

ILLNESS-RELATED GUIDELINES

- For the safety of our staff and campers, if your child is feeling ill, please **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO CAMP!** Contact our Camp Director to notify us of any illness or absence. This includes, but is not limited to, stomachache, headache, sore throat, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
- If a camper becomes ill while at camp, a guardian/emergency contact will be notified to come pick up the student.
- A student may not return to camp until they are fever-free (without medication) or have not vomited for 24 hours. Please use common sense for other illness symptoms. If your child is super tired and not feeling as though they can participate in camp activities, it is probably best to keep them at home to rest.
- 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.

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. This year, campers will have the option of choosing between either a packed snack and/or lunch from home **OR** cereal (snack) and Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich (lunch) from EdAdvance that will be packaged and delivered directly to us each morning. This is a change from last year, so please know there will no longer be a variety of snack and lunch options from EdAdvance.

*Please note that there may be additional changes made to the lunch program before the start of the camp season, as we need to wait to hear from EdAdvance after this camp brochure becomes available to the public.



Sharon
Audubon Center

[sharon.audubon.org/
summer-camp](https://sharon.audubon.org/summer-camp)

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



Discover the magic of nature in the Northwest Corner

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 experience summer the way it's meant to be!



Sharon
Audubon Center

Camp at-a-Glance



Photo caption and credit TK

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: 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., one week only

FEES & REGISTRATION

Our weekly sessions are organized into age groups based on grades the students will be entering in the fall (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.

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.
- Please read and understand our Cancellation/Refund Policy BEFORE registering your child.

Dates	Sprouts* K-2nd grade \$350 per week	Explorers* 3rd-6th grade \$350 per week	Specialty Camps
June 23-27	Butterflies, Bugs, & Bees	Wild Jobs	Junior Buddies
June 30-July 3 (No camp July 4)	Missing Piece of the Puzzle	Life in the Woods	Junior Buddies
July 7-11	A Reason for the Seasons I	A Reason for the Seasons II	Junior Buddies
July 14-18	Mud Muckers	Birds & Blooms	Junior Buddies
July 21-25	Story Time!	Animal Olympics	Early Childhood Discovery Junior Buddies
July 28-August 1	The Sky Above Us	Mysteries of the Marsh & Beyond	Junior Buddies
August 4-8	The Ground Below Us	Take Note!	T.R.I.P (9th-12th grade) Junior Buddies
August 11-15	The Water Around Us	Riveting Raptors (& Other Predators)	Junior Buddies

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

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF CAMP SPACE LIMITATIONS

Please note that we hold two duplicate K-2 sessions each week, which allows more children to attend camp and shorten waitlists for this age group. 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. Please read and understand this policy, as you will be asked to check off that you understand it during registration.

OPTIONAL CAMP DOC INSURANCE

Upon registration, you will notice an optional third party “Protection Plan” that you can purchase through CampDoc. Please note that this is NOT a policy through Audubon, and in most cases will NOT cover your non-refundable payment should you need to cancel camp, so we highly recommend that you reach out to CampDoc directly to discuss what is covered before purchasing, or opt out completely.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Limited financial assistance is available. If you are in need of assistance, contact the center for scholarship information and applications before camp registration opens. 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 what 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: SAC Summer Nature Programs, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069. For online donations, please contact Wendy at wendy.miller@audubon.org.



DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

- 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 your vehicle to check your child in, and at that time campers will 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, quickly 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! We ask that you do not hang around, as it often makes saying good-bye harder for your child.
- 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.
- For everyone’s safety, PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY and do not pass other vehicles that are loading/unloading children.

Specialty Camps



EARLY CHILDHOOD DISCOVERY (AGES 3-4 WITH AN ADULT)

July 21-25— 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

\$250 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.

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

August 4-8 — 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

\$385 per child

Our popular TRIP session is for students with a strong interest in wildlife rehabilitation, animal care, and bird conservation. Learn the “do’s and don’ts” of dealing with injured wildlife in a rehab setting, as well as conservation initiatives connected to our wildlife rehab work. This course has presentations and instruction, along with hands-on practice on both deceased and live specimens. Participants will undergo some work in the wildlife rehab clinic. Enrollment is limited to 8 students. Participants must be responsible, willing to communicate with others in the group and work together on activities, work quietly in a rehab clinic setting and abide by clinic rules. **Some labs will involve working with deceased specimens.

JUNIOR BUDDIES (12-15 YEAR OLDS)

**9:00 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 CIT. Junior Buddies will help our first-time younger campers adjust to each camp day and feel more comfortable by having an older, experienced “buddy” to help with crafts, play games, assist with activities, and be an overall great role model while still having fun! *Because this age group is still considered a camper by the State, space is limited to two per K-2 camp session.

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING (CITS) (16-18 YEAR OLDS)

8:45am-3:15pm

In between our Jr. Buddies and our paid Seasonal Camp Staff, CITs are teen volunteers between the ages of 16-18 who are interested in assisting with camp. CITs help with various aspects of camp throughout the day, from assisting campers with activities to helping counselors with lessons, camper safety, activity prep, and more. This is a wonderful opportunity for older teens interested in gaining skills and experience needed to become a paid Camp Counselor or continuing in the Education field. There is no fee to register, but there is a minimum two week requirement if you sign up, and interested students must complete an application questionnaire before assignment confirmation. Arrangements can be made for community service hours, if needed. *Please note that CITs MUST be at least 16 years old by the start of the first camp week with which they wish to assist. NO EXCEPTIONS.



