



## Wellfleet Bay Nature Day Camp

### Weekly Themes 2025

Half-Day Ramblers • Entering Grades PreK-1 (Ages 4.5-7)

Discoverers • Entering Grades PreK-K (Ages 4.5-5)

Adventurers • Entering Grade 1 (Ages 6-7)

#### **Nature Detectives: 6/23-6/27**

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 get low and go slow to notice signs of wildlife! At the end of the session, put your new detective skills to the test to solve nature mysteries as a team.

#### **Flying Wild: 6/30-7/3 (4-day week)**

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 Friday, July 4.

#### **Fur, Feathers, Shells, and Scales: 7/7-7-11**

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 structures of common animals, including Gray Squirrel, Painted Turtle, Turkeys, and more. Up-close, in-hand study of furs, feathers, and shells will help campers make conclusions of their very own.

#### **Buggin': 7/14-7/18**

Are all bugs insects, or are all insects bugs? Roll logs and search for pill bugs, worms and other crawlers or search high for butterflies, grasshoppers, ladybugs, and more! Through games and exploring, learn about camouflage, body structures, life cycles, and what makes a bug a bug!

#### **Amazing Amphibians: 7/21-7/25**

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

#### **Animal Instincts: 7/28-8/1**

Think like a rabbit and act like a deer. Nature-themed games and activities will help us understand animal behavior. Discover how different animals see, smell, hunt, hide, and travel.

**Aqua-Animals: 8/4-8/8**

Cool and wet: what makes animals who live in the water unique? See what it's like for critters of all kinds—including frogs, crabs, snails, fish, and whales— by exploring coastal and wetland habitats.

**Mighty Mammals: 8/11-8/15**

This week, we'll examine coyotes, deer, rabbits, squirrels and more! An otter swims, so why is it a mammal and not a fish? Discover the differences between mammals and other animals by examining real mammal artifacts up close and observing live mammals in their natural habitats!

**Everyday Adventures: 8/18-8/22**

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.

[Explorers • Entering Grades 2–3 \(Ages 7–8\)](#)

[Naturalists • Entering Grades 4–5 \(Ages 9–10\)](#)

**Night Critters: 6/23-6/27**

There is a secret natural world that comes alive while we sleep! How do owls and bats hunt so well in the dark? Why do fireflies flash their lights? Uncover the amazing world of nocturnal animals and how they hunt, hide, and wander about in the dark.

**Habitat Homes: 6/30-7/3**

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 habitats across Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary! No camp on July 4.

**Fabulous Fliers: 7/7-7/11**

This week we'll take to the skies and learn all about bird adaptations! Answer questions about migration, different bird calls, and survival strategies. Identify and explore the many fabulous fliers at Wellfleet Bay by observing our purple martin nesting gourds, blue bird houses, and osprey poles!

**NSI: Nature Scene Investigators: 7/14-7/18**

Have you ever wondered what kind of animal was gnawing on the pinecone you found under a tree? Or what an owl had for lunch, by examining its furry pellet? Follow those muddy tracks in the riverbank to see where they lead-- As an NSI, we'll work to solve nature puzzles as we explore fields, forest, and wetlands.

**Marine Muckers: 7/21-7/25**

Mucky, salty, and squelchy: look for crabs and snails in the marsh, search the tidal flats for clams and shorebirds, and scoop up schooling fish along the shoreline. Get wet and muddy as you discover some of the Cape's most incredible critters!

**Live Like an Animal: 7/28-8/1**

Learn how to live like an animal! Develop skills in tracking, plant identification, and shelter building as you explore different habitats. Learn to find your way with and without a map and get to know the principles of “Leave No Trace” so that you are prepared for any adventure!

**Predators: 8/4-8/8**

Osprey, black racer snakes, and giant water bugs: Discover the cunning strategies these predators use to survive and find out how we fit into nature’s predator/prey dynamic. Take a close look at animal skulls to determine the different characteristics of herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.

**Reptile Roundup: 8/11-8/15**

Warm summer weather is the perfect time to search for dinosaur-like reptiles, including snakes and turtles, with their scaly skin and underground egg-laying. Search the trailside, salt marsh, vernal pool, and ponds for these creatures and discover why they’ve survived on earth for millions of years.

**Everyday Adventures: 8/18-8/22** *\*Explorers group only*

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**Ecologists • Entering Grades 6–8 (Ages 11–13)**

**Endangered Species: July 21-25**

Cape Cod is home to some incredible species, yet some are on the decline...Each day, focus on a different endangered species, and learn their various conservation techniques! Meet with Mass Audubon experts working to protect Horseshoe Crabs, Turtles, Shorebirds and more, learning how we monitor these animals in their habitats. Most importantly, how you can help! Search for nesting turtles, visit important shorebird habitats, and view endangered marine mammals from a whale watch. *\*Includes off-site trips!*

**Wetland Warriors: July 28–August 1**

Venture to all the magnificent wetlands of Cape Cod, while learning their importance to our coastal eco-systems! From salt marshes to freshwater rivers, traverse these waterways aboard your kayak, and grab your snorkel mask to survey underwater organisms! *\*includes off-site trips!*

**Shark Enthusiasts: August 4–8**

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 cruise to observe the white shark’s primary food source—seals! Offered in partnership with the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy (AWSC). *\*includes off-site trips*

**Nature Heroes: August 11–15**

Have you ever wondered how you can be a true Nature Hero in your own life? Learn everyday actions that have the most positive impacts on our natural world. Explore the Cape with a new perspective while you work on creating more earth-friendly and sustainable habits! Whether it's getting down and dirty composting, or dyeing fibers with natural dyes, you’ll take your new skills to create a Camp-wide Action Plan to implement on-site by the end of your week! *\*includes off-site trips*

