



Birthday Parties at the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary!

Available from the first week of September to the second week of June
Tuesday - Friday: Afternoons or Evenings
Saturday & Sunday: 10am or 1:30pm

Your Program: 2 hour party (with 15 minutes before and after for setup and pack up)

- ❖ Arrive 15 minutes before the party start-time to set up/decorate the indoor space as you would like (tables and chairs are provided)
- ❖ Guests arrive and the party starts with 1 hour of outdoor nature-based activities with a Mass Audubon teacher on a theme of your choice
- ❖ After the hike you have 1 hour for your own indoor celebration (presents, food, etc.)
- ❖ At the end please take the last 15 minutes or so to pack up
- ❖ We are carry-in/carry-out so please take all trash with you at the end of your program

****Please no balloons, glitter, or piñatas****

See reverse for other eco-friendly party tips

Cost: Members \$175 / Nonmembers \$240 (includes \$50 non-refundable deposit)

Maximum: 15 children including siblings

Themes: See back of this flier for our exciting nature-based themes
or create a custom program of your choice (*additional fee of \$25*)

Please book your party at least two weeks in advance

To schedule a birthday party, or for more information, please contact:

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary
87 Perkins Row
Topsfield, MA 01983
978-887-9264
ipswichriver@massaudubon.org

Just want to rent a building for your party or event? Call or email for more information

BIRTHDAY THEMES

Habitat Hike

Party guests will explore the many different habitats of the sanctuary. We'll take a closer look at what the plants and animals are up to during your birthday season. Hands-on discoveries await!

Pond Dipping

Discover the creatures that wriggle and swim in the waters of our sanctuary. Equipped with nets and buckets, we will hike to the wetlands and catch creatures from the water's edge.

Backyard Birds

Using binoculars we will observe birds in our bird garden, climb up high in the observation tower, and find our feathered friends out on the trails. We'll take a closer look at feathers, nests, and bird mounts. Using observational skills we will start to identify some of our local birds.

Beavers

Discover what life is like as the largest rodent in North America. We will observe a beaver mount up close and look for real beaver lodges, dams, and scent mounds. You might even hear one slap its tail!

Owls

Become a wildlife biologist as we hike the trails to see where owls live. We'll learn about their hunting adaptations, calls, view owl mounts, and the birthday child will dissect a real owl pellet!

Animal Tracking

Party guests will learn about tracks and the animals that made them. Snow or no snow, signs of wildlife abound. Learn to identify animal tracks, then try to walk like a fox or bound like an otter. We'll also explore forest trails and meadows in search of chews, burrows, and scat.

Insects and Spiders

Have you ever wondered why bees buzz and crickets chirp? Then join us as we fly, jump, and crawl through the fields and gardens of the sanctuary. Using nets and bug boxes we'll search for butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles, and more!

Life Under Rocks and Logs

Who hides under the rocks and logs of the sanctuary? Is it a centipede? A salamander? Party guests will explore the hidden treasures under the surface of the forest using bug boxes and hand lenses.

Nature and Art

Take a hike around our beautiful sanctuary for inspiration and then do a nature-based craft that each child can take home. Options for crafts include paper plate watercolor painting, found nature objects collage, and colored pencil drawing of our real animal mounts and artifacts

Want to help out the wonderful wildlife you love even more?

Try these eco-friendly party tips:

- ❖ Send electronic invitations rather than paper ones
- ❖ Use re-useable or bio-degradable plates, cups, and utensils
- ❖ Remember, please **no balloons** for your party on the Sanctuary. They are harmful to wildlife, whether they float away or are thrown away.
- ❖ Try cloth or biodegradable goodie bags and avoid plastic for the goodies as well. Some great ideas are wooden or cloth toys, bags of seeds, small nature journals and pencils, mini insect nets or containers, or even empty goodie bags for collecting small nature treasures like rocks and acorns found during your party!