

2023



IPSWICH RIVER NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.

Topsfield & Marblehead





Welcome to Ipswich River Nature Camp!

Ipswich River Nature Camp gives campers ages 5-11 a unique opportunity to learn about nature, meet new friends, and have fun outside. Our knowledgeable staff encourages an educational, non-competitive camp environment for memories that will last a lifetime.

A DAY AT CAMP

8:30 am	Camper Drop-off and Games
8:45 am	Opening Circle
9:30 am	Morning Hike and Activities
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm	Game, Craft, or Nature Play
1:45 pm	Theme-Based Activity Time
2:45 pm	Closing Circle; After Camp
3:00 pm	Pick up Time

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 978-887-9264

Email ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org

Visit massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp



OUR CAMP STAFF

Ipswich River Nature Camp staff take pride in offering a fun, caring, organized, and educational program. Staff are carefully selected for their competence in outdoor education and leadership. Counselors have teaching experience and a commitment to educating children about nature. All staff undergo background checks and receive training in health and safety procedures, child development, natural history, and environmental education best practices prior to the start of camp.

CAMP DIRECTORS

This is Gabby LaRiviere's (she/her) first summer as Camp Director at Ipswich River, where she is also a new member of Mass Audubon's year-round education team, coordinating and teaching youth education programs, scout groups, and public programs for families. Gabby graduated from Saint Michael's College with a dual degree in Environmental Science and Education and is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Nonprofit Management & Leadership from Regis University. Gabby resides on the North Shore and grew up spending her summers as a camper and counselor. Her favorite camp activities are searching for blue-spotted salamanders and creating nature art.

Maura Genova (she/her) began working with Mass Audubon in 2015. Maura works as a Preschool Teacher at the Ipswich River Preschool, as well as a teacher naturalist in local schools. During the summer, she is the Assistant Camp Director at Ipswich River. Maura has a degree in Communications from Plymouth State University and has completed her coursework towards a graduate degree in Elementary Education from Cambridge College. Maura is happiest when turning over logs, catching frogs, and canoeing.

Cori Brauer (she/her) is the Lead Director at the Marblehead location of Ipswich River Nature Camp. She first fell in love with environmental education as a counselor at the camp in 2009 and is now a full-time education coordinator for Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary specializing in afterschool and out-of-school programs. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a graduate degree in Natural Resources. Cori loves using her background in science to develop creative and fun activities that teach nature concepts and connection.

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 11 for more information.

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 12 to learn more.

After Camp Program

Monday-Friday, 3:00–4:00 pm

We offer an optional extended day program for campers. See page 12 for pricing details.





TOPSFIELD CAMP

at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary | 87 Perkins Row, Topsfield, MA

Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm

Explore the forests, fields, ponds, and river at 1,955-acre Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. Take daily walks to the Rockery Pond, vernal pool, or canoe landing to gain a greater appreciation for the outdoors.





YOUNG NATURALISTS

Ages 5–6

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Spend several fun-filled days exploring nature. On daily walks, campers will learn about the natural world through age-appropriate, hands-on activities that teach appreciation and respect for nature. Activities include nature investigations, games, songs, stories, arts and crafts, and visits to the pond, river, forest, and meadow. Join us for one or more of these exciting themes.

“My daughter loves this camp! She loves being outside and exploring and learning about the environment and exploring!”

—Camp Parent



Animal Instincts

June 26–30

Fly fast like a falcon or sit still like a bunny. Discover how wild animals see, smell, hunt, hide, and move. Campers will play nature-themed games throughout the week to further understand animal behavior.

Things With Wings

July 3–7*

July 31–August 4

Hummingbirds hum, butterflies bounce, hawks hover, and damselflies dart through the summer air. With self-designed binoculars, nets in hand, and eyes to the sky, discover many amazing flying animals on daily walks to the field, forest, and pond.

