2023

Summer Nature Programs

Enjoy summer the way it's meant to be

Students ages 3 through 12th grade join us for a fun-filled summer of laughter, hands-on activities, and adventures. Enjoy exciting day camp themes and discover the magic of nature in the Northwest Corner!

sharon.audubon.org/summer-camp

Audubon

Sharon
Audubon Center

325 Cornwall Bridge Road
Sharon, CT 06069
860-364-0520

Join us at Sharon Audubon Center—where FUN, FRIENDS, and NATURE come together!

CAMP HOURS

Sprouts and Explorers: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Monday - Friday

Early Childhood Discovery: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., one week only

T.R.I.P.- Teen Rehabilitation Internship Program: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., one week only

Kid at Heart Camp: 6:30-8:30pm, one week only

FEES & REGISTRATION

Our weekly sessions are organized into age groups (see at-a-glance chart). We have a user-friendly online registration system (CampDoc), which allows parents to submit documents (like health forms) online. Our online registration is available at sharon.audubon.org/summer-camp. If you do not have access to a computer to register, please contact the center for a registration packet.

PAYMENT

- Camp fees must be paid in full at the time of registration unless special circumstances are approved by Audubon staff.
- Preferred payment method is by credit card. Please contact the center to discuss other possible payment options.
- We are not able to register children for camp over the phone or hold spaces.

CAMP AT-A-GLANCE

Dates	Sprouts* K - 2nd Grade $330 per week	Explorers* 3rd - 6th Grade $330 per week	Specialty Camps
June 26-30	Growing Up Wild	Wingin' It!	Junior Buddies
July 3, 5,6, 7 No camp July 4	Baby, It's Cold Outside!	The Way We Play: Animal Interactions	Junior Buddies
July 10-14	Camp Camouflage	Wildlife in Focus	Junior Buddies
July 17-21	Aquanuts	Hogwarts at Audubon	Kid at Heart Camp Junior Buddies
July 24-28	The Fantastic Five: Exploring Our Senses	Walk on the Wild Side	Early Childhood Discovery Junior Buddies
July 31-August 4	Busy Little Bees	Around We Go: The Cycles Surrounding Us	T.R.I.P. (9th-12th Grade) Junior Buddies
Aug ust 7-11	Fairies and Gnomes	Wet 'n' Wild	Junior Buddies
August 14-18	The Best Nest	Animal Architects	Junior Buddies

*Sprouts and Explorers camp sessions will be limited to 15 campers each.

Please Be Mindful of Camp Space Limitations

Due to the increased demand for camp spots for our younger campers, we are pleased to be able to offer an additional duplicate K-2 session each week, which will allow more children to attend camp and shorten waitlists. Maximum overall attendance for each week is 30 children and the group will then be split into two (by Audubon staff) with up to 15 students in each, and their own designated counselors and tent area. Please try to limit your child to three sessions to start to allow more space for other families. Thank you for your cooperation.

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY

Payment (minus 20%) will be refunded for cancellations received at least two weeks prior to the first day of camp to be attended. Cancellation/Refund requests must be done through the online registration platform CampDoc. NO REFUNDS will be given for cancellations within two weeks of the first day of camp to be attended.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Limited financial assistance is available. If you are in need of assistance, contact the center for scholarship information and applications, preferably before camp registration opens. Those receiving financial assistance will be asked to write a short essay telling why they would like to attend Sharon Audubon Center's Summer Nature Programs. Scholarships will only be awarded for one camp session per student.

CONTACT

For Sharon Audubon Center camp questions and queries, contact Wendy Miller, Camp Director, at wendy.miller@audubon.org or 860-364-0520 ext. 105. We ask for your patience as we all work together to make our camp as safe as possible for everyone!

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

An email will be sent out to all camp participants one week before their session begins explaining everything you need to know for the first day of camp.

Lend a Helping Hand

Camp scholarship donations provide critical assistance to families in need. If you are interested in helping another student attend summer camp, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to our Summer Camp Scholarship Fund.

Please send donation checks payable to Sharon Audubon Center with "Camp Scholarship Fund" written in the memo) to: Sharon Audubon Center, Summer Nature Programs, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069. For online donation instructions, please contact Wendy at wendy.miller@audubon.org.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

- We will continue to do the drop off and pick up method we've done the past couple years.
- Drop off will take place from 8:45 - 9:10 a.m. Follow the signs around the driveway circle to the drop-off area and pull up as close as you can to the stop sign and stay in your vehicle.
- Staff will come to you to take snack and lunch orders for the day and at that time, campers will then be escorted out of the vehicle to their correct camp group on the front lawn. This method has proven to work well and creates far less tears from campers than in previous years. We found that the children settle in and adjust much quicker to the camp day than when a parent hangs around at drop off. Thank you for your cooperation!
- If your child needs assistance getting out of a car seat, you may, of course, get out to assist them. For our youngest campers, we understand that going to drop-off camp for the first time can be scary (for the kids and parents,) so we will do our very best to help everyone feel comfortable!
- Please be sure to have any sunscreen and bug spray on your child and give big hugs and kisses before coming to camp.
- At the end of the camp day, parents will again line up in the driveway circle and your child will be called to your vehicle by staff for pick up. Parents/ guardians are once again asked to stay in the vehicle.
- Pick up will be from 2:50 - 3:10 p.m.

