wings, or fabulous fungi. Mornings will focus on nature exploration and investigating parts of the sanctuary, while afternoons will include crafts and games. For our last week of camp, campers will start and end the day as one large group and then spend the majority of the day in smaller groups with similar-aged campers.

Photography Camp

Ages 11–15 (entering grades 6–10)

One-week sessions: July 31–August 4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

Learn how to use a digital camera to take awesome nature photographs and create your own nature journal. While developing your photographic eye, hike the trails and search for that perfect nature image, then review your images with fellow campers. Learn photography tips and techniques, and of course play some of our most popular nature games.

Families will receive a slideshow of camper photos after the camp session. Campers must bring their own digital cameras or smartphones.



“ Arcadia has a wonderful staff doing excellent, progressive environmental and social education for all ages of kids! The days are full and our 8-year-old camper was positively glowing at the end of each day. Well done! ”

— 2022 Camp Parent



NATURE CAMPS (continued)



“He came home so excited. At home he was playing more outside even during his allotted screen time.”

— 2022 Camp Parent



Stayin' Alive

Ages 11–15 (entering grades 6–10)

One-week sessions: July 10–14

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

Can you name 10 items that you should carry when going on an adventure outside? What are three elements a fire needs to stay lit? Come join us as we learn the skills needed to be safe while venturing in nature. Learn skills to help you navigate trails, minimize your impact on the landscape, and create makeshift shelter buildings to help you elevate your outdoor skills and deepen your connection to the landscape around you.

Environmental Leadership for Teens (ELT)

Ages 11–15 (entering grades 6–10)

One-week session: August 7–11

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

Become a climate change leader! Find your voice, have fun with others who care, and help your community. Throughout the session, campers will learn how to design and carry out a climate action project while experiencing the best that summer camp has to offer: hikes to the far edges of the sanctuary, going on a canoe adventure, team-building activities, games, imaginative play, and more. You will leave with a sense of hope and the tools you need to be climate change leader in your communities and beyond.

Counselors-in-Training (CIT)

Ages 14–18 (entering grades 9–12)

Counselors-in-Training gain valuable leadership skills throughout the summer while assisting camp staff with daily tasks and camp activities. CITs are enthusiastic role models who enjoy sharing their love of nature while working with campers ages 5–9 in either our Hummingbirds or Kingfishers camps.

Prospective CITs must complete a short application and have a meeting with the Assistant Camp Director to go over the program, the role CITs play as part of the camp team, and make sure the program is a good fit. Once accepted, all CITs will be invited to attend an in-person training at the start of the summer and will assist with 3–4 weeks of camp.

To apply or if you have questions, please email Kim Hoff at khoff@massaudubon.org

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Call 413-584-3009

Visit massaudubon.org/arcadiacamp

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

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

DEPOSIT

A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required to register for each camp. The deposit will be applied to your camp tuition and cannot be transferred to another camper, family, or camp location. 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.

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 emailing 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).

CAMPER REQUIREMENTS

Campers are expected to be able to follow all safety protocols, including COVID-19 policies, which will 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 most up-to-date 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 Easthampton 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.

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 your camper's session start date, after which time transfers are not permitted.

CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

Tim Donner, Camp Director
Arcadia Nature Day Camp
127 Combs Road, Easthampton, MA 01027
413-584-3009 ext. 4814
arcadiacamp@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/arcadiacamp



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 to download a financial aid application.



SLIDING SCALE PRICING

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 tier that best fits your family's gross income. If you select Tiers 1-4, you will be asked to upload income verification documentation at a later time. Registrants at Tier 5 do not need to provide income verification. A deposit is due at the time of registration; the final balance and all paperwork are due by May 15. If cost is still a barrier under the tiered structure, financial aid is also available.

	<i>Tier 1</i> member/nonmember	<i>Tier 2</i> member/nonmember	<i>Tier 3</i> member/nonmember	<i>Tier 4</i> member/nonmember	<i>Tier 5</i> member/nonmember
Family Adjusted Gross Income	<\$50,000	\$50,000–\$74,999	\$75,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	No income verification required
One-week sessions: Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Fireflies	\$86/\$102	\$215/\$256	\$280/\$333	\$366/\$435	\$430/\$512
One-week sessions: Great Blue Herons & ELT	\$90/\$106	\$225/\$266	\$293/\$346	\$383/\$452	\$450/\$532
Two-week sessions: Hummingbirds & Kingfishers	\$172/\$188	\$430/\$471	\$559/\$612	\$731/\$801	\$860/\$942
Two-week sessions: Great Blue Herons	\$180/\$196	\$450/\$491	\$585/\$638	\$765/\$835	\$900/\$982
Photography Camp & Stayin' Alive	\$103/\$119	\$258/\$299	\$335/\$388	\$438/\$507	\$515/\$597
CIT	\$25	\$63	\$81	\$106	\$125

WE'RE HIRING!

For information on employment opportunities, visit massaudubon.org/jobs.

QUESTIONS?

Call us at 413-584-3009

Email us at massaudubon.org/arcadiacamp

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.



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 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



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.

