

## COVID AND ILLNESS-RELATED GUIDELINES

Be sure to familiarize yourself with our COVID-19 guidelines. Please note, in-person camp may be canceled at any time up until and during the camp season if COVID cases rise and we feel it would not be safe for our staff and campers.

These guidelines are subject to change at any time. If you or your child are feeling ill, **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO CAMP!** Contact our Camp Director to notify us of any illness. If a camper becomes ill and tests positive for COVID-19, guardians of campers in that session will be notified and given any further instructions.

We are a nature camp. Camp will primarily be held outdoors and under tents, unless there is severe weather such as a thunderstorm. If the weather forecast is calling for rain, please be sure to send your camper with a raincoat, rain boots, or even a change of clothes, as we will be outside.



← Register for Camp Here



185 East Flat Hill Road

Southbury, CT 06488

203-405-9113

[bentoftheriver.audubon.org/summer-camp](http://bentoftheriver.audubon.org/summer-camp)



Students grade 1st - 8th enjoy exploring nature at Bent of the River Audubon Center.



# Camp at-a-Glance

Dates	Naturalists 1st - 4th \$350 per week	Explorers 5th- 8th \$350 per week
6/30 -7-3	Wild Chorus	Survival Village Challenge
7/7 - 7/11	Busy as Beavers	Great Bent Bird Mystery
7/14 - 7/18	Summer Splash	Aqua Explorers
7/21 - 7/25	Outdoor Magic	Hogwarts Comes to the Bent
7/28 - 8/1	Insect Investigations	Birds of a Feather
8/4 - 8/8	Nature Detectives	Animal Artists
8/11 - 8/15	Colorful Critters	Twilight Explorers



Crayfish  
Photo: Bent of the River

## Camp Age Groups

Camp groups are arranged by grade. Naturalists are campers entering grades 1 - 4 in Fall 2024 and EcoDiscoverers are campers entering grades 5 - 8.

## Camp Hours and Length

Most camp sessions last one week, Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \*The Twilight Explorers week offered for EcoDiscoverers runs from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m..

## Camp Registration

Camp spots will be reserved only after registration is completed and tuition is received.

## Pricing

Tuition is \$350 per camper per week. For the Naturalists camp the week of 4th of July, tuition is \$270.00

# Summer Camp

**Creating outdoor experiences and memories that last a lifetime**

Campers at Bent of the River's Audubon Summer Day Camp explore nature in a fun, safe environment within the 700 acres of our nature sanctuary. Audubon Camp fosters curiosity through outdoor exploration that helps campers develop an understanding of the natural world. These unique experiences and adventures can grow into a lifelong appreciation for our environment.

Our camp days are filled with a variety of activities—including hiking, brook walks, river exploration, crafts, nature-themed games, live animal interactions, and birding. For the safety of our campers, families, and staff, we strictly follow the latest COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Our staff is selected for their experience and skills working with youth in environmental education and for their interest in local ecology and natural history. All staff must pass background checks and are required to hold current CPR and First Aid certifications, making camp a safe place to learn about and experience nature. Our staff has helping hands each week from our Leaders in Training, experienced campers gaining skills in environmental education leadership.

## **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

Payment (minus 20%) will be refunded for cancellations received at least two weeks before the first day of camp to be attended. If Audubon must cancel a session, you will receive a full refund for that session only. No refunds will be given for cancellations made within two weeks of camp.



Praying Mantis  
Photo: Bent of the River Audubon Center.

# Naturalists

Campers entering 1 - 4, join us for up to 7 weeks of summer day camp fun. Learn about and enjoy different nature themes each week.

## 6/30 - 7/3 Wild Chorus

Nature's band is always playing here at the Bent. This week you will become part of the music by making your own instruments out of natural materials. Explore and discover all the songs of nature.

## 7/7 - 7/11 Busy as Beavers

All the animals at the Bent stay busy year-round. You will be as busy as they are building dams, nests, and other shelters this week. Explore all the unique habitats we have to offer.

## 7/14 - 7/18 Summer Splash

Ready to get wet and cool off from the summer heat? You will get to meet live animals with special water adaptations while you explore the river, dip into our vernal pool, and play in Crayfish Alley.

## 7/21 - 7/25 Outdoor Magic

This week the Bent will magically transform into Hogwarts. Be a part of the wizarding world, make potions, play Quidditch, and find magical creatures around every corner!

