

Wellfleet Bay Nature Day Camp

Weekly Themes 2026

Half-Day Ramblers • Entering Grades PreK-1 (Ages 4.5-6) Discoverers • Entering Grades PreK-K (Ages 4.5-5) Adventurers • Entering Grade 1 (Ages 6-7)

Into the Woods: 6/22-6/26

Life within the pine and oak forests nearby hide some wonderful wild friends! We'll examine the leaf litter of the forest floor for box turtles, roll logs for salamanders, and listen for woodpeckers. We will compare leaves and do leaf rubbings to learn all about this habitat.

Sensory Seekers: 6/29-7/2 (4-day week)

This week is all about using our senses to explore! What do we see, hear, feel and smell in the habitats around us? Learn how animals use color in nature, identify different animal calls, smell fragrant flowers, and get your hands dirty! Making observations with all our senses will better help us understand the natural world.

Fabulous Fliers: 7/6-7-10

This week we'll take to the skies and learn all about bird behavior! Learn why birds migrate, practice different bird calls, and understand survival strategies. Identify and explore the many fabulous fliers at Wellfleet Bay by observing our purple martin nesting gourds, blue bird houses, and osprey poles!

Insect Investigators: 7/13-7/17

Get ready to crawl, fly, and buzz into the fascinating world of insects! In this session, campers will become insect investigators, learn what defines a true insect (not just a "bug") and discover the hidden lives of some of the planet's most important creatures. From colorful butterflies to industrious ants and elusive fireflies, we'll explore how insects thrive in different environments, their roles in ecosystems, and their incredible adaptations.

Powerful Predators: 7/20-7/24

Osprey, black racer snakes, coyotes, 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.

Pond Patrol: 7/27-7/31

Patrol around sanctuary ponds, river, and vernal pools, looking for basking turtles, hopping frogs, hunting herons, and splashing fish. After daily hikes, we'll play water games, build crafts, and tell stories about our pond adventures!

Habitat Homes: 8/3-8/7

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 habitats that animals call home throughout the Wellfleet Bay and discover how critters big and small overcome the challenges of different habitats and learn how they survive in each.

Nature Artists: 8/10-8/14

Let your imagination run wild this week filled with nature art, as you get crafty with natural items and an assortment of recycled materials. Projects will be inspired by our Cape Cod habitats and include artwork using rocks, mud, sticks, and leaves. We'll even get messy outside and build our very own mud kitchens!

Campology: 8/17-8/21

From geology to meteorology to scatology, the natural world is full of all kinds of ologies to learn about and explore. Ornithology, herpetology, and mammalogy are just a few others on the list. Put your science skills into practice by taking a closer view of all things connected to nature.

Explorers • Entering Grades 2–3 (Ages 7–8) Naturalists • Entering Grades 4–5 (Ages 9–10)

Nature Heroes: 6/22-6/26

Do you love the outdoors and care about wildlife? Discover how you can help take care of nature found at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary and all over Massachusetts this week! Practice ways to be good stewards of the earth each day; hike trails without leaving a trace, learn different Mass Audubon endangered species projects, and build conservations skills through games and teambuilding activities.

Estuary Expedition: 6/29-7/2 (4-day week)

With hands-on activities, nature walks, and guided exploration, campers will discover how salt marshes function as nurseries for many marine species, habitats for migratory birds, and natural defenses against coastal erosion. *No camp on July 3rd

Tadpoles and Treasures: 7/6-7/10

Ever wondered what it's like to live in a squishy, muddy freshwater habitat? Join us as we explore the secretive world of insects, amphibians, and reptiles that call ponds and vernal pools home! Get ready for a hands-on adventure where you'll discover how these creatures thrive in the mysterious, wetland habitat!

Avian Adventures: 7/13-7/17

Have you ever wondered why different species of birds look so different from one another? 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 Cape Cod.

Fascinating Food Webs: 7/20-7/24

Organisms big and small are all connected by a web of life. Find out how our ecosystems and creatures interact and rely on one another. Use microscopes to identify some of the smallest critters and visit interconnected Sanctuary habitats that are crucial to one another.

Animal Adaptations: 7/27-7/31

Explore the characteristics that help animals live in different habitats from marsh to forest to field. Find out what challenges animals face every day and the unique powers they have to overcome them.

Spineless Species: 8/3-8/7

Investigate the secret world of invertebrates (spineless critters) living at Wellfleet Bay. Search for bugs, slugs, and spiders via ponding with dip-nets, log rolling, and sweep nets while learning how they eat, move, hide, and support our ecosystems.

Mammal Ramble: 8/10-8/14

Ramble along Wellfleet Bay's trails in search of furry animals, from deer and squirrels, to fox and coyotes! Look for scat, tracks, chew marks, and other evidence mammals leave behind. Examine real animal artifacts and discover unique adaptations local wildlife has evolved to help them survive.

Campology: 8/17-8/21 *Explorers group only

Certain biologists specialize in studying a specific group of organisms, like birds, reptiles, or mammals! The natural world is full of all kinds of "ologies" to learn about and explore; Ornithology, herpetology, and mammalogy are just a few others on the list. Put your biology skills into practice by learning different ways to observe nature!

Ecologists • Entering Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–13)

Coastal Cape Cod: July 20-24

Campers must be entering grades 6-8. Explore the outer beaches of Cape Cod and better understand the amazing impacts that the open ocean has on our habitats. Take a dive into some of the research that Mass Audubon is working on to help protect wildlife and human communities near barrier beaches, and work with your groups to complete an action plan to help with coastal resiliency! Take a boat trip, survey coastal water-birds, pull fish pots, and go netting for microorganisms at high tide. *includes off-site trips!

Nature Photography: July 27-July 31

Campers must be entering grades 6-8. Set your focus on photographing turtles, frogs, crabs, and other Cape Cod wildlife, because phones ARE allowed at camp this week! Bring your phone or camera to get a lesson on how to compose and capture images and then photograph wildlife both on and off the sanctuary. You'll have the opportunity to take plenty of pictures to identify various plants and animals, as well as photograph marine mammals on a whale watch! Showcase your work for family at the end of the week. *includes off-site trips!

Ecology Experts! August 3–7

Campers must be entering grades 6-8. Immerse yourself in all the amazing wildlife conservation, biology and ecology that Cape Cod has to offer! Our region is chalk full of scientists and experts who are doing incredible work preserving and studying our local habitats, in addition to Mass Audubon. The Center for Coastal Studies, the National Seashore, Atlantic White Shark Conservancy, Wild Care, and International Fund for Animal Welfare just to name a few! Visit with experts

from various local organizations and discover how you can get involved in important ongoing environmental efforts! *includes off-site trips

Through the Streams: August 10-14

Campers must be entering grades 6-8. Explore freshwater habitats for various aquatic life, from stream to sea! Observe them atop your kayak, or under the water with your snorkel gear! Seine net for small fish and macroinvertebrates, explore the fascinating lifecycle of an eel, and see unique changes that these running freshwater bodies of water undergo as they empty into an estuary. Learn about threats to our critically important freshwater wetlands and sole source aquifer and ways we can work to protect them. *includes off-site trips!