

2023



# OAK KNOLL NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.





# Welcome to Oak Knoll Nature Camp



Every day is an adventure at Oak Knoll Nature Camp in Attleboro! Campers age 4.5–12 have fun, learn about nature, and make friends through outdoor exploration, hands-on activities, games, and art.

Campers explore trails, discover vernal pools, catch frogs, build forts, and venture to new places. Small group sizes ensure that our counselors can develop a relationship with each child, creating a caring, supportive environment.

## A DAY AT CAMP

8:55–9:15 am	Camper Drop-off & Choice Time
9:15 am	Opening Circle
9:45 am	Exploratory Hikes, Activities, & Snack
12:00 pm	Lunch & Choice Time
1:00 pm	Hikes, Games, & Crafts
2:40 pm	Closing Circle & Share Time
3:00 pm	Camper Pick-up

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Call** 508-223-3060

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

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





## OUR CAMP STAFF

Oak Knoll Nature Camp staff are dedicated and mature educators, naturalists, and students who are looking for more than “just a summer job”. They have experience working with youth, a passion for nature, and a deep commitment to sharing that connection with children. Camp educators foster a caring, fun, and emotionally and physically safe environment to create a cohesive and enjoyable experience for campers.

Counselors are trained in child development and supervision, health and safety procedures, natural history, environmental education best practices, and COVID-19 safety protocols. All are CPR and first aid certified and have undergone background and reference checks. In addition, we have access to an on-call doctor and EMS services within two miles.

## OUR CAMP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Camp Director Jacqui Shuster (she/her) and Assistant Camp Director Ryan Gould (he/him) bring a combined 20+ years of experience with camp, outdoor education, and nature-based education programs. They are both passionate about exploring nature, fostering a sense of community, caring for the land we inhabit, and all things camp!

## 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.



## WORK WITH US!

Email your resume and cover letter to  
[oakknollcamp@massaudubon.org](mailto:oakknollcamp@massaudubon.org)



## 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 6 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 safe summers of camping for the past three years will guide us into another great summer in 2023. See page 6 for more information.







# Nature Camp Sessions

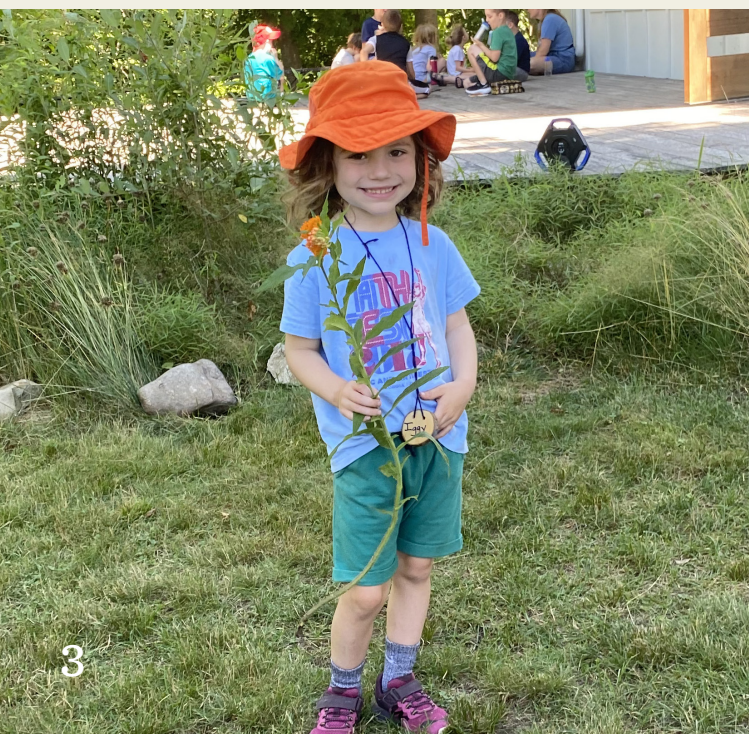
Ages 4.5–12

## PROGRAM DETAILS

Monday–Friday | 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Weekly sessions from June 26–August 18

See page 6 for pricing details



## CAMPER AGE GROUPS

Campers engage in age-appropriate outdoor exploration and activities. Small group sizes ensure that our counselors can develop a relationship with every child, creating a caring, supportive environment.

### Discoverers

Ages 4.5–6 (Entering Grades K–1)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Discoverers investigate the sanctuary's plants and animals using all five senses and are encouraged to follow their natural curiosity. This group has lots of time to play outdoors in nature.

### Explorers

Ages 7–8 (Entering Grades 2–3)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

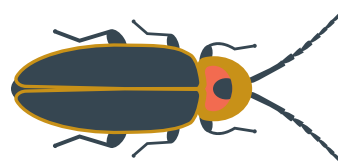
Explorers grow their nature and science knowledge through fun group activities and interactive games. This group is encouraged to try new things and engage in free play in nature.