Cool, Colorful, Crawly Critters

July 10–14

How many colors can you find outside? Search for Green Frogs, Eastern Bluebirds, Red-backed Salamanders, Gray Squirrels, and other colorful critters! After gathering inspiration, campers will create colorful nature art.

Squish Squash!

July 17–21

August 7–11

Let's go exploring! Campers will walk to ponds, streams, and the river for basking turtles, hopping frogs, and hunting herons. After our daily walks we'll play water games, sing songs, and tell stories about squishy places!

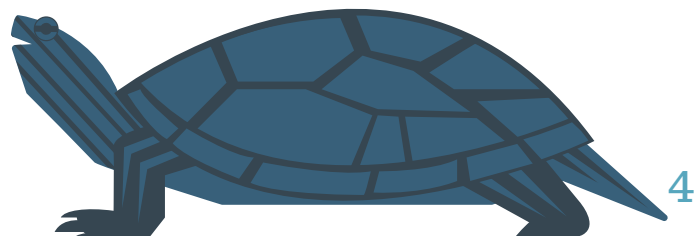
Wildlife Detectives

July 24–28

August 14–18

During short walks with nets and terrariums in hand, discover how animals catch food, find places to sleep, and move about the sanctuary. Become a detective searching for nature mysteries that need to be solved.

*Camp will be closed on July 4; all sessions that fall during that week will be prorated accordingly.





INVESTIGATORS

Ages 7-8

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Explore and learn about a variety of habitats, including the forest, field, pond, and river. Take daily hikes to the Rockery, Stone Bridge, or Observation Tower to gain a greater appreciation for the outdoors.



Animal Architects

June 26-30

People are not the only animals that build structures for survival. This week highlights amazing animal architects that live in the sanctuary. Together, we'll search for beaver dams and lodges, bird nests, insect galls, and more. After observing some animal architecture, we'll build our own structures.

Reptile Roundup

July 3-7*

July 31-August 4

Lots of really neat reptiles can be found in Massachusetts, including turtles and snakes. Warm summer weather is the perfect time for campers to search for these dinosaur-like creatures with bony backs and scaly skin!

Carnivore Camp

July 10-14

Carnivores are animals with amazing predatory adaptations that allow them to capture and eat other animals. We'll search for snakes and frogs and be on the lookout for hawks and dragonflies to find out what these carnivores like to eat.

Wily Wetland Predators

July 17-21

What do dragonflies, otters, snakes, herons, and catfish all have in common? They're wetland predators! We'll spend the week scouring wet places for evidence of these fascinating carnivores while learning how they hunt.

NSI: Nature Science Investigators

July 24-28

August 14-18

Have you ever wondered what kind of animal chewed the acorns under a tree? Or what type of bird coughed up that pellet? And what animal made those tracks on the river bank? Together we'll be NSI agents, solving as many nature mysteries as we can find.

Super Scientists

August 7-11

Kids who dream of becoming scientists when they grow up won't want to miss this week, jam-packed with real science. Catch and study insects up close, observe and feed wild birds, solve a nature mystery, and design experiments using real scientific tools.

**Camp will be closed on July 4; all sessions that fall during that week will be prorated accordingly.*



NATURALISTS

Ages 9–11

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

These exciting theme-based programs allow campers to learn about local plants and animals. Each week will blend outdoor exploration, hikes, games, and nature journaling. Sessions are designed to increase knowledge and awareness of nature while having fun and developing exploration skills.



Slither, Slime, and Scales (NEW)

June 26–30

Do you enjoy searching for snakes, salamanders, frogs, and toads? Campers will explore freshwater habitats such as the vernal pool and the Ipswich River in search of our amphibian friends, as well as in sunny spots where reptiles may be found. At the end of the week, campers will also spend a day learning how to paddle a canoe up the Ipswich River to Perkins Island.

