



Wellfleet Bay Nature Camp 2024 Session Themes

Nature Camps

Monday–Friday • Themed weekly sessions
June 24–August 16 (no camp July 4–5)
Note: some age groups do not run every week

Full-day Camp: 9:00 am–2:30 pm

Half-day Camp: 9:00 am–12:15 pm (for Discoverers and Adventurers age groups only)

Age Groups

Discoverers

Entering Pre-K or Kindergarten
Discoverers must be age 4 by June 1

Adventurers

Entering Grade 1

Explorers

Entering Grades 2–3

Naturalists

Entering Grades 4–5
Sessions include off-site trips the weeks of July 22, July 29, August 5, and August 12
Sessions DO NOT include off-site trips the weeks of Weeks of June 24, July 1, July 8, and July 15

Ecologists

Entering grades 6–8
Includes Off-Site Trips

Themes for Discoverers and Adventurers

Entering Pre-K or Kindergarten (Discoverers) or Grade 1 (Adventurers)

Rainbow Detectives

June 24-28

Search for colors in nature each day and investigate some color mysteries in Wellfleet Bay's habitats. Through crafts, games, and play, campers will explore color as light, learn about shadows, and discover the importance of color for wildlife and the natural world.

Bird Olympics

July 1-3 (No camp July 4-5)

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. Even make your own binoculars! *No camp Thursday, July 4, or Friday, July 5.*

Into the Woods

July 8-12

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. Let's compare leaves and do leaf rubbings to learn all about this habitat.

Extreme Earth Artists

July 15-19

Let your imagination run wild this week as you get crafty with natural items and an assortment of recycled materials. Take your creativity to the extreme by designing artwork using rocks, mud, sticks, and leaves. We'll even get messy outside and build our very own mud kitchens!

Fishy Friends

July 22-26

Get fishy learning about finned friends from the deepest parts of the ocean to our own tidal flats. Practice using differently shaped fins and how they help fish move, their special defenses, and the secrets of our top ocean predators: sharks. Partake in an up-close feeding of Wellfleet Bay's aquarium residents!

Metamorphosis Magic

July 29–August 27

Certain creatures transform as they grow-- born in a different form than the one they grow into is a kind of magic all its own! This week, watch the metamorphosis of some amazing animals: Witness caterpillars turn to butterflies, meet tadpoles who will become bullfrogs, and search for Dragonfly nymphs while exploring outdoors!

Carnivore Camp

August 5–9

Carnivores are animals with amazing predatory skills that allow them to capture and eat other animals. We'll search low for snakes and frogs and high for hawks and dragonflies to find out what these carnivores like to eat.

Pond Patrol

August 12–16

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

Everyday Adventures: Last week!

August 19–23

End your summer at Wellfleet Bay and hit the trail running with all kinds of outdoor fun! Go on scavenger hunts, play games, conduct experiments, and more. This week is all about having fun outside, exploring the natural world, and creating opportunities for adventure every day.

Themes for Explorers and Naturalists

Entering Grades 2–3 (Explorers) or Grades 4–5 (Naturalists)

Nature Detectives

June 24–28

There is a mysterious pile of feathers on the trail: who do they belong to, and what happened? Hone your observation skills, learn to identify animal tracks, and navigate the sanctuary with a map. At the end of the session, put your new detective skills to the test to solve nature mysteries as a team.

Flying Wild

July 1–3

Keep your eyes to the sky this week as we seek out all kinds of flying creatures! From birds to bats to butterflies, explore the remarkable ways flying animals get around and survive in the wild. Catch insects with a net, practice moving like a bird, and learn about all things with wings at Wellfleet Bay. No camp Thursday, July 4th and Friday, July 5th.

Tidal Trekkers

July 8–12

When the tide goes out, it unveils a hidden world! Watch Fiddler Crabs race about, feel snails crawl on your hand, and search for Horseshoe Crabs along the shore! We will learn what makes the Horseshoe Crabs so important to all these tidal flats organisms, including shorebirds.

Animal Architects

July 15–19

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 places that animals call home throughout the sanctuary and discover how critters big and small overcome the challenges of different habitats and share resources in an ecosystem.

Fur, Feathers, Shells, and Scales

July 22–26

Discover the many differences between reptiles, mammals, fish, amphibians, and birds. While exploring a new, exciting location on the sanctuary each day, we'll observe different survival adaptations of common animals, including Gray Squirrel, Painted Turtle, Turkeys, and more. Close, in-hand study of furs, feathers, and shells will help campers make conclusions of their very own.

Buggin'

July 29–August 2

Are all bugs insects, or are all insects bugs? Discover the answer by searching high and low for pill bugs, butterflies, grasshoppers, ladybugs, and more. Through observation and games, learn about camouflage, body structures, life cycles, and what makes a bug a bug.

Amazing Amphibians

August 5–9

The Cape is home to many species of salamanders, frogs, and toads! We'll explore special vernal pool habitats where these species breed, catch Fowler's toads in the grasses, watch bullfrog tadpoles swim, and learn why they are the true masters of evolution.

Webs of Wonder

August 12–16

Explore Wellfleet Bay's trails this week to discover a diverse community of plants and animals and how they all connect. Who is eating whom in your local food web? Ask questions, gather evidence, and conduct sensory experiments to find out! Examine real animal artifacts such as wings and skulls and learn about unique adaptations that help our local wildlife survive.

Everyday Adventures: Last Week!

August 19–23

This session is only offered for the Explorers age group

End your summer at Wellfleet Bay and hit the trail running with all kinds of outdoor fun! Go on scavenger hunts, play games, conduct experiments, and more. This week is all about having fun outside, exploring the natural world, and creating opportunities for adventure every day.

Themes for Ecologists

Entering grades 6–8

Through the Streams

July 22–26

Campers must be entering grades 6-8. Explore freshwater habitats for various aquatic life, from stream to sea! Set eel traps and see what you catch, explore the lifecycle of herring, and see unique changes that these running freshwater bodies of water undergo as they empty into an estuary. Collect water specimens to observe their behaviors and adaptations and view them all from a Kayak trip. *includes off-site trips!

Coastal Cape Cod

July 29–August 2

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. Survey coastal waterbirds, pull fish pots on a Marine Life Cruise, and go netting for microorganisms at high tide. *includes off-site trips!

Shark Enthusiast

August 5–9

Campers must be entering grades 6-8. Immerse yourself in shark biology and marine science through hands-on labs and field trips to several local destinations. Learn about the various tags used in tracking sharks, study the anatomy of a shark by completing a shark dissection, and take a boat to observe the white shark's primary food source—seals! Offered in partnership with the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC).

Living with Wildlife

August 12–16

Humans and wildlife have been living side by side since the beginning of our species, yet wild spaces are declining. Delve into the various ways that we can protect our wildlife neighbors, and how you can be a true nature hero! Help build enclosures for nesting turtles, view Marine Mammals on a whale watch, and explore important shorebird habitats. Includes off-site trips!