### Naturalists

Ages 9–12 (Entering Grades 4–6)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

Naturalists take a deeper look at the natural world through exploration that includes hiking, nature experiments, games, and more.





# Weekly Nature Camp Themes

Experience a variety of habitats and wildlife found at Oak Knoll. Explore the outdoors, perform hands-on activities, observe wildlife, play games, make crafts, and more.



## Discoverers & Explorers

### Webs of Wonder

**July 3–7** (*No camp Tuesday, July 4*)

Take a walk on the wild side this week to discover a diverse community of plants and animals and how they all connect along Oak Knoll's trails. Who is eating whom in your local food web? Ask questions, gather evidence, and conduct sensory experiments to find out! Examine real animal artifacts such as wings and skulls, and learn about unique adaptations that help our local wildlife survive.

### Ribbiting Rivers

**July 10–14**

Prepare to make a splash as we immerse ourselves in all things aquatic. Discover the incredible properties of water and how you can help protect this vital natural resource. Design and conduct water experiments, use dip nets to catch aquatic critters at the pond, and cool off with some wild and wacky water games!

### Fearless Fliers

**July 17–21**

Keep your eyes to the sky this week as we seek out all kinds of flying creatures. From birds to bats to butterflies, explore the remarkable ways flying animals get around and survive in the wild. Catch insects with a net, practice moving like a bird, and learn about all things with wings at Oak Knoll.

### Crafty Crayfish

**July 24–28**

Let your imagination run wild this week as you get crafty with natural items and an assortment of recycled materials. Take your creativity to the extreme by designing artwork using rocks, mud, sticks, and leaves. Turn trash to treasure by creating a recycled art project, and record your outdoor observations through nature-journaling.

### Nature Heroes

**July 31–August 4**

Discover how you can help take care of the nature of Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary and Massachusetts. Experience nature with friends, learn outdoor skills, make a difference with stewardship opportunities and gain confidence and leadership skills through teambuilding activities.

### Rabbits, Racoons, and Riddles

**August 7–11**

Are bats really blind? And are owls really wise? Embrace your natural curiosity this week and participate in some puzzling nature explorations. Using the outdoors as our lab, ask questions about the plants and animals that live at Oak Knoll, set up experiments, and gather evidence. Participate in observation challenges, use science tools like thermometers and microscopes, and discover the truth about nature.

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## Naturalists

### Everyday Adventures

**June 26–30**

Kick off your summer at Oak Knoll, and hit the trail running with all kinds of outdoor fun! Go on scavenger hunts, play games, conduct experiments, and more. This week is all about having fun outside, exploring the natural world, and creating opportunities for adventure every day.

### Summer Rewind

**August 14–18**

Go on daily adventures as we rewind and replay campers' favorite summer camp activities! Play water games, go on scavenger hunts, sweep-net in our meadow, and more. Nature's playground is still open and there's a lot more to explore!



# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Call 508-223-3060

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

## 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 \$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 emailing [membership@massaudubon.org](mailto:membership@massaudubon.org).

## 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.

## 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 COVID-19 safety protocols, 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 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

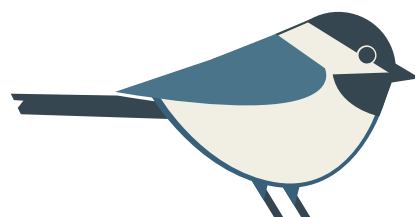
Our camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the City of Attleboro's Board of Health.

## 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, healthcare, discipline, bullying, and grievance policies at any time.





# REGISTRATION INFORMATION (continued)

## CAMP CONTACT INFO

Jacqui Shuster, Regional Camp Director  
Ryan Gould, Assistant Camp Director

508-223-3060

[oakknollcamp@massaudubon.org](mailto:oakknollcamp@massaudubon.org)  
[massaudubon.org/oakknollcamp](http://massaudubon.org/oakknollcamp)

“ Always the best time ever. No matter who the counselors are this camp always has my child crying when the week ends that they do not want it to end and want to go for another session! ”

“ Year after year, camp at Oak Knoll has been a highlight for our family. He came home every day with an exciting story to share. ”

## 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.

	<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</i>
<b>Gross Annual Family Income</b>	<\$50,000	\$50,000–\$74,999	\$75,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	No income verification required
<b>Nature Camp</b>	\$85/\$100	\$215/\$250	\$275/\$330	\$360/\$430	\$425/\$510
<b>Nature Camp, Week of July 4</b>	\$70/\$85	\$170/\$215	\$220/\$275	\$290/\$360	\$340/\$425

*\*To qualify for the Member rate, you must be a current Mass Audubon member at the Family level or above and be the parent, grandparent, or legal guardian of the camper being enrolled. You may join or renew your membership at the time of registration.*





## 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).



**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).



*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)