

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## DAY CAMP

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### **1. What makes Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Day Camp different than other camps?**

Our Day Camp is all about nature. Each week is a different nature theme, from marine to freshwater and from mammals to insects. Campers will spend their day exploring our 1100-acre coastal sanctuary. Activities, projects, games, crafts, and stories are all incorporated into the camp day. Older campers will have opportunities to go on boat cruises, kayak, snorkel, and take part in on-going research projects.

### **2. What is the facility like? The Sanctuary?**

The 1100-acre Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary offers outstanding opportunities for exploration and discovery of the natural world, from forest and field to salt marsh, sandy beach, and tidal flats; from turtles and terns to minnows and butterflies. Five miles of trails, including an all-persons accessible trail, traverse eight different habitats representing the diversity of Cape Cod. Our new LEED-certified green nature center also offers campers the chance to learn about alternative energy, such as solar and wind energy.

### **3. When does camp start? End?**

Camp starts the third week of June and runs until the Friday of Labor Day Weekend. Each session runs from Monday through Friday and the camp day starts at 9 AM and ends at either 12:30 PM (younger campers) or 2:30 PM (older campers). We offer an Extended Day Option for those younger campers who would like to stay until 2:30 PM.

### **4. How old does my child need to be in order to attend?**

Campers must be age 4 by April 1 of the camp year. There are no exceptions to this policy.

### **5. Are most children who attend from Cape Cod?**

There is a good diversity of children who come to camp. Some are from Cape Cod, while others are here for a week's vacation, and others are here for the entire summer. We've had campers from Wellfleet, Boston, New York City, California, and many other places around the US (and even the world)! We do offer a Cape Cod resident discount to those who can show proof of enrollment in a Cape Cod school.

### **6. How many weeks do most children sign up for?**

Most sign up for one or two weeks. We do have several campers who sign up for 3-5 weeks, while a few others sign up for the whole summer.

### **7. Do you have camp on July 4?**

Yes we do (unless it is a Saturday or Sunday).

### **8. How do you determine what group my child will be in?**

Campers are placed into groups according to what grade they are entering. There are no exceptions to this policy.

**9. What do the campers do throughout the day?**

Campers will spend most of the day outdoors exploring the 1100-acre sanctuary. They will walk the trails and also head off the trails in some places. Instructors will help campers catch fish and crabs with dip nets, collect aquatic insects with nets, listen for frog calls, follow mammal tracks, look for owl pellets and other signs of animals, catch butterflies and grasshoppers in nets, hold a box turtle, comb the beach for shells, hermit crabs, and much more.

**10. How should my child dress? What should I pack for my child each day?**

Children should wear clothes that can get dirty and comfortable walking shoes that can get wet and muddy (ex. Texas, Crocs). They should not wear flip-flops. On days that are spent in the woods or field closed-toe shoes are preferred (we will inform you of the week's plan on the first day of camp.). Please also have them bring a sweatshirt or lightweight jacket, a brimmed hat, water bottle, knapsack, a spare set of clothes (for younger campers), and a nutritious snack (such as granola bar, apple, string cheese, etc.) And for those staying until 2:30 PM please also pack a lunch.

**11. Do campers have a chance to swim during the day?**

No. Swimming is not allowed on the Sanctuary.

**STAFF**

**12. What background or experience do the camp instructors have?**

Our staff members are chosen for their enthusiasm, experience, knowledge, and ability to work with children in the outdoors. The staff are college graduates or current undergraduates in an environmental and/or educational field. Each participates in a week-long pre-camp training and is certified in First Aid and CPR.

**13. What do you cover during camp training?**

Our 40-hour staff training covers everything from first aid and safety, camp operating procedures (ex. thunderstorms, missing child policy, camper sign-in, etc.), working with children (communication, management), and natural history.

**14. What is the ratio of campers to camp instructor?**

The ratio depends on the camper's age. We follow Massachusetts and American Camping Association regulations. For campers 6 and under we have a 5:1 ratio of campers to instructor. For campers ages 7 and older we have a 7:1 or 8:1 ratio.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**15. What safety precautions does the camp take?**

Safety is our main concern at camp. All our staff must be certified in First Aid and CPR. All staff must carry a radio at all times so there can be communication between the groups and the director and nature center. All groups carry first aid kits at all times. Any

time a group travels off-site they must carry a cell phone and take along a larger travel first aid kit. Day Camp Instructors review each camper's health form the week prior to camp in case there are any allergies or other issues to be aware of. All of these practices help to ensure the safety and well-being of every camp group.

**16. What should I do to prevent incidents if my child has a severe peanut allergy?**

Please let the DC Director know well before camp begins so she can send an e-mail out to all parents of the group asking them to pack nut-free snacks and lunches.

**17. How can I best protect my child from ticks?**

The best way to protect from ticks is to wear insect repellent and long pants tucked into socks. However, most summer days are very hot and long pants are not recommended. Unfortunately we can't avoid ticks, but we do conduct tick checks throughout the day. Our camp staff will have the children check themselves for ticks, but we ask that you also do a daily tick check at home.

**OFF-SITE TRAVEL**

**18. What kind of vehicles will the campers travel in? Who will drive them?**

Campers will be transported in either a 12-passenger van or 7 or 8-passenger mini van. The Day Camp Instructors will drive them. Prior to camp each driver is required to take a driving test in the van with the Day Camp Director and have their license checked by our headquarters.

**19. Where will campers snorkel? Canoe/Kayak?**

Locations for snorkeling, canoeing, & kayaking vary. In 2007 camp groups went to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and Chatham; Little Cliff and Big Cliff Ponds in Nickerson State Park; Lieutenant Island, Wellfleet; and the Provincetown Jetty.

**20. Who leads the canoe and/or kayak trips?**

Our canoeing trips are led by MAS Teacher/Naturalist, Dennis Murley. He has been leading canoe trips on Cape Cod for over 20 years. Our kayaking trips are led by Dick Hilmer of Explore Cape Cod ([www.explorecapecod.com](http://www.explorecapecod.com)).

**REGISTRATION**

**21. How and when can I register for camp?**

You can register for camp as soon as the brochures are mailed out at the beginning of January. Only mail-in registrations are accepted through April 1. After April 1 we will accept registrations through the mail, over the phone, or by fax. Registrations are not accepted by e-mail.

**22. What information do I need to complete in order for my child to attend camp?**

We need a completed registration form, full payment at time of registration, three signed waivers, a completed health form (supplied by MAS), and a doctor-signed immunization record in order for your child to attend camp.