

Princeton
2023



WACHUSETT MEADOW NATURE CAMP

Discover. Explore. Be Outside.



Welcome to Wachusett Meadow Nature Camp

At Wachusett Meadow Nature Camp in Princeton, campers ages 3.5-17 make new friends and discover the wonders of the outdoors. Campers hike the trails and learn about the natural history of Massachusetts, play games, sing camp songs, and have fun along the way!

A DAY AT CAMP

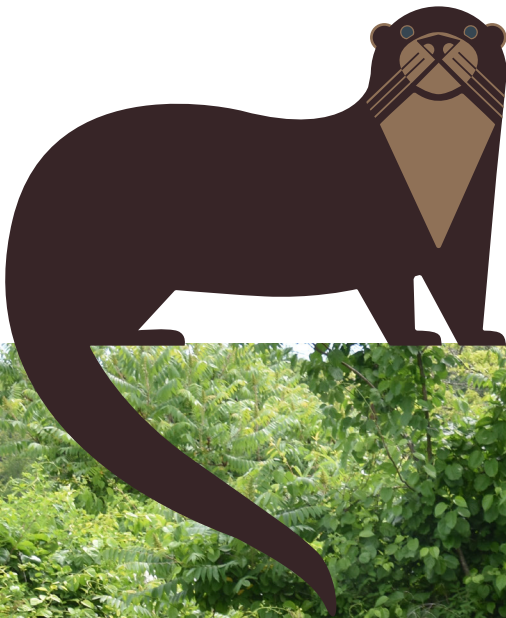
- 8:00–9:00 am** Optional Before Camp Program
- 9:00–9:30 am** Camper Drop-off & Choice Time
- 9:30 am** Opening Circle—campers learn about the day ahead
- 9:45 am** Morning Hike, Snack, Story, & Exploration
- 12:00 pm** Lunch & Free Play
- 1:00 pm** Afternoon Hike, Snack, & Activity
- 3:15 pm** Closing Circle—campers share their adventures
- 3:30–3:45 pm** Camper Pick-up
- 3:30–5:00 pm** Optional After Camp Program

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call 978-464-2712

Email wachusettcamp@massaudubon.org

Visit massaudubon.org/wachusettcamp



OUR CAMP STAFF

Camp staff are carefully selected for their enthusiasm, caring attitude toward children, and ability to interact with youth in an outdoor setting. 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

In addition to directing Wachusett Meadow's Nature Camp, Elizabeth Broughton (she/her) is part of Mass Audubon's year-round education team, coordinating and teaching homeschool programs for wildlife sanctuaries in the Central region, school and scout groups, and programs for families. She also serves as Wachusett Meadow's resident caretaker and enjoys her scenic walking commute to work. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Science in microbiology and was a stay-at-home mom for many years while raising her four children. In her role as Camp Director, she is inspired by a love of all things nature and her commitment to educate people of all ages and abilities.

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.

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.





HALF-DAY NATURE CAMP

PROGRAM DETAILS

Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 am-1:00 pm

June 20-22, June 27-29, July 11-13,
July 25-27, & August 8-10

While no two weeks will be the same, some of our favorite camper activities will take place every week. To provide equal access to camp for everyone, we request that you register for no more than 2 weeks of preschool camp. We are happy to place you on a waitlist for extra weeks and will open up spaces to waitlisted campers on May 1.

Preschool Naturalists Ages 3.5-5 (Entering Pre-K-K)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Explore Wachusett Meadow's ponds, fields, and forests. Have fun outdoors as you play games, make crafts, go on hikes, and spot wildlife. Use real scientific tools, like magnifying glasses and ponding equipment to study plants, worms, and insects up close. Play in our backyard and make new friends!

“My kids have had an incredible week—it’s remarkable what a sense of community Wachusett Meadow Nature Camp can create in just one day.”

—2022 Camp Parent



FULL-DAY NATURE CAMP

PROGRAM DETAILS

Monday–Friday
9:00 am–3:30 pm

Weekly sessions,
June 19–August 18

While no two weeks will be the same, some of our favorite camper activities will take place every week. To provide equal access to camp for everyone, we request that you register for no more than 4 weeks of camp. We are happy to place you on a waitlist for extra weeks and will open up spaces to waitlisted campers on May 1.

Pathfinders

Ages 5–6 (Entering Grades K–1)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

June 26–30, July 3–7, July 10–14, July 17–21, July 31–August 4,
August 7–11, & August 14–18

(No camp the weeks of June 19–23 or July 24–28)

Discover the animals and plants that call Wachusett Meadow home. Find out who lives in our ponds, fields, and forests. Make new friends while you walk along the sanctuary's trails, make crafts, play nature-themed games, and listen to stories.

