

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary Scout Programs

Programs are led by an experienced field teacher who will bring your group on educational and engaging explorations of our sanctuary.

Program Days and Times

Saturdays

10am - 11:30pm/1:30pm - 3pm

Cost: \$150 per troop*

*Groups can be no more than 15 people including all scouts, adults, and siblings. If you have more than 15 people you must book a second teacher.

Boy Scout Badge Programs

Tigers in the Wild (Tiger Scouts)

Take a hike and explore our sanctuary! Get a close look at the plants and animals that call this place home and learn about how we can help using the principles of Leave No Trace.

Paws on the Path (Wolf Scouts)

Search for and identify some of the fascinating birds, insects, and mammals found on our sanctuary. Using nets and bug boxes we will catch insects for closer observation and end by making a map of the area showing our favorite nature finds.

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns (Bear Scouts)

Discover and identify the plants and animals that live on the sanctuary. Explore different habitats and see wildlife at a distance using binoculars and up-close using hand lenses. Learn about extinction and what wildlife needs to survive and thrive.

Into the Woods (Webelos)

Learn to identify forest trees and plants and discover why they are useful to wildlife and humans. Discuss the parts of a tree and learn how growth rings tell the story of the past.

Into the Wild (Webelos)

Observe and identify insects and other animals in the fields and forests. Take a closer look at producers, consumers, and decomposers, and learn the important role of wetlands.



Girl Scout Badge Programs



Bugs Badge (Brownies)

Have you ever held a butterfly or dragonfly in your hand? Come discover some of the amazing insects that live at the sanctuary. Using nets and magnifying lenses we will search fields, forests, and wetlands for our buggy friends. Then we'll take some time to observe and create a bug poster to share what we have learned!

Senses Badge (Brownies)

Put all of your senses to the test as we explore our sanctuary. Use binoculars to see like a hawk, cup your ears to hear like a deer., smell the fresh air, leaves, and soil like a coyote on the prowl. By observing animals in the wild, we will learn how animals (and you!) use senses to survive.

Animal Habitats Badge (Juniors)

Have you ever wondered how animals choose where to live? During this program, scouts will learn what all animals need to survive and how this determines where they make their homes. We will explore different habitats around the sanctuary and build an animal home out of natural materials.

Special Programs for All Scouts

Fun for scout and youth groups of all ages!

Habitat Hike

Explore forests, fields, and wetlands and learn what makes each place unique. Search for signs of seasonal changes and observe the plants and animals that call these places home.

Backyard Birds

With binoculars and field guides we will observe birds in our native bird garden, climb the observation tower, and explore the trails in search of our feathered friends.

Animal Tracking

No matter the season, wild animals leave their tracks and signs behind them like a story to be discovered. Learn to find and follow these signs and find out more about the animals that make them.

Maple Sugaring (March Only)

Learn about the sweet science of making maple syrup at the Sanctuary! Call for more details

Important Group Program Safety Information

Dear Group Program Participants:

Mass Audubon has made changes to group programs to reduce the possibility of transmission of COVID-19 among participants, staff, and their families. Please continue reading so you are ready for your program with us.

Group Sizes

Groups will be no more than sixteen people, including the Mass Audubon instructor(s). This includes adults and children, regardless of age. If your group is larger than 15 people you may ask to book a second instructor to lead a separate group of up to 15 people. These groups would not be together during the program time and would do their hikes and activities separately. Please do not bring siblings under the age of five.

Program Experience

Though we will still take part in much of the usual nature play, exploration, and learning experiences as before, programs will have some changes from years past. The entire program will now be held outside with no time spent in buildings except for bathroom breaks and in case of sudden bad weather.

Screening

Before attending the program, all participants must do a health self-check. If you have a fever of 100 degrees or higher or any signs of respiratory illness, you should not attend the program.

If in the past 14 days you have had contact with someone who has tested positive for the novel coronavirus, please do not attend this program unless you have tested negative for COVID.

Masks and Social Distancing

A mask must be worn at all times when indoors. Program will be conducted entirely outside except for bathroom use and short warm-up breaks or to seek shelter from sudden bad weather. When possible, participants will be asked to stay six feet apart during program activities.

Cleaning Intensified

Cleaning procedures will be intensified at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary and will follow the recommendations of the Topsfield Board of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). All staff will be trained in proper cleaning procedures. Bathrooms, high touch surfaces, and equipment will be sanitized after use and will be utilized in a way that minimizes sharing and encourages distancing.

Thank you so much for helping us to keep our program safe!