SPECIALTY CAMPS

JUNIOR BUDDIES
(A "Counselor In Training" Program for 12-15 year olds)
8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Each week of our Sprouts camps
$200 per child

This program is for any SAC Nature Camp alum who has aged out of our regular camp sessions but is still too young to be a Camp Assistant. If you enjoyed your time at camp, and would like to assist younger children attending our camps, then come be our helper and learn the skills it takes to eventually become an Assistant Counselor! Junior Buddies will help our first-time younger campers adjust to each camp day and feel comfortable, assist with crafts, participate in games and activities, and be an overall great helper alongside our Head and Assistant Counselors. Space is limited to only four Junior Buddies per week, two per K-2 camp session.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DISCOVERY (Ages 3-4 with an adult)
July 24-28— 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
$200 per child/adult pair

This camp program brings parents, grandparents, and caregivers and their young children together to experience the outdoors. Activities and crafts will focus on helping caregivers introduce their children to the wonders of the natural world through the use of their five senses. Explore the garden in search of insects and the pond in search of water critters, meet the center's birds and reptiles, read stories, and just have fun playing games and activities on the front lawn. Adult(s) must participate with children during this program.

SPECIALTY CAMPS

KID AT HEART CAMP (Ages 18-100)

July 17-21— 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
$150 per person

This program is for the young at heart who believe that you don't have to be a kid to enjoy the outdoors. During this week, we'll allow ourselves to just have fun and let nature remind us to slow down and take notice of the beauty around us. We'll participate in many of the activities that our camp kids love to do, from log rolls, meadow searches, and pond dipping for critters to learning about and visiting our birds of prey and reptiles, going on short nature and observation hikes, and more. We are all just kids at heart, so come join the fun!

T.R.I.P.- TEEN REHABILITATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (9TH-12TH GRADE)

July 31-August 4 — 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
$385 per child

Our popular Teen Rehab Internship Program is for students with a strong interest in wildlife rehabilitation and animal care. Learn the "do's and don'ts" of dealing with injured wildlife, animal ID, handling and restraint, physical exams, common diseases and parasites, diet preparation, hand feeding basics, and more. This "camp" is more like a course, with presentations and instruction, along with hands-on practice on both deceased and live specimens. Participants will undergo some work in the wildlife rehab clinic under the supervision of the center's Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern caring for injured animals, feeding baby birds, and other rehab-related tasks. Enrollment is limited to 8 students. Participants must be willing to communicate with others in the group and work together on program activities. ***Some labs will involve working with deceased specimens.*

SPROUTS

Entering Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. — $330 per Child per Week

GROWING UP WILD — June 26-30

Being a kid can be tough at times, but also full of adventure! We'll learn about how different wild babies grow, from birth through their "teenage years" and into adulthood by discussing various life cycles of animals.

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE — July 3,5,6,7

Building snowmen, making ice castles, having snowball fights…just some of the activities that take place at your typical summer camp, right? Campers will do these things as well as make snow, experiment with ice, design snowflakes and more during this new, exciting session. Learn how animals prepare for winter and cope with cold temperatures and maybe it will take our minds off the summer heat! *There is no camp on Tuesday, July 4th, but there will be an optional evening camp session on Thursday, July 6th.

CAMP CAMOUFLAGE — July 10-14

Now you see me, now you don't! We'll explore amazing animal adaptations like camouflage and mimicry and learn the importance of each for predators and prey alike. Is it tree bark or an owl? Is it a leaf or an insect? We'll see how many camouflaged critters we can uncover during our week of explorations.

AQUANUTS — July 17-21

Are you ready for some water adventures? We'll have fun getting wet as we explore the stream, pond, and even puddles (if they're around.) We'll learn about what lives in, on and around water, do some water activities and crafts, and even play some water games on the front lawn.

THE FANTASTIC FIVE: EXPLORING OUR SENSES — July 24-28

There are so many things to see when we walk outside at a place like the Sharon Audubon Center. But, during this camp week, we'll explore the many things that we so often miss by focusing on our five fantastic senses. We'll learn how animals "talk" to each other, learn some common bird songs, discover different textures in nature, taste some bee barf, and so much more.

BUSY LITTLE BEES — July 31 - August 4

We'll be busy as bees as we check out all the bees and other insects and pollinators keeping busy in the wildflower gardens and fields. We'll discuss pollination and why insects are important to people, birds, plants, and more, and we'll explore the Butterfly Flight House to learn about native butterflies.

FAIRIES AND GNOMES — August 7-11

It is believed that fairies and gnomes help Mother Nature make the trees and plants grow and keep our Earth beautiful. This week will be full of adventure, nature play, and a love of all things tiny as we exlore the most enchanting places at Audubon through the eyes of fairies and gnomes!