Predator Prowl

July 3–7*

July 31–August 4

It's not easy being a predator. Predators need to be strong, fast, cunning, and persistent to catch their prey. Campers will search for hawks, snakes, frogs, fish, and dragonflies that are on the hunt.

Survival of the Fittest

July 10–14

August 7–11

Stealth flight, tough armor, creative camouflage, or wily ways—which would you choose to stay alive in the wild? Discover special adaptations that help plants and animals survive as we explore the sanctuary.

Aqua Adventures

July 17–21

Campers will go on daily adventures to ponds, streams, swamps, and vernal pools to investigate the aquatic lives of animals. We will spend a day learning how to paddle a canoe up the Ipswich River to Perkins Island and go exploring!

Animal Art

July 24–28

The leaping, swimming, and soaring animals of the sanctuary will be your subjects for painting, drawing, sculpting, and more. Investigate along trails to observe creatures, engage in activities and games to learn about animal adaptations, and capture their likeness in clay and on canvas. Families are invited to a Friday afternoon art show.

Fun with Photography

August 14–18

Capture nature with your camera! Campers will learn photography basics and a few tricks to take their photos of wildlife and landscapes from average to great. Families are invited to a Friday afternoon photo show at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. **Campers must bring their own digital camera.**

*Camp will be closed on July 4; all sessions that fall during that week will be prorated accordingly.



SPECIALTY CAMPS

Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm

All specialty camps take place at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary in Topsfield unless otherwise noted.



Trekkers

Ages 7–10

June 26–July 7*

July 10–21

July 24–August 4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Trekkers will spend two weeks explore all the amazing locations the sanctuary has to offer, including the Rockery, vernal pool, Stone Bridge, and Observation Tower. Each group will spend a day learning how to paddle a canoe up the Ipswich River to Perkins Island, where they'll have lunch, play games, build "gnome homes" and enjoy an afternoon exploring the Island. At the end of each session, campers will play the camp favorite "Predator/Prey" game.

**Camp will be closed on July 4; all sessions that fall during that week will be prorated accordingly.*

Canoe Adventures

Ages 12–14

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 6

Participants must know how to swim. Programs are led by staff who have been trained in Water Rescue and Small Craft Safety.

Ipswich River Adventures

August 7–11

Learning to canoe opens up another world along the Ipswich River that is usually out of reach. With fun activities and games, we'll learn paddling techniques, water safety, and teamwork skills. During daily explorations, we'll discover the insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals that live on the islands and lurk in the backwaters of this beautiful river.

Further River Adventures

August 14–18

Campers will paddle less-visited sections of the Ipswich River each day. We'll see frogs, turtles, and other animals that inhabit the river, its shores, and its islands. Campers will act as scientists and test the water quality of the Ipswich River. They will also learn about our local watershed and ways to protect it.

TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Monday–Friday 8:30 am–3:00 pm

Environmental Leadership for Teens (ELT)

Ages 12–14

July 17–28

Jump-start your introduction to climate action in this two-week environmental leadership camp. Alongside your peers, learn how to identify areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change, locate resources to address those vulnerabilities, and become an advocate for climate justice. Campers will participate in service projects around the sanctuary, see what climate action looks like at Mass Audubon, take a field trip to Joppa Flats on Plum Island, and spend a day canoeing along the Ipswich River! At the end of the session, our environmental educators will help campers set goals to take on a climate action project within their local communities.

Counselors-in-Training (CIT)

Ages 14–16

Topsfield

July 3–14*

July 17–28

July 31–August 11

Marblehead

July 10–21

July 24–August 4

The Counselors-in-Training (CIT) program is for teens who want to gain experience working with children in an outdoor setting. Participate in lesson development trainings, lead games, assist camp groups, and learn to teach activities. An application is required and not all applicants will be selected; space is limited. For more information and to request an application, please email ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org

**Camp will be closed on July 4; all sessions that fall during that week will be prorated accordingly.*





MARBLEHEAD CAMP

Church of Saint Andrew | 135 Lafayette Street, Marblehead, MA

Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–3:00 pm

Explore the forests, fields, ponds, and coastal surroundings of Marblehead. Wander the Wyman Woods trails, watch for turtles in Hawthorn Pond, and search a salt marsh for herons along the Forest River.



