



Drumlin Farm Camp Family Handbook Summer 2026



Welcome to Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm Summer Camp! We look forward to meeting your camper and having a fun summer exploring and learning about the natural world.

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Camp Mission

We believe that camp is a place where children can grow, spend quality time outdoors and have fun summer experiences. Through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, free play, games, and nature discovery campers learn about their surroundings, themselves, and others. Spending time learning and playing outdoors helps foster a deep, life-long connection to nature and inspires environmental stewardship.

Camp Goals

- Campers of all backgrounds, abilities and identities feel safe and supported physically, socially, and emotionally.
- Campers explore local ecosystems and develop confidence in nature.
- Campers learn about conservation and stewardship through age-appropriate hands-on activities.
- Campers connect with each other, create friendships, and grow through trying new experiences.

Camp License & Accreditation

Our camp complies with the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 430) and is licensed by our local Board of Health. We are accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA).

Contact Info

Email: drumlinfarmcamp@massaudubon.org

Phone: 781-259-2244

Address: Drumlin Farm Camp, 208 S. Great Road, Lincoln, MA 01773

[Get directions to Drumlin Farm](#)

Camp Staff

Our caring, well-prepared camp staff are actively engaged in teaching and playing with campers. Camp staff bring their enthusiasm for outdoor exploration, a desire to facilitate learning, and a compassionate heart for children. This specialized team works to foster a sense of community among campers and individual connections with nature. Summer staff are carefully selected based on their enthusiasm, teaching experience, natural history knowledge, and deep commitment to engaging campers with nature.

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.

Camp Leadership

Camp Director Phil Bassett (he/him) brings with him years of experience working with children in both camp and educational settings on the west coast. While starting his career in outdoor education after college in New England, he found his passion in camps after spending years working at an overnight

camp in the woods of Northern Minnesota. Phil is excited to bring his passion for providing amazing educational and fun hands-on experiences to campers this summer!

Payment Deadlines, Deposits and Refund Policy

To find your balance, and to pay, visit massaudubon.org/payments

Full payment for camp and all forms (including health forms and immunization records to CampDoc) are **due on or before May 1**, unless a payment plan has been set up with the Camp Director or Operations Manager. A late fee of \$25 per camper will apply if any forms or payments are late or incomplete. No camper is allowed to attend camp unless all forms, waivers, and payments are complete.

Deposits

- A **non-refundable deposit of \$100 per session** is required at the time of registration.
- Deposits **cannot be transferred** to another camper, session, family, or camp location.
- Please review your calendar for any scheduling conflicts **before registering**.

Refunds

- **On or before May 1:** You will receive a refund for any payments made **excluding** the \$100 non-refundable deposit per session.
- **After May 1: No refunds** will be issued.

Please note: If Drumlin Farm cancels a session, you will receive a full refund, including the deposit. Refunds are not available for participant dismissal, failure to attend, absences, or sick days.

Coming to Camp

What to Pack?

Make sure to dress for exploring outdoors and playing games outside. Be prepared for any weather - we will be outdoors so rain gear and something warm may come in handy! Any clothing should be ok to get muddy, wet, or dirty since our camps are hands-on in nature.

Please make sure that your child's name is on everything! We cannot be held responsible for lost items. We will keep a Camp Lost and Found. Any items not picked up by September 15 will be donated to a local charity.

What to Wear:

- Shorts and T-shirt; some families prefer long pants and long shirts to protect against the sun and against ticks or poison ivy.
- Long pants are highly recommended on fielding day (we will let you know which day this happens) as they provide better protection from ticks.
- Closed-toe shoes like sneakers or hiking shoes – For safety reasons, no sandals please. Closed-toe water shoes are ok for days we explore the pond, but please make sure your camper also has sneakers or hiking shoes with them for exploring the trails.

- Socks (to protect against blisters and poison ivy)
- A wide-brimmed hat protects them from sun and insects. A wide-brimmed hat is required for the Great Blue Herons (ages 10-12) on their canoe day.

What to Pack:

- Backpack to keep your gear together
- Two nutritious snacks
- Lunch. We notice that campers need to eat more at camp than they do while at school. An insulated bag with an icepack is recommended.
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Water Bottle(s)- we can refill throughout the day.
- Some ice or electrolytes added can help on warmer days!
- A spare set of clothes in case they get wet or have an accident while at camp.
- A spare set of socks
- A raincoat- if the forecast calls for light rain (we will be inside if thunderstorms are near)

Peanuts and Tree Nuts at Camp: We allow peanuts and tree nuts at camp and will remind campers that food should not be shared with other campers. If there is a camp group with a known airborne nut allergy, we will inform camp families beforehand and ask that you do not pack any foods that contain the specific allergen.