Explorers

Ages 6–7 (Entering Grades 1–2)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 5

Weekly sessions, June 19–August 18

Explore Wachusett Meadow's many habitats and wildlife as you look under logs, go ponding in the wetlands, build shelters in the woods, and play nature-themed games like Camouflage and Hawk and Mouse. Make new friends, make creative crafts, sing camp songs, and go on picnics.

Naturalists

Ages 7–9 (Entering Grades 2–4)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 8

Weekly sessions, June 19–August 18

Discover new nature facts about the wildlife at Wachusett Meadow and in your neighborhood. Climb a glacial boulder, meet a 250-year-old tree, and canoe our Wildlife Pond. Learn about the sanctuary's field, woodland, and wetland habitats and the wildlife that call them home. Hike the Brook Trail and eat lunch by the stream.

“My son is a quiet boy who loves the outdoors. His experience at Wachusett Meadow allowed him to push himself outside of his comfort zone in a manageable way so he could grow, but not feel stressed. He instantly felt comfortable with staff and learned so much!”

– 2022 Camp Parent



FULL-DAY NATURE CAMP

continued

Adventurers

Ages 9–12 (Entering Grades 4–6)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

June 19–23, June 26–30, July 10–14, July 24–28, August 7–11, & August 14–18, see *Discoverers camp* for weeks of July 3–7, July 17–21, & July 31–August 4

Explore the longest trails and farthest reaches of Wachusett Meadow. Hike the Brook Trail, canoe our Wildlife Pond, and summit Brown Hill for an awesome view. Investigate what's living in the sanctuary's fields, forests, ponds, and streams. Learn about the impacts of climate change and actions you can take to make a positive impact on the planet.

Trailblazers

Ages 11–14 (Entering Grades 6–9)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

July 17–21

Experience all the fun of camp while hiking the longest trails on the sanctuary as well as some of our connecting conservation land. Campers can expect to be out all day with lunch and snacks on the trail. Average hiking distance each day will be 6–8 miles. Learn about the many organizations that protect the land around us and how they work to keep open spaces throughout Central Massachusetts.

“My daughter absolutely loved camp this year!! She made new friends, always came home with new things that she learned to share with me, was always covered in dirt which is exactly what I wanted to see!”

— 2022 Camp Parent



SPECIALTY CAMPS

PROGRAM DETAILS

Monday–Friday
9:00 am–3:30 pm

Discoverers

Ages 9–12, Grades 4–6

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

July 3–7, July 17–21, & July 31–August 4

Make new friends and expand your horizons. Discover the biodiversity at Wachusett Meadow as you learn about community science. Hike along the Brook Trail and parts of the Midstate Trail. Enjoy Wildlife Pond from a canoe. Stay after dark on Thursday evenings for dinner around the campfire, nighttime games, stargazing, and other nocturnal fun. Camper pickup on Thursday is at 9:30 pm.

Ecologists

Ages 12–17 (Entering Grades 7–11)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

July 24–28

Learn about the biodiversity of Princeton and beyond! Explore Wachusett Meadow's trails including our newest Fieldstone Farm Trail, canoe on Wildlife Pond, climb to the summit of Little Wachusett and Mount Wachusett, and hike the Midstate Trail through Four Corners. Bring your tent and sleeping bag for an overnight adventure on our property on Thursday night. Enjoy a pizza dinner, roast marshmallows on the campfire, gaze at the stars, and enjoy a night activity with your new-found friends. Campers will have a relaxing day at camp on Friday.

Environmental Leadership for Teens

Ages 11–14 (Entering Grades 6–9)

Counselor-to-Camper Ratio: 1 to 10

July 3–7

Jump-start your climate activism skills in this environmental leadership camp. Alongside your peers, you'll 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. You'll meet some leaders in your community from the Environmental Action Committee and the Princeton Land Trust to learn about their involvement in local advocacy and conservation.

You will also participate in service projects around the sanctuary, and see what climate action looks like at Mass Audubon. At the end of the session, we'll help you set goals to take on a climate action project in your community.

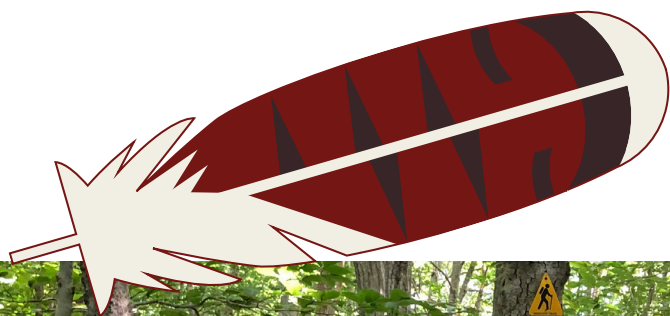
Counselors-in-Training (CIT)

Ages 14–17

Training: Saturday, June 17, 1:00–4:00 pm

Are you interested in working with younger campers? Do you want to gain leadership skills? This program is for you! CITs learn how to plan and present a lesson during each week of camp and lead camper games during lunch recess. Please note: Limited spaces are available. Registration fee covers training day plus a two-week commitment during the summer. Additional weeks may be available for \$50 per week at the Camp Director's discretion.