## 7/28 - 8/1 Insect Investigations

The Bent is full of Bugs! This week you will catch insects in the meadows, vernal pool, under logs, and in the river. Investigate what makes these critters special and learn about their cool adaptations.

## 8/4 - 8/8 Nature Detectives

You're a detective on the case this week. Look for clues hiding in plain sight like colorful leaves, fluffy feathers, and shiny rocks. Can you solve this case?

## 8/11 - 8/15 Colorful Critters

Tap into your creative side and become a nature artist. Make sculptures with mud, paint with leaves and twigs, and create jewelry with materials we find throughout our meadow, river, and forest.





# Eco-Discoverers

Campers entering Grades 5 - 8, join us for up to 6 weeks of summer camp fun. Learn about and enjoy different nature themes each week, including a week with twilight hikes.



## **6/30 - 7/3 Survival Village Challenge**

Learn how to survive in the wilderness. Create a village with other campers where you build forts, forge rivers, and seek adventure as you solve challenges and learn to survive by relying on each other. The session includes an overnight on Tuesday.

## **7/7 - 7/11 Great Bent Bird Mystery**

Something mysterious is going on at the Bent. Decode secret messages, solve riddles, and uncover the truth. Do you have detective skills to solve this mystery?

## **7/14 - 7/18 Aqua Explorers**

Do you love to get wet and wild? This week is all about keeping cool while exploring our aquatic habitats and finding the animals that live in them. Create and play water games with your fellow campers.

## **7/21/ - 7/25 Hogwarts Comes to the Bent**

Even muggles get to go to Hogwarts this week at the Bent. Become nature wizards and explore the magical creatures lurking in various habitats. Make your own wand and cast spells.

## **7/28 - 8/1 Birds of a Feather**

We love our feathered friends here at the Bent. Learn all about the wonder of birds. Go birding, check out our feather collection, and learn about how scientists track birds.

## **8/4 - 8/8 Animal Artists**

Unleash your inner artist this week. Get creative by making paper, painting with natural materials, and making sculptures with what you can find.

## **8/11 - 8/15 Twilight Explorers: 4:00 pm-9:00 pm**

Just because the sun goes down doesn't mean every animal goes to bed. Many animals like bats, owls, and beavers are most active at night. Venture into the night to see all these critters.

# Camp FAQs

## Hours of Operation

Audubon Summer Day Camp is held Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Drop off your camper no earlier than 8:50 AM and arrive promptly at 4:00 PM for pick-up.

## Please Note

Grades 5-8 August 11 August 15 “Twilight Explorers” will be Monday through Friday from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

EcoDiscoverers may participate during regular day camp hours.

## Sign-in/Out Procedures Each Day

Parents/Guardians accompany their children to camp and sign them into the program on the attendance sheet when they arrive.

Parents/Guardians also sign their children out upon pick up. Campers should be signed in and out every day with their assigned counselor by parents or an authorized adult (18 years and older). Please do not leave children unattended at the Center before the camp day begins at 9:00 AM. Please be prompt or call to inform staff if you know if you will be late.

## Emergency Plan

The camp staff is trained to care for minor injuries at camp. Should a serious injury occur, the Camp Director or Assistant Director will notify you or an emergency contact person.

If your child will be absent from camp, please call Kate at Audubon Center at Bent of the River at 203-405-9113 before 8:45 AM.

## Medication and Sunscreen/Insect Repellent

All campers should come to camp wearing sunscreen and be prepared to reapply it when necessary. Staff cannot supply sunscreen or insect repellent.

## Camp Supplies

Below is a list of things your child will need at camp: Lunch and two snacks (mid-morning & afternoon) (refrigeration available.)

Please place in a labeled backpack for carrying things on hikes

1. Extra pair of shoes and socks
2. Warm clothing such as a sweatshirt or sweater
3. Waterproof raincoat or poncho
4. A ball cap or hat for sunny days
5. River Shoes (close-toed shoes that can get wet – Keens are a favorite, old sneakers work well, no open-toed water sandals, please)

Please label the bag and all contents with your camper's first and last name (lunch bags, clothing, water bottles, etc.)

Campers should arrive each day in comfortable clothes (shorts are fine) that can get dirty and closed-toed shoes. Campers should arrive with sunscreen and insect repellent (if desired) applied, so they are ready to begin the day.

Please do not bring food that requires heating. Please leave electronic devices such as cell phones, handheld game/music devices, or tablets at home as well as any toys or other personal items. Thank you!