Food Allergies

Please let us know on your CampDoc form if your child has any food allergies. Some camp activities include cooking and eating foods from the farm. If your child has a food allergy please contact our [Healthcare Team](#) to discuss how your child can be accommodated. Campers are not allowed to share lunches or snacks. Drumlin Farm is NOT a nut or allergen-free site.

PEANUT ALLERGIES PLEASE NOTE:

The animal grain that is used at Drumlin Farm, although it has no peanut contents, is manufactured at a facility that produces birdseed that contains peanuts.

We have never had an allergic incident from this feed, but we feel it is our responsibility to let you know that Drumlin Farm and the grain manufacturers cannot guarantee that the feed is completely peanut-free.

If you have any questions or concerns about your camper related to animal feed, please reach out to the Healthcare Team at dfcamphealth@massaudubon.org.

Extra Food at Camp: We keep a few snacks on hand for emergencies. If a camper drops their lunch or does not have enough food, we will call home to see if additional food can be provided. If not, we will consult their CampDoc profile for any known allergies and provide them some snacks to help fuel them for the day.

Bathrooms: While we know some of our younger campers may be new to going to the bathroom on their own-- please reinforce potty training before the start of camp. Our staff do not provide one on one assistance during toileting and campers are expected to be able to fully use the toilet and clean up after themselves.

What NOT to bring to camp: Do not bring electronic devices, personal treasures, or expensive items to camp. Cell phones and other electronics are not to be used during the camp day. Knives, matches, firearms/ammunition, or other potentially dangerous items are not allowed and are grounds for dismissal. The possession or use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and weapons are prohibited. No animals, other than service animals, are allowed at camp.

Typical Camp Day

Each day there will be a nature-related theme, and the hikes, activities and crafts will be tied to that theme. Each day at camp is built around the schedule below. There will always be some flexibility based on weather, camper interests and what we might see while exploring!

9:00 am	Drop-off with games and art options
9:30 am	Opening Circle, daily nature theme intro, mystery item, and riddle
10:00 am	Snack
10:15 am	Morning Hike and Activities
12:00 pm	Lunch, games, and story time
12:30 pm	Choice Time: Games, crafts, or Nature Play
1:45 pm	Theme-based activity time & snack
2:45 pm	Closing Circle
3:00 pm	Pick-up

Drop-off and Pick-Up

- Camper safety is our **FIRST** concern. **Please always:**
- Drive slowly In Drumlin Farm parking lots, the **speed limit at is 5 mph.**
- Follow the signs to your camper's drop-off/pick-up site.
- **Park your vehicle*** and walk your camper to their group (or walk/ bike up to their group).
- **You may NOT stop your car and let your child in /out.**
- Campers must be signed in and out each day.

**You may need to park in a different lot during pick-up depending on number of public present.*

How to Pick Up Your Camper

Please always:

- **Bring your Photo Identification.** If you forget your ID, please go directly to the camp office in the Red Lot. This protocol is in place to ensure the safety of your child and all campers.
- **Campers will only be released** to a person listed on the pickup form. To add someone to your child's pick-up list, send an email to [the camp office](#).

Drop-Off Times: Last Names A-L: 8:30 am Last Names M-Z: 8:40 am*

***Curiosity Club: 8:45 am (all last names at same time)**

***CITs: 8:20 am** - All CITs should go to their Camper Group drop-off spot. They will receive camper group assignments at least 2 days before their session begins.

Pick-Up Times: Last Names A-L: 3:00 pm; Last Names M-Z: 3:10 pm*

***Farm Trekkers: 3:15 pm (all last names at same time)**

Exception: see information on page 8 regarding Overnight Programs for Stewards and Apprentices.

After Camp Pick-Up

Pick up for After Camp is at the Nature Center / Blue Lot – follow signs for After Camp. Campers may be doing activities in different areas of the sanctuary, so it may take some time for them to return to the Nature Center.

Pick up is by 5:30 pm. If you are running late, please immediately call the camp office at 781-259-2244.