YOUNG EXPLORERS

Ages 5–6

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

July 10–14

This camp will encourage your young explorer to peer through leaves, stomp in mud, scramble over rocks, smell the salt air, and see wild creatures up-close. Campers will take hikes, sing songs, listen to stories, play games, and do crafts to foster a joyful and memorable connection with nature.

EXPLORERS

Ages 7–8 & 9–11

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Campers will participate in exciting theme-based programs where they will learn about the local coastal environment, as well as plants and animals that inhabit forested areas. Camp weeks are full of outdoor exploration hikes, games, and crafts.

Predator Prowl

July 17–21

Predators are everywhere in the wilds of Marblehead. We'll search for them all, from the fearsome dragonflies of the field, to the patient egrets of the tide pool, to the huge snapping turtle lurking in Hawthorn Pond. Campers will discover amazing predator adaptations and then play games, tell stories, and do fun hands-on activities to learn about the importance of these hunters as part of the web of life.

Earth, Air, & Water Wonders

July 24–28

Splashing around tide pools, squishing in the mud, and watching puffy clouds sail across the sky are all important parts of a summer well spent at nature camp. What fun and mystery can be found in these basic elements all around us? We'll collect and compare samples from each place we explore for science experiments, paint mud murals, play water games, create mini nature sail boats, and carefully catch some creatures that call the soil, water, and air their home.

Nature & Art

July 31–August 4

Spend a week enjoying nature and unlocking your inner artist! Campers will make their own paintbrushes, do watercolor painting at the pond, create crafts with natural materials, and much more. Up-close looks at wild plants and animals, hikes to beautiful views of the ocean, and learning about famous nature artists will inspire us along the way.

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING

see page 8 for more info



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp
Call 978-887-9264

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

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

DEPOSIT

A nonrefundable deposit of \$75 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 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).

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.

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.

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 LICENSE

Our camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the Topsfield and Marblehead Boards 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, healthcare, discipline, bullying, and grievance policies at any time.



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

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 paper-work are due by May 15. If cost is still a barrier under the tiered structure, financial aid is also available.

	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</i>
Family Adjusted Gross Income	<\$50,000	\$50,000–\$74,999	\$75,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	NO INCOME VERIFICATION REQUIRED

IPSWICH RIVER NATURE CAMP

One-week camps	\$96/\$113	\$241/\$282	\$313/\$367	\$410/\$480	\$482/\$565
July 4 Week	\$77/\$94	\$193/\$234	\$251/\$304	\$328/\$398	\$386/\$468
Two-week camps	\$192/\$332	\$482/\$524	\$626/\$680	\$820/\$890	\$964/\$1,047
July 4 Week	\$174/\$190	\$434/\$475	\$564/\$618	\$738/\$808	\$868/\$951
Canoe Adventures	\$101/\$118	\$253/\$294	\$329/\$382	\$430/\$500	\$506/\$588
CIT Program	\$96/\$113	\$241/\$282	\$313/\$367	\$410/\$480	\$482/\$565

MARBLEHEAD NATURE CAMP

One-week camp	\$93/\$109	\$233/\$274	\$302/\$356	\$395/\$465	\$465/\$547
CIT Program	\$93/\$109	\$233/\$274	\$302/\$356	\$395/\$465	\$465/\$547

AFTER CAMP PROGRAMS

Per Day	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Per Week	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45

WE'RE HIRING!

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

WHERE TO FIND US

Ipswich River Nature Day Camp

87 Perkins Row

Topsfield, MA 01983

978-887-9264

ipswichrivercamp@massaudubon.org

massaudubon.org/ipswichrivercamp

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.



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.