THE BEST NEST — August 14-18

"In a tiny nest at the top of a tall, tall tree lived Little Owl and all his brothers and sisters. 'There's not enough room!' said Little Owl. So, away he flew to find a new home." Based on the children's book "The Best Nest" by Laura Datta and Matt Buckingham, we'll explore various homes and habitats of different critters as we learn all about birds and help our own little bird find a way back to her best nest.

To register, go online to sharon.audubon.org/summer-camp.

EXPLORERS

Entering 3rd - 6th Grade

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. — $330 per Child per Week

WINGIN' IT — June 26-30

This session will dive deep into the world of birds (and other animals with wings,) from feathers and flight to eggs and nest building to migration and hardships. We'll learn how the Audubon Center's new Motus tower can help with bird conservation and how we can continue to protect birds for years to come.

THE WAY WE PLAY: ANIMAL INTERACTIONS — July 3,5,6,7

Do you know-sis about symbiosis? Symbiosis is how animals interact with one another, whether it be a predator/prey situation or helping each other out with finding food or chasing away pests. Enjoy an exciting look at animals where we'll learn all about the different symbiotic relationships, explore food chains and food webs, and more. *There is no camp on Tuesday, July 4th, but there will be an optional evening camp session on Thursday, July 6th.

WILDLIFE IN FOCUS — July 10-14

During this week of camp, we'll look at and capture nature a little differently as we look for details and patterns in all that we see in plants, animals and more! Students must bring a fully charged digital camera to camp each day.

HOGWARTS AT AUDUBON — July 17-21

Ever dream of attending a school like Hogwarts? At Hogwarts at Audubon, campers will try their hand at classes including "Herbology," "Care of 'Magical Creatures'," and even "Potions." Suitable even for muggles, this camp will connect campers to the natural world with a literary twist.

WALK ON THE WILD SIDE — July 24-28

Feeling adventurous? Take a walk on the wild side and explore some of the farthest reaches of the sanctuary as we learn some basic rules of hiking and outdoor exploration along the way.

AROUND WE GO: THE CYCLES SURROUNDING US — July 31-August 4

Did you know that rocks change over time? Or that the fallen leaves from last autumn have become the soil upon which you now stand? Or that "teenage frogs" are called froglets? These are just a few examples of the cycles that happen around us in nature. This week, we will take a closer look at these and other cycles that impact the lives of people, animals, plants, and our entire planet.

WET 'N' WILD— August 7-11

Join us for a week of wet water adventures as we play water games on the front lawn, learn about animals associated with all types of water habitats, and search for water critters on the Audubon property.

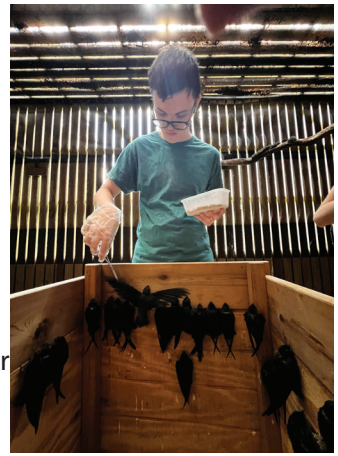
ANIMAL ARCHITECTS— August 14-18

Can you build a house using just your teeth? Does a spider draw out blueprints before spinning such an intricate web design? Do chipmunks have an entire "subway" of tunnels right under our feet? Learn how animals design and build their homes, nests, dams, food caches, and more, and we'll even try our hand at copying some of them!

To register, go online to sharon.audubon.org/summer-camp.

COVID-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 continue to rise and we feel it would not be safe for our staff and campers (see our Cancellation Policy). These guidelines are subject to change at any time.



- If you or your child are feeling ill, or are showing any signs of COVID symptoms, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO CAMP! Contact our Camp Director of First Aid 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.
- At this time, Friday camp presentations for families are under evaluation. Parents/Guardians will be notified if they resume.
- 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. Masks are optional when inside the center building, and strongly encouraged if COVID cases are high in our area.

EDADVANCE FREE LUNCH AND SNACK PROGRAM

Our camp program qualifies for the free breakfast and lunch program distributed by EdAdvance. This organization distributes healthy snack and meal options to local schools and summer camps and ALL CAMPERS are able to receive a free breakfast (more of a snack for our camp) and a free cold lunch and milk. There will be multiple options to choose from each day (such as a chef salad, sunbutter and jelly sandwich, or fresh bagel and fruit) and our counselors will take a lunch count each morning at drop-off and the lunches will be packaged and delivered directly to us. If you prefer not to take part, you may also send a bagged lunch with your child. The calendar for lunch and snack options will be attached to the "first day of camp" email sent one week prior to your child's camp session.

SHARON AUDUBON CENTER

The Outdoors Await

Grounds Open Daily from Sunrise to Sunset

Experience nature and all our sanctuary property has to offer—visit our Raptor Aviaries, Gardens, & Trails. Suggested Donation: $5 per person
Volunteer opportunities available

sharon.audubon.org

Image Credits
All Photos: Sharon Audubon Center