

2023



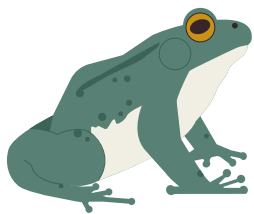
# BLUE HILLS NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.

at Chickatawbut Hill







# Welcome to Blue Hills Nature Camp

Our unique location atop scenic Chickatawbut Hill in Milton gives our camp access to the largest open space within 35 miles of Boston, the 7,000-acre Blue Hills Reservation. Campers ages 5-15 are invited to discover nature through hands-on exploration, creating art, and hiking the trails. Each session features age-appropriate activities intended to deepen a child's understanding and awareness of the natural world. Small camp groups and experienced, caring staff create a friendly and safe atmosphere on "the hill."

## A DAY AT CAMP

8:30 am	Camper Drop-off & games
9:00 am	Opening Circle & small group activities
10:00 am	Snack
10:30 am	Hikes and nature exploration
11:30 am	Group exploration
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Activities, games, and art
2:30 pm	Closing Circle
3:00-3:15 pm	Camper pick-up
3:30-5:30 pm	After Camp Program (optional)

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Call** 617-804-7506

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

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





## OUR CAMP STAFF

Our caring, well-prepared counselors are actively engaged in teaching and playing with campers. All staff members bring their enthusiasm for outdoor exploration, a desire to educate, and a compassionate heart for children. Counselors are 18 years of age or older. Junior counselors are at least 16 years of age.

The majority of our staff have previously been with Blue Hills as campers or counselors. Our staff have a wide range of backgrounds and interests and they bring together their passion for working with kids and nature to create an inclusive and welcoming community.

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.

## OUR CAMP DIRECTOR

Laney Marcotte (she/her) is excited to return for her second year as director of Blue Hills Nature Camp. Laney has extensive experience working with children of all ages. For the past eight years, she has worked in outdoor education, summer camps, and environmental education programs all over the U.S., including leading 40-day, overnight camping trips in the backcountry. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Bucknell University and a M.S. in Environmental Education from Southern Oregon University.

## 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 6 to learn more.

## 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 to work toward the 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.





# NATURE CAMP

Ages 5–13

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Monday–Friday | 8:30 am–3:00 pm

**Weekly sessions:** June 19–August 18

**Mini-Camp:** July 5–7

*(Please note that there will be no camp on July 3–4)*

## WEEKLY THEMES

### Avian Adventures

June 19–23 and July 24–28

### Amazing Animal Adaptations

June 26–30 and July 31–August 4

### The World of Plants

July 10–14 and August 7–11

### Wildlife Detectives

July 17–21 and August 14–18

## MINI-CAMP

July 5–7

Explore the beauty and diversity of our natural world through hikes, art, and games. Create recycled art projects, search for animal tracks, and learn how we can protect and care for our amazing planet.





# CHICKADEES

Ages 5–7 (Grades K–1)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Campers experience the wonders of nature through hands-on exploration, games, stories, songs, crafts, and short hikes to discover the wildlife of the Blue Hills. Campers discover food webs and habitats and how they influence the wild animals that live all around us.



# NATURALISTS

Ages 7–9 (Grades 2–3)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Grab a magnifying glass, a bug net, and a field guide and learn to be a naturalist! Campers in this age group investigate the many habitats and animals at Blue Hills through active learning, creative play, science experiments, and hikes. We'll learn more about the natural world of the Blue Hills, and discover how we can be naturalists in our own neighborhoods.



# EXPLORERS

Ages 9–11, (Grades 4–5)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Explorers head out to investigate Blue Hills' varied ecosystems, awesome views, and amazing wildlife. As experienced hikers, Explorers head to new destinations for even bigger adventures as they play games, develop science experiments, and learn more about the human and natural history of the Blue Hills Reservation.



# ADVENTURERS

Ages 11–13 (Grades 6–8)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Lace up your hiking boots and get ready for adventure! Leadership and adventure combine for this challenging and interactive camp experience where campers learn team-building and outdoor skills as they explore the expansive Blue Hills Reservation and its diverse habitats.



# Counselors-in-Training (CIT)

Ages 14–15

Required Training: June 26–30

8:30 am–3:30 pm

If you're a teen who enjoys being outside in nature, working with children, and wants to learn leadership skills, then our CIT program is for you! Learn what it takes to be a camp counselor. Gain leadership skills, hands-on training, and learn to develop activities and lesson plans. CITs will be required to attend the training sessions from June 26–30. CITs may then volunteer during the summer, working directly with counselors and campers. Please note that CITs must be able to volunteer for a minimum of two weeks during the summer to be eligible for the program.