Contact the Camp Director to request an application at wachusettcamp@massaudubon.org or 978-464-2712.



NEW!

Family Camp Out



All ages

Friday, July 14 at 5:00 pm–Saturday, July 15 at 9:00 am

Member: \$50 per family

Nonmember: \$75 per family

Experience Wachusett Meadow after dark with other camp families. Bring your dinner or arrive well fed. Pitch your tent and enjoy some simple camp games with new friends, snack on marshmallows around the campfire, and take a short hike around North Meadow after dark. Coffee and donuts will be available on Saturday morning and you are welcome to stay and enjoy the trails during the day at your own pace.



Before & After Camp Options

BEFORE CAMP: 8:00–9:00 am

Weekly or daily: June 19–August 18

Campers will spend the morning engaged in quiet games or crafts. Children should arrive having already eaten breakfast.

AFTER CAMP: 3:30–5:00 pm

Weekly or daily: June 19–August 18

Campers go on an extra hike, make a craft, play a game, visit the sheep, or spend time reading. After-camp care is not available for half-day campers.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

TO REGISTER FOR CAMP

Call 978-464-2712

Visit

massaudubon.org/wachusettcamp

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 full day camp. Half Day camp requires a nonrefundable deposit of \$30/camper/session. Tier 1 and Tier 2 families may request a \$20 deposit by calling 978-464-2712. 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.

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. All camp forms and waivers are due two weeks prior to your arrival at camp. 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). A fee of \$10 per camper will be charged for incomplete or late forms and waivers.

CAMPER REQUIREMENTS

Campers are expected to be able to follow all COVID-19 safety protocols, to 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.

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.

CAMP LICENSE

Our camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by the Princeton 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.

SESSION TRANSFERS

Session transfer requests will be honored if there is space available and if the request is made at least two weeks prior to the session start date, after which time transfers are not permitted.

BUDDY REQUESTS

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 the session.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Elizabeth Broughton, Camp Director

Wachusett Meadow Day Camp

113 Goodnow Road

Princeton, MA 01541

978-464-2712

wachusettcamp@massaudubon.org

massaudubon.org/wachusettcamp



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>
Family Adjusted Gross Income	<\$50,000	\$50,000–\$74,999	\$75,000–\$99,999	\$100,000–\$174,999	No income verification required
Half-day Camp	\$38/\$55	\$95/\$136	\$124/\$177	\$162/\$232	\$190/\$273
Full-day Camp	\$84/\$100	\$210/\$251	\$273/\$326	\$357/\$427	\$420/\$502
Discoverers & Env. Leaders	\$93/\$109	\$233/\$274	\$302/\$356	\$395/\$465	\$465/\$547
Ecologists	\$98/\$115	\$245/\$286	\$319/\$372	\$417/\$487	\$490/\$573
Counselor-In-Training	\$35/\$52	\$88/\$130	\$114/\$168	\$150/\$220	\$175/\$259
Before Camp (per day)	\$3/\$4	\$8/\$10	\$10/\$12	\$13/\$16	\$15/\$19
Before Camp (per week)	\$10/\$13	\$25/\$33	\$33/\$42	\$43/\$55	\$50/\$65
After Camp (per day)	\$4/\$5	\$10/\$13	\$13/\$16	\$17/\$21	\$20/\$25
After Camp (per week)	\$15/\$19	\$38/\$48	\$49/\$62	\$64/\$81	\$75/\$95

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.

WE'RE HIRING!

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

WACHUSETT MEADOW WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary in Princeton is a former farmstead that offers spectacular scenery and supports abundant wildlife on over 1,100 acres of protected land. Historic buildings and barns are in use for educational programming, and resident sheep graze the pastures.

Twelve miles of trails offer options for hiking and feature highlights such as extensive tracts of woodland, wetland, and meadow habitat; glacial boulders; ancient trees; hilltop vistas; a nature play area; and connections to the Mid-State Trail and Wachusett Mountain State Reservation.

Natural history programs are offered year-round for participants of all ages, as well as scout, school, and homeschool programs. Canoe and snowshoe rentals are available seasonally, as are indoor and outdoor facility rentals. The nature center, restrooms, program room, outdoor pavilion, and part of the trail system are ADA compliant.

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



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.

