

2023



BERKSHIRE NATURE CAMP

AT PLEASANT VALLEY

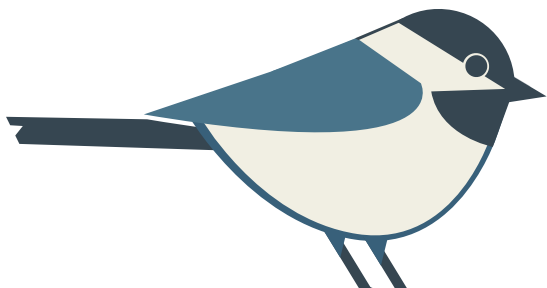
Discover. Explore. Be Outside.



Welcome to Berkshire Nature Camp at Pleasant Valley

At Berkshire Nature Camp at Pleasant Valley, campers ages 3-17 discover nature and make friends while while adventuring across our wildlife sanctuary in Lenox. Through trail explorations, wildlife observation, outdoor play, hands-on activities, games, and crafts, campers connect with each other and the natural world of Massachusetts.

Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (a 1,400-acre sanctuary in Lenox) became our first Berkshire Nature Camp location over 80 years ago.



A DAY AT CAMP

8:45 am	Camper Drop-off
9:10 am	Small Group Morning Circles
9:30 am	Nature Explorations, Activities, & Crafts Using Natural Materials
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm	Camper Choice Time: Active Games & Quiet Activities
1:00 pm	Half-Day Camper Pick-up; Nature Explorations, Games, & Team-Building Challenges
2:45 pm	Small Group Closing Circles
3:00 pm	Camper Pick-Up

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 413-637-0320

Email berkshirecamp@massaudubon.org

Visit massaudubon.org/berkshirecamp



OUR CAMP STAFF

Our enthusiastic camp counselors provide campers with a fun and memorable summer. Staff are carefully selected based on their teaching experience, nature knowledge, and deep commitment to engaging campers with the outdoors. Many counselors were once campers themselves and have returned to share their appreciation of nature. We pride ourselves on our staff's longevity and devotion to campers' wellbeing.

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 SITE DIRECTOR

Our Site Director Lydia Warters (any/all pronouns) joined the camp team in the summer of 2022, after spending over five years working as an educator both in and out of schools. A lover of all things outdoors, Lydia is passionate about connecting young people to nature, and believes that all children can thrive when given a supportive environment to follow their curiosity. Outside of camp, Lydia teaches in schools across Berkshire County as one of Mass Audubon's Education Coordinators.

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.

MORE FOR MEMBERS

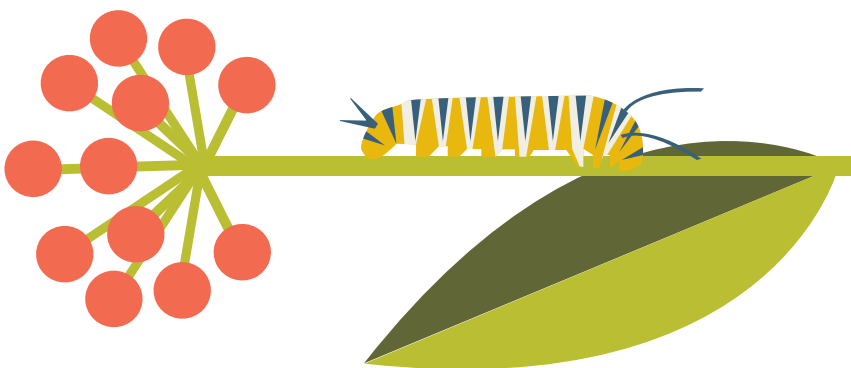
Mass Audubon membership benefits don't end when the summer's over; membership includes year-round free admission to our statewide network of wildlife sanctuaries, where the whole family can explore and enjoy the outdoors. Members also enjoy great savings on nature programs and gift shop purchases. Learn more at massaudubon.org/membership.

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 5 to learn more.





HALF-DAY NATURE CAMP

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm
Weekly sessions, June 26–August 18

KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS

Ages 3–4

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Discover the wonders of nature this summer! Explore the trails at Pleasant Valley, play games, sing songs, make crafts, and listen to stories. Counselors are specially selected based on demonstrated ability to lead younger children in the outdoors. Campers must be at least age 3 by June 1.