Medication Check-in

All campers whose medical forms indicate they will be bringing medications to camp will receive an e-mail with the following details:

- To check in medications for campers at Drumlin Farm sites, please pull into the Green/Overflow lot (the grassy parking lot on your right when you enter Drumlin Farm), turn left and pull up to the Medication Check-In location. **This must be done prior to dropping off your camper with their camp group.**
- Once a medication is checked in, you will be given a password to say to staff at your drop-off site.
- Curiosity Club campers will check their medications in at their drop-off site.
- You will be redirected to med check in if you try to drop your camper off without visiting the medication check in.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Locations

Green / Overflow Lot The grass parking lot on the right just as you enter Drumlin Farm	Blue/Upper Parking Lot The first entrance to the paved parking lot on the right as you enter Drumlin Farm	Purple/Lower Parking Lot The second parking lot; follow the signs towards the Environmental Learning Center / Camp Office	Yellow/ Pre-School Parking area at white house, 218 Lincoln Rd.
Nature Builders	Seekers / Tickled Turkeys	Naturalists / Purple Cows	Curiosity Club
Farm Trekkers	Discoverers / Giggling Geese	Farmers / Flying Pigs	
Stewards / Funky Chickens	Trackers / Daffy Ducks	Biologists	
Apprentices / Rockin' Roosters	Explorers / Shaggy Sheep	Environmental Leadership Teens/ Teen Farm Hands	*CITs will drop off and pick up at the lot for their assigned group
	After Camp	Rainbow Camp	

Directions to the Purple lot / Preschool: Pull into lot at 218 Lincoln Rd around the corner from Drumlin Farm. Park in a circle to make it easier to pull out, then sign your camper in.

Late Drop-off or Early Pick-up

- Groups are generally at their drop-off spots until 8:50 am. If you don't see your group, please go to the Camp Office and staff will help you. *We can only accommodate late drop-offs with advance notice. Please contact the camp office as soon as you know of a schedule conflict at 781-259-2244 or drumlinfarmcamp@massaudubon.org*
- If you need to pick your child up early from camp, please notify the camp office ahead of time. You may do early pick up **at 12 pm**. Early pick-up for all groups is at the Camp Office.

Late Pick-up

Please note that camp ends at 3 pm. We cannot arrange to watch your child beyond the program hours. Campers who have not been picked up by 3:15 pm will be brought to After Camp and you will be charged for After Camp.

Severe Weather Drop-off / Pick-up

In the event of thunderstorms or heavy rain, please look at your email for instructions. Drop-off or pick-up will move inside and may be delayed. We will bring campers out to parking lots for pick-up as soon as it is safe to do so, based on our emergency protocols.

Overnight Programs

For **Stewards** and **Apprentices** Farm & Nature Camp sessions, campers will be invited to stay for an overnight on the second Thursday of their session. On this day, camp will run from 8:30 am drop-off on Thursday until **9:30 am pick-up on Friday**. Camp ends at 9:30 am on Friday for these groups, no exceptions. We will send a letter with planned activities and a packing list for the overnight during week 1 of the session. Tents and food will be provided.

Camper Feedback

We are excited to learn directly from Mass Audubon campers about their experience. Some campers may have the opportunity to participate in a brief, internal group survey to help us learn about and improve the camp experience. Camp staff will make audio recordings, which we will share with the Director of Evaluation to transcribe and analyze. Quotes and data from these surveys may be published, however campers will not be identified. Only campers with prior authorization (media release) signed by their parents/guardians may participate in the camper survey.

Health and Emergency Policies

Our complete healthcare policy is available upon request.

Sick Campers: If your camper is sick, please keep them home until they feel better. If a camper starts to feel sick while at camp, we will have them rest in a designated area until they can be picked up. A staff member will stay with them during this time. If a camper has a fever, they need to be fever free (without the use of medication) for 24 hours before they can return to camp.

Medications: Medication must be sent in the original container with the pharmacy label attached. Medication must be handed to the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director upon arrival. No medication, whether prescription or over the counter, may be administered to a child without it being listed in CampDoc. Be sure that any inhalers have the prescription label attached or bring along the box with the label attached. All over-the-counter medications should be in their original container with the camper's name and date of birth written on the container along with instructions for administration.

Sun Exposure/Insect Bites: We will have a designated sunscreen and insect spray area near the parking lot and encourage your camper to wear both. Applying sunscreen first and bug spray second is recommended.

Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention: There are potential health risks associated with ticks. Please take an active role in protecting your camper by checking each evening for ticks. Visual checks for ticks on campers' arms, legs, and clothing are a regular part of camp. Learn more at Mass Department of Public Health webpage: www.mass.gov/tick-borne-diseases

Bathroom Needs: Campers will have opportunities to use the bathroom throughout the camp day. However, should nature call when we are far from any facilities, we will provide campers with support if they need to use the forest as their bathroom. Staff carry an outdoor bathroom kit and are trained in how to provide camper privacy and hygiene and minimize our impact. Please talk to your camper about this before camp.

Adapting to the weather:

- **Rainy Days:** Campers are outside for most rainy days. Summer rain can be cold. Be prepared with rain gear and jacket. We have outdoor shelters to use when needed as well as indoor spaces to use during thunderstorms.
- **Hot Days:** On very hot days we will have misters set up. Your camper may be damp when you pick them up! You may want to bring a towel to protect your car seat. Please inform your camper and/or the staff if you wish to limit how wet they get. We will gain their verbal consent before any camper gets wet!

In the event of injury or first aid: Families will be notified, indicating the injury's nature, what was provided, and by whom. All camp staff are first aid and CPR certified.

In case of emergency: First aid will be administered at the level of training. We will work with you to coordinate further care, pick-up, or transportation of the child. When appropriate, local emergency response personnel will be called. If a camper needs transportation, it will be provided by a parent/guardian or ambulance service. If unable to reach the camper's primary contacts, we will call emergency contacts from the health form.

Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees

Campers are *not* considered to have increased risk of Meningococcal Disease, but the Department of Public Health requires us to provide you with the information in the link below.

[Meningitis info from mass.gov](#)

Please read the document "Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees: Commonly Asked Questions." You do not need to print or return a signed waiver to us.

Mandated Reporting

Massachusetts law requires professionals who work with children to notify the Department of Children and Families (DCF) if they suspect that a child is being abused, neglected, or both.

Health Forms and Insurance

After registering for camp, you will receive an email from CampDoc with a link to fill out required health forms online. CampDoc.com is secure, encrypted and password protected. ALL camper families must

complete the health insurance portion of the health form. If your child does not have U.S. health and accident insurance, please contact the camp office.

Accommodations for Campers and One-to-one Aides

Accommodations for Campers

Due to the outdoor and exploratory nature of our camp programs, campers move on uneven terrain throughout the day. The terrain varies from hard-packed, gently sloped paths to steeper, uneven trails that may have exposed rocks, tree roots, and other obstacles. Weather could affect our trail conditions. We encourage all families to visit the camp's sanctuary prior to enrolling to understand its unique terrain.

If your child requires accommodation, please contact the camp's director as soon as possible; a delay in request could disrupt your child's Mass Audubon camp experience.

One-to-one Aides

Mass Audubon camps do not provide one-to-one support; however, we do welcome one-to-one aides to support campers when they are provided by the family. Aides must follow Mass Audubon's Child Protection Standards, including obtaining a CORI/SORI and background check.

If your child requires an aide in school, please contact the camp's director as soon as possible to discuss how we can best support your child. Family members are not permitted to be aides.

Behavior Expectations

Our staff establishes expectations and offers guidance throughout each day. Our sanctuaries are open to the public and camp groups may spend time in areas that have visitors, vehicles, varied terrain, water, and wild animals. In order for everyone to have a safe and positive experience, campers are expected to follow Mass Audubon's Camper Code of Conduct with minimal support from staff.

Mass Audubon's Camper Code of Conduct

Respect Yourself. Examples include:

- Take care of yourself and your body and ask for help.
- Apply sunscreen and bug spray.
- If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, talk with an adult.

Respect Nature. Examples include:

- Carry in / carry out – take trash and recycling with you or put in an appropriate bin.
- Leave animals, plants, and other parts of nature where you found them.
- Observe wild animals from a distance – use your eyes not your hands, unless it is permitted by camp staff.

Respect Others. Examples include:

- Listen and follow instructions given by camp staff.
- Always stay with your group.
- Use caring and kind language.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Respect other people's physical space and objects.

- Listen to all ideas and be inclusive – allow others to join/play with you.
- Treat others the way they want to be treated and celebrate each other’s individuality.
- Use pronouns and names people introduce themselves with.

Proactive Behavior Guidance Strategies

Before coming to camp, family members provide information about camper’s needs to camp staff and/or the Camp Director. Camp staff may contact a family to discuss best strategies to meet camper’s needs during their session. Any previously known behavior issues that may affect a camper’s participation should be shared with the camp before the session begins. Failure to disclose information may result in grounds for termination.

