

2023



# FERN & FEATHER NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.





# Welcome to Fern & Feather Nature Camp

Every day is an adventure at Felix Neck on Martha's Vineyard! Campers ages 5-14 get outdoors and learn about nature through trail explorations on our 350-acre wildlife sanctuary, hands-on activities, themed games, and more. At Felix Neck, our goals are to inspire awareness and appreciation of nature and promote a sense of place, where nature is accessible and inclusive for all. Above all, we strive to create memorable outdoor experiences for our campers and engage in three leading concepts:

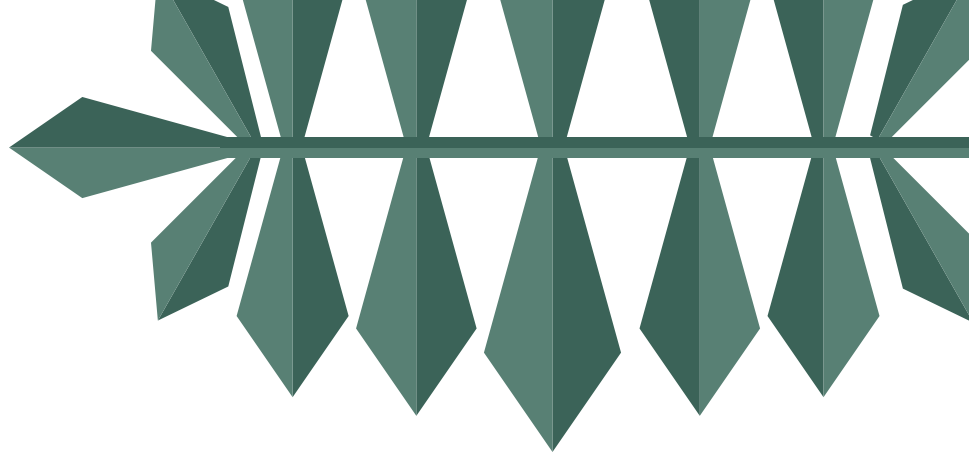
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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Call** 508-627-4850

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

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



## COMMUNITY

Campers feel comfortable to try new things and make new friends in our welcoming, supportive community.

## INTERDEPENDENCE

Campers learn about natural cycles and the interconnectedness of people, wildlife, and habitats.

## STEWARDSHIP

Campers discover how they can care for the world around them as they learn about the importance of wild spaces and demonstrate responsibility for the environment.



## HOW TO REGISTER

Registration begins January 17 for year-round Martha's Vineyard residents only. All other registrations may begin on or after January 24. Each camper receives a camp t-shirt, a camp patch, and a group photo, included in the price. 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 4 weeks of camp.

Visit [massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp](https://massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp) to register online or call 508-627-4850.

## NEW! 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 9 to learn more.

## 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 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.

## CAMP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Sydney Pigott (she/her) is a new addition to the Felix Neck team and has many years of experience as an environmental educator and naturalist. She is Island-born and cherishes the unique wildlife found on Martha's Vineyard. During the school year, she loves engaging with students while leading school programs for all ages, exploring the wonders of the natural world.

Josey Kirkland (she/her) is excited about her eleventh summer working with Mass Audubon! Throughout the year, Josey manages the education efforts for Mass Audubon Islands with a big focus on climate justice and accessibility. Outside of work, Josey is a big fan of swimming in the ocean, hanging out with all her animals, and cooking.



### Too Young for Camp?

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

## A DAY AT CAMP

8:45–9:15 am	Camper Drop-off & Choice Time
9:15 am	Morning Circle
9:30–10:30 am	Nature Theme Intro & Snack
10:30 am–12:00 pm	Activities & Explorations
12:00–12:45 pm	Lunch & Story Time
12:50–2:15 pm	Activities, Crafts & Games
2:15–2:45 pm	Camper Pick-up

## 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 8 for more information.





# PATHFINDERS

**Ages 5–6**

Monday–Friday 9:00 am–2:30 pm

The Pathfinders program balances play, art, sensory exploration, and hands-on activities as campers discover nature. Activities include hiking, nature-themed games, making crafts, exploring with nets, and storytelling.

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

## Senses of Nature

**June 26–30**

Look, listen, smell, and touch as we roam the outdoors using our senses. Discover local creatures that have special abilities: a butterfly's feet, a deer's ears, and a crab's camouflage. Get even closer to nature this week by using more than just your eyes in the field.

## Earth and Sky

**July 3–7**

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.

## Wet and Wild

**July 10–14, August 7–11**

Discover the ins and outs of Felix Neck's water habitats. While splashing around in our freshwater and saltwater ponds, take a close look at the plants and animals that call them home.

## Backwoods Explorers

**July 17–21, August 14–18**

Make a pair of binoculars, grab a map and compass, and hit the trails to explore Felix Neck! Discover different wildlife species and learn about their various survival techniques.