Admission is by application only. Contact the Camp Director, Laney Marcotte, at [lmarcotte@massaudubon.org](mailto:lmarcotte@massaudubon.org) or call 617-333-0690 ext. 5226 to request an application.

CITs will only pay for their training week, June 26–June 30. See page 7 for pricing. The remainder of the summer will be on a volunteer basis and is eligible for community service hours.



## After Camp Program

Pre-registration is required and can be added when registering online for regular camp sessions. To add the after camp program post-registration, please call or email the camp office.

3:30–5:30 pm



“My kids loved the camp and were so happy each day. They are sad their week is over. They loved everything from the hikes, learning about animals & nature, arts & crafts, games and counselors. They made new friends and had an absolute blast.”

“Blue Hills is one of our favorites. My child feels so proud when he completes a long hike.”

—2022 Camp Families





# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Visit [massaudubon.org/bluehillscamp](https://massaudubon.org/bluehillscamp)  
Call 617-804-7506

## REGISTRATION POLICY

To ensure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to explore and make memories at camp this summer, families may register each camper for no more than four weeks of camp. Families may join the waitlist to request extra weeks. We also encourage you to sign up for another of Mass Audubon's nature day camps in the Metro South region: Stony Brook Nature Camp in Norfolk, Moose Hill Nature Camp in Sharon, and Wild At Art Nature Camp at the Museum of American Bird Art in Canton. Learn more at [massaudubon.org/camps](https://massaudubon.org/camps).

## REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

A confirmation letter/email 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 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 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, 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](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 Milton 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.

## 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

Sessions 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 time transfers are not permitted.

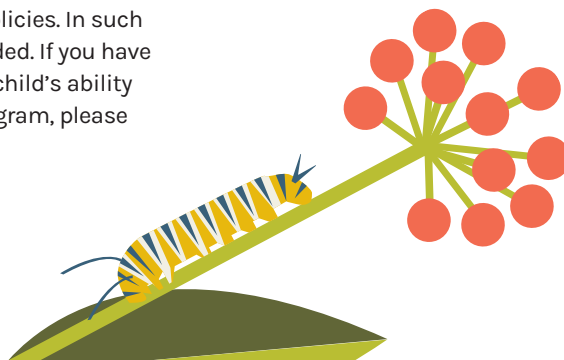
## CAMP CONTACT INFORMATION

Laney Marcotte, Camp Director

Blue Hills Nature Camp  
1904 Canton Avenue  
Milton, MA 02186

617-333-0690 ext. 5226

[bluehillscamp@massaudubon.org](mailto:bluehillscamp@massaudubon.org)  
[massaudubon.org/bluehillscamp](https://massaudubon.org/bluehillscamp)





## 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

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><b>Tier 1</b></i> member/nonmember	<i><b>Tier 2</b></i> member/nonmember	<i><b>Tier 3</b></i> member/nonmember	<i><b>Tier 4</b></i> member/nonmember	<i><b>Tier 5</b></i> member/nonmember
<b>Family Adjusted Gross Income</b>	<b>&lt;\$60,000</b>	<b>\$60,000–\$94,999</b>	<b>\$95,000–\$119,999</b>	<b>\$120,000–\$159,999</b>	<b>No income verification required</b>
<b>Nature Camp</b>	\$90/\$106	\$225/\$266	\$293/\$346	\$383/\$453	\$450/\$533
<b>Mini-Camp July 5-7</b>	\$54/\$63	\$135/\$160	\$175/\$207	\$230/\$272	\$270/\$319
<b>After Camp (per week)</b>	\$19/\$36	\$48/\$89	\$62/\$116	\$81/\$150	\$95/\$165
<b>After Camp (per day)</b>	\$5/\$22	\$13/\$54	\$16/\$70	\$21/\$91	\$25/\$95

## WE'RE HIRING!

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

## WHERE TO FIND US

### Blue Hills Trailside Museum

1904 Canton Avenue  
Milton, MA 02186

[massaudubon.org/bluehillscamp](https://massaudubon.org/bluehillscamp)

## QUESTIONS?

Call us at **617-804-7506**

Email us at [bluehillscamp@massaudubon.org](mailto:bluehillscamp@massaudubon.org)

## 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).





## BLUE HILLS RESERVATION

The Blue Hills Reservation is the largest open space within 35 miles of Boston, encompassing more than 7,000 acres. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) manages this property for the public to enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, boating, and more. Operated in partnership with DCR, Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum is the interpretive center for the Blue Hills Reservation and features a natural history museum and outdoor exhibits of native wildlife.



## 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)



### *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.



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).