Camp staff are trained to proactively manage behaviors within each group. Some strategies staff use include:

- Reinforce positive behavior through praise
- Provide ample warning to campers prior to transitions
- Clearly state behavior expectations through group agreements and visual tools
- Provide daily schedules through group check ins and visual tools

When campers struggle with the behavior expectations set for them in the Camper Code of Conduct, camp staff will follow one or more of the steps below, depending on the situation. Camp staff may try a step multiple times.

	Leader Response	Consequences for Camper
1st step	Reminders of the rule.*	Reminders of the rule, discussion of why behavior was inappropriate, and possible options.
2nd step	Reminders of the rule, plus short break. Take notes on a behavior incident report. Camp Director or designee may have a brief check-in with family in person or via a call.	Take a break for up to 15 minutes. Reminders of the rule, discussion of why behavior was inappropriate, and possible options.
3rd step	Discussion with the camper about the rules of camp. Update the Camp Director or Assistant Director on the steps taken so far. Supervise camper during longer break. Add to incident report. Camp Director or designee updates family.	Camper will take a longer break which may include an entire activity. Reminders of the rule, discussion of why behavior was inappropriate, and possible options.
4th step	Camper will be brought to the Camp Director or Assistant Director for a discussion. The Camp Director or Assistant Director will speak with the family about behavior contract.	The camper will be asked to reflect on the discussions about behavior and begin a behavior contract.
5th step	The Camp Director and other Leadership staff (Director of Camps, Education Manager, Regional Director) will discuss possible	The family will be called. Behavior contract is reviewed. Possible dismissal.

	dismissal of participant from the camp and speak with family.	
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*If a camper intentionally hurts another person, themselves, or runs away from the group or staff member, they will immediately be brought to the Camp Director, Assistant Camp Director and/or Behavior Specialist.

After steps 1 through 4, if there is no mutually agreeable resolution of the behavior issues, the Camp Director may issue a written notice of termination. Refunds will not be provided for behavior-based dismissals.

Prohibitions When Managing Behavior

In accordance with the State of Massachusetts Minimum Standards for Recreational Camps for Children:

- (1) Corporal punishment, including spanking, is prohibited.
- (2) No camper shall be subjected to cruel or severe punishment, humiliation, or verbal abuse.
- (3) No camper shall be denied food, water or shelter; and
- (4) No child shall be punished for soiling, wetting or not using the toilet.

Termination from Camp

Mass Audubon camps recognize the various needs of campers at different ages and stages of development, and that campers must be treated individually. The family will be notified of issues leading to a child’s termination from a Mass Audubon camp.

Mass Audubon reserves the right to dismiss any camper whose actions or behaviors jeopardize the overall health and goals of the camp, including campers requiring routine, on-going one-on-one attention and direction related to behavioral issues. Mass Audubon also reserves the right to dismiss any enrolled participant whose actions interfere with the successful operation of the camp. Repeated failure to comply with camp rules and/or procedures will result in dismissal. No refunds will be given for behavior-based termination of participation.

Immediate Suspension

Any camper whose behavior seriously threatens the emotional or physical safety of themselves, or others may be suspended, for an initial period of up to 2 days. During the period of suspension, the Camp Director, camp staff, and the family will further evaluate to determine whether it is appropriate for the camper to return to the camp.

Examples of behavior that may warrant immediate suspension include:

- Physically attacking or threatening another child, themselves, or an adult.
- Documented harassment of another child, including the use of discriminatory language on the basis of race, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability.
- Due to a child's dangerous behavior, an emergency physical restraint is used on the child to protect themselves or others from imminent serious physical harm.
- Leaving the camp site without permission of the staff (includes leaving the sanctuary grounds or leaving the immediate vicinity of an outdoor activity without permission of camp staff).

The camp reserves the right to allow provisional reentry into the camp or to proceed with the termination of the camper’s enrollment. No refunds will be given for behavior-based termination of participation.

All families and campers review and sign off on Mass Audubon's Behavior Expectations and Camper Code of Conduct before attending camp. In addition, visit our website to view Mass Audubon's [camp goals and inclusion practices](#).

Camp Policy Requests

Our background check, health care, and discipline policies as well as the grievance procedures are available upon request.

Thank you for being part of the Drumlin Nature Camp community. Together, we create a space where children can explore, learn, and grow in the natural world. We look forward to an exciting summer of discovery and adventure with your family!