## Fur, Feathers, Shells, and Scales

**July 24–July 28**

Discover the many differences between reptiles, mammals, fish, amphibians, and birds by visiting different habitats within the sanctuary including the forest, field, pond, and salt marsh.

## Dig It!

**July 31–August 4**

Bugs, slugs, snakes, and centipedes—if it's slippery or wriggly, we'll find it! Roll logs, rake leaves, and sift dirt to uncover the hidden critters that live just under our feet!



“ ‘I love camp so much I wish I lived there,’ says our daughter. LOL ”

—Camp Parent







# EXPLORERS

**Ages 7–8**

Monday–Friday 9:00 am–2:30 pm

Explorers investigate and interact with different plants and animals, furthering campers' connection to the natural world.

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

## Bold and Bright

**June 26–30**

Search for the brightest flower, the most vibrant bird, and other unique patterns and markings as you discover the importance of color in nature. Draw, paint, or create the beautiful nature you see. From camouflage to toxic warnings, an organism's color can tell you a lot about them and how they interact with the ecosystem around them.

## Metamorphosis Magic

**July 3–7**

Are you fascinated by certain creatures' amazing ability to transform? Learn all about different animals' ability to change: butterflies and moths, dragonflies, tadpoles, and even mosquitos!

## Ocean in Motion

**July 10–14**

Why does the tide roll in and out? And what's all the commotion in the ocean? Discover what makes the waters around the Island move, and which animals and plants live beneath the waves by getting wet in our saltwater habitats.

## Bug Bazaar

**July 17–21**

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

## Predators!

**July 24–28**

Ospreys, garter snakes, and giant water bugs! Discover the cunning strategies these predators use to survive, and find out how we fit into nature's predator/prey dynamic. Take a close look at animal skulls to determine the different characteristics of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.

## Winged Wonders

**July 31–August 4**

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different kinds of birds? 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 Martha's Vineyard.

## Swamp Romp

**August 7–11**

What is life like for insects, amphibians, and reptiles that live in a muddy, squishy swamp? Get dirty building mud huts, rolling logs, and learning how to safely handle critters from the swamp like diving beetles, frogs, and slugs.

## Day and Night

**August 14–18**

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





# ADVENTURERS

**Ages 9–11**

Monday–Friday \* 9:00 am–2:30 pm

Adventurers dive deeper into nature with hiking, nature experiments, games, and more. Programs for this age group also include snorkeling and an overnight campout at the sanctuary.

*\*Adventurers enjoy an overnight campout on Thursday night with a 9:00 am pick-up on Friday morning (no camp on Friday).*

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

## Swamp Romp

**July 3–7**

Dive into the wonders of wetlands! Reveal hidden frogs and fish and search for a really big snapping turtle. Head to the ponds with dip nets to look for dragonfly nymphs and other small critters. Enjoy all of the “pondemonium” Felix Neck has to offer.

## Animal Architects

**July 10–14**

Would you make your home at the tip-top of a tree, in a burrow beneath the roots, or in a crack between plates of bark? Explore the many places that animals call home throughout the sanctuary and discover how critters big and small overcome the challenges of different habitats and share resources in an ecosystem.

## Tracks, Traces, and Secret Places

**July 17–21**

Take a walk on the wild side this week as you search for tracks, scat, and secret hiding places along Felix Neck’s trails. Conduct sensory experiments to find out how animals communicate with each other and move about in their surroundings. Examine real animal artifacts such as wings and skulls and learn about unique adaptations that help our local wildlife survive.

## Marine Life Mania

**July 24–28**

Gain new understanding of the island’s marine communities, including Sengekontacket Pond, Nantucket Sound, and the salt marsh. Compare

whales, sharks, and dolphins and their various adaptations by looking at real life specimens. Use seine nets and fish traps to get an up-close look at some of our amazing oceanic creatures.

## Earth Heroes

**July 31–August 4**

Do you like the outdoors and care about wildlife? Learn to be a hero of the earth: Hike trails without leaving a trace, create art with recycled materials, and help with invasive species removal.

## Rock On!

**August 7–11**

Dig deep into a million-year 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 Felix Neck. Design your own creation inspired by the wonderful world of geology.







# ECOLOGISTS

**Ages 12–14**

Monday–Friday\* 9:00 am–2:30 pm

**Ecologists participate in inquiry-based projects that introduce the methods and techniques scientists use to study and interpret nature. Programs for this age group include citizen science research, snorkeling, kayaking, and an overnight campout\* at the sanctuary.**

*\*Ecologists enjoy an overnight campout on Thursday night with a 9:00 am pick-up on Friday morning (no camp on Friday).*

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

## Natural Neighbors

**July 3–7**

Discover the planet's most powerful pairs in this exploration of natural relationships. Take a close look at pollinators and flowers, trees and fungi, and lichens (which are actually a partnership between two organisms) to uncover the teamwork behind their success. Then, put your camp group's ability to work together

to the test with games and challenges that will require you to think like these dynamic nature duos!