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

SPROUTS

Entering Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | \$350 per child per week



2024 Campers. Photos: SAC Staff

BUTTERFLIES, BUGS, & BEES — JUNE 23-27

Summer is buzzing with activity at Sharon Audubon Center, not only with summer campers, but also with lots of important insects and other pollinators. We'll take some time to learn about them and explore the fields and meadows in search of these tiny creatures.

MISSING PIECE OF THE PUZZLE — JUNE 30-JULY 3

Introducing the concept of “adaptations,” we'll spend this week unlocking the puzzles of what animals and ecosystems can't live without. Learn about what those important pieces are that determine survival, such as feathers, camouflage, and more. *There is no camp on Friday, July 4th, but there will be an optional evening camp session on Thursday, July 3rd.

A REASON FOR THE SEASONS I — JULY 7-11

Where do all the turtles go in the wintertime? What makes leaves change color in the fall? Why are there so many birds singing in the summer? Depending on the age group, we'll discuss topics such as hibernation, pond turnover, migration, new plant growth, and other natural occurrences that take place with the changing of the seasons.

MUD MUCKERS — JULY 14-18

Mud (noun) definition= a soft, messy mix of earth and water. Muck (verb) definition= to dirty, as if with mud or dirt. To putter or tinker around with. Mud Muckers (noun) definition= Young summer campers actively seeking out dirt and mud to observe, touch, smell, explore, create, experiment, and just get dirty and have fun with, while learning about its importance to all living things.

STORY TIME! — JULY 21-25

Inspired by our popular summer camp session “The Best Nest,” that was held the past two years, each day's theme and activities during this week will be based on a different nature or wildlife storybook or two that we will read together.

THE SKY ABOVE US— JULY 28 - AUGUST 1

That big blue thing above our heads each day with the white, fluffy clouds? That's the sky, and there are so many amazing things that take place in and from it! We'll explore a little about clouds and weather, the sun and moon, how birds fly through it, the affect daylight and moonlight has on animals, and so much more!

THE GROUND BELOW US — AUGUST 4-8

Most of us don't think too much about the ground we walk on every day. But underneath our feet lies a world that is chock full of amazing discoveries! We'll learn about topics such as what soil is made of and why it's important for all living organisms, which animals call the soil home and how they dig through it, rocks, fossils, plants, and much more.

THE WATER AROUND US — AUGUST 11-15

Rain, snow, ice, ponds, streams, rivers, oceans, puddles, plants. There's water all around us in some form, even though we may have to take the time to look for it in some places! We'll have fun learning about and playing with water this week, so come prepared to maybe get a little wet from time to time!

EXPLORERS

Entering 3rd - 6th Grade

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. | \$350 per child per week

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

WILD JOBS — JUNE 23-27

One of our most popular sessions, this camp opens our campers' eyes to a world of opportunities for a career in environmental sciences. Through presentations from Audubon Staff and possible guest speakers, campers will have a better understanding of the work that Audubon does across our state and the country, such as environmental education, wildlife rehabilitation, bird banding and migration tracking, coastal research, and more.

LIFE IN THE WOODS — JUNE 30-JULY 3

To many people, the forest can seem a bit intimidating, but when you take the time to look, there are so many natural wonders throughout! Let's take a look at what's happening up in the canopy, on the ground, and everywhere in between in order to discover what types of plants and animals are most comfortable living in the woods! *There is no camp on Friday, July 4th, but there will be an optional evening camp session on Thursday, July 3rd.

A REASON FOR THE SEASONS II — JULY 7-11

Where do all the turtles go in the wintertime? What makes leaves change color in the fall? Why are there so many birds singing in the summer? Depending on the age group, we'll discuss topics such as hibernation, pond turnover, migration, new plant growth, and other natural occurrences that take place with the changing of the seasons.

BIRDS & BLOOMS — JULY 14-18

Lots of flowers means lots of insects. And lots of insects means lots of birds! We'll talk about how native plants attract important pollinators as we seek out a variety of flowering (and non-flowering) vegetation and the birds that rely on them.



2024 Campers. Photos: SAC Staff

ANIMAL OLYMPICS — JULY 21-25

Do you think you have what it takes to keep up with the fastest, strongest, and farthest jumping animals on Earth? We'll dive into how animals move and what their movements may mean in their everyday lives, and may even test out some of our own Animal Olympic abilities.

MYSTERIES OF THE MARSH & BEYOND — JULY 28-AUGUST 1

Discover some of the mysterious sounds and animal signs of the marsh and other aquatic habitats and learn about some of the animals that inhabit them such as peepers, herons, muskrats, and beavers. If able, we will set up some trail cameras to try to catch a sneak peek of beaver activity, and, we'll be sure to make time for some fun water play, too!

TAKE NOTE!— AUGUST 4-8

Whether it be through snapping photos, drawing pictures, writing poems, or just jotting down notes and descriptions, be prepared to "take note" of our observations and discoveries during this week of camp. We'll keep track of our findings in our own private journals and also learn how to use identification tools such as field guides and online apps so that everyone can continue to participate in community science projects at home.

RIVETING RAPTORS (& OTHER PREDATORS)— AUGUST 11-15

Raptors, aka Birds of Prey, are powerful hunters with incredible adaptations for finding and catching their prey. Learn about hunting techniques of these birds and other natural predators in our area. We'll dissect pellets, learn about beak shapes in birds and teeth in mammals, and discover some methods that prey use to, well, not become prey.