“Summer camp at Pleasant Valley was unlike any other experience for our children. From the moment of arrival to the moment of pick-up, we could always see smiling faces from the directors, counselors, and campers. Our kids looked forward to camp every day. We could not have asked for a better experience.”

—2022 Camp Family



FULL-DAY NATURE CAMP

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm
Weekly sessions, June 26–August 18

DISCOVERERS

Ages 5–6

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Nature truly is a magical place where wonder and adventure are waiting to be discovered behind each and every tree. Explore Pike’s Pond, Yokun Brook, and the fields and forests at Pleasant Valley. Play games and sing camp songs. Look for pond creatures and build secret “gnome home” villages in the woods. Gain a greater connection to nature and curiosity about the outdoors, and learn how you can be a steward of the natural world.

EXPLORERS

Ages 7–9

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 7

Get curious as you explore the far reaches of Pleasant Valley in search of the hidden wonders of the natural world. Be ready for days packed with new sights, sounds, smells, and games as you get to know the sanctuary’s many habitats: Hemlock forests, vernal pools, and beaver ponds await! Build survival shelters and learn to identify plants and animals. Explorers hike to the top of Lenox Mountain and on venture to the far reaches of Pleasant Valley’s trails.

NATURALISTS

Ages 10–13

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 7

Dive deep into the incredible complexity of the natural world. Explore the sanctuary off the beaten path, play games, and use real scientific techniques to investigate the outdoors. Learn how to track wildlife and recognize birds by their songs. Hike the legendary Trail of the Ledges and dive deep into the science of Pleasant Valley!

TEEN PROGRAMS

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP FOR TEENS

Ages 13–17, August 7–11

Jump-start your environmental leadership skills in this fun and engaging youth program. Develop practical skills to support environmental resiliency in your community. Learn how to identify areas in your community that are vulnerable to climate change or other impacts and explore how you can make a difference. Participate in service projects around the sanctuary, and see what environmental action and stewardship looks like at Mass Audubon. During the session, we’ll help you set goals for a project in your community. Connect with youth environmental leaders within Mass Audubon and across Massachusetts, so you can keep the momentum going!

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING (CIT)

Ages 14–17

Do you love being outdoors and working with kids? Become a Counselor-In-Training (CIT) and share your love of nature with younger campers while acquiring valuable leadership skills. CITs are a vital part of our camp program, and many go on to become full camp counselors.

Required Training Date: Friday, June 23

This is not a paid staff position, but there is no cost to participate in CIT. An application is required and CITs must attend training on Friday, June 23. To request an application, please contact the camp office at 413-637-0320 or berkshirecamp@massaudubon.org. CIT positions are limited, so please apply early!



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Visit massaudubon.org/berkshirecamp
Call 413-637-0320

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

A confirmation letter/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 DISCOUNT

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 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 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.

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 Tri-Town 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.

CAMP CONTACT INFO

Berkshire Nature Camp at Pleasant Valley
472 W Mountain Road
Lenox, MA 01240
413-637-0320

berkshirecamp@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/berkshirecamp



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 paperwork 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>
Gross Annual Family Income	<\$50,000	\$50,000–\$74,999	\$75,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$149,999	No income verification required
Knee-High Naturalists	\$60/\$130	\$150/220	\$210/\$280	\$255/\$325	\$300/\$370
Full-day Camp Programs	\$90/\$160	\$225/\$295	\$315/\$385	\$383/\$453	\$450/\$520
Teen Programs	\$93/\$163	\$233/\$303	\$326/\$396	\$395/\$465	\$465/\$535



Can't wait for summer?

School Vacation Camps

Ages 7–12

Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm

\$300 members, \$365 nonmembers per week

\$85 members, \$100 nonmembers per day

Winter Adventure Vacation Week

February 21–24

Learn about wildlife that stays active in the cold and snow and the adaptations that enable them to survive. We will be outside for the majority of the program but have space available to warm up if needed.

Spring Explorers Vacation Week

April 18–21

Spring is a great time to experience the natural world as plants and wildlife awaken, energized and full of life. Dress for the weather; mud boots are required.



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.



***There's more to explore at Wildwood, Mass Audubon's
overnight camp in southern New Hampshire:***

- Overnight Camp, ages 7–14
- 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.