## Mission: Decomposition

**July 10–14**

Why does the salt marsh smell so weird? What's the muck at the bottom of the pond? Decomposition (the process that creates broken-down dead stuff) is an extremely important part of any healthy habitat. Examine the science behind why we need decomposers and "minibeasts" in our ecosystem. From mushrooms to insects and from snails to fossils, follow small creatures who will show you what was once alive.

## Pollinator Power

**July 17–21**

From birds to butterflies to bees, investigate the adaptations that make pollinators unique from other animals. Learn to grow and nurture plants to bring home for your own garden, build feeders, and learn what makes this group of animals so important to our world.

## Rad Raptors

**July 24–28**

See all the wonders of our island's predatory birds: Examine their

specialized eyes, beaks, and wings to discover what makes them such successful hunters. Explore owls, osprey, hawks, and their prey sources to learn how they all fit together in the web of life.

## Soil to Sky

**July 31–August 4**

Explore the world around you one layer at a time, investigating from deep beneath your feet to high in the sky. Discover the cycles that link the rocks to the trees, the fungi to the air, and even the tiniest soil microbes to the largest bird of prey.

## Climate Pirates: Sailing Towards Sustainability

**August 7–11**

The climate is changing and we need to do some positive re-arranging! Imagine sailing across the seven seas, charting new territories, surveying the land and its abundant resources. How can we use these resources respectfully and responsibly to create a sustainable, eco-conscious existence here? Learn about simple ways we can reduce our impact on our home planet. Onward, Climate Pirates!



# COME WORK WITH US!

## COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

### Ages 14–16

Monday–Friday 9:00 am–2:30 pm

Our Counselors-In-Training (CIT) program gives teens an opportunity to develop leadership skills and an environmental ethic that will last a lifetime. CITs assist counselors in planning and teaching lessons and can participate for multiple weeks.

*Please note: Counselor-in-training is not a paid position. See page 9 for pricing. An application is required to be considered for the CIT program. Visit [massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp](https://massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp) to download an application form.*

## CAMP STAFF POSITIONS

### Ages 16+

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

- **Environmental Educators/Counselors (Ages 18+)**
- **Assistant Day Camp Counselor (Ages 16+)**

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.*

“The staff have been absolutely amazing!!! We are so thankful for their kind and professional leadership, for involving and engaging our son in interesting and fun activities, and for their positive encouragement. We're looking forward to our son participating in more weeks of camp this summer!”

—Camp Parent

## 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).





# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Visit [massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp](https://massaudubon.org/felixneckcamp)

Call 508-627-4850

## REGISTRATION POLICY

Registration begins January 17 for year-round Martha's Vineyard residents only. All other registrations may begin on or after January 24. Each camper receives a camp t-shirt, a camp patch, and a group photo, included in the price.

## 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 \$100/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 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 a nonrefundable deposit of \$100, 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 Edgartown 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

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.

**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)



## 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. Campers who reside on Martha's Vineyard year-round qualify for Tier 3 without proof of income. Proof of the camper's enrollment in a Martha's Vineyard school district in the form of a report card, progress report, or letter from the school must accompany registration. All other camper families must provide proof of income for Tier 1-4. 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.

	<b>Tier 1</b> <i>member/non-member</i>	<b>Tier 2</b> <i>member/non-member</i>	<b>Tier 3</b> <i>member/non-member</i>	<b>Tier 4</b> <i>member/non-member</i>	<b>Tier 5</b> <i>member/non member</i>
<b>Family Adjusted Gross Income</b>	<b>&lt;\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000–\$74,999</b>	<b>\$75,000–\$99,999</b>	<b>\$100,000–\$149,999</b>	<b>No income verification required</b>
<b>Pathfinders &amp; Explorers</b>	\$110/\$127	\$275/\$316	\$357/\$411	\$468/\$538	\$550/\$632
<b>Adventurers &amp; Ecologists</b>	\$120/\$137	\$300/\$341	\$390/\$444	\$510/\$580	\$600/\$682
<b>Counselor-in-Training</b>	\$50/\$67	\$125/\$166	\$163/\$216	\$213/\$283	\$250/\$332





# Vacation Week Programs!



## Kindergarten–Grade 5

Turn out-of-school time into out-of-doors time at our Vacation Week programs in February and April.

### February Vacation Week

**February 28–March 3**

Single-day Options: Tuesday–Friday,  
10:00 am–2:00 pm

Registration required; \$10 discount when you sign your child up for all four days.

**\$82/day members; \$92/day nonmembers**

### April Vacation Week

**April 17–21**

10:00 am–2:00 pm

Registration required

**\$350 members; \$400 nonmembers**

For more information, including daily themes, and to register visit [massaudubon.org/felixneck](https://massaudubon.org/felixneck) or call 508-627-4850.



*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).

