

2024

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



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: 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 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 24-28	Hello! It's Nature Calling!	Branching Out	Junior Buddies
July 1,2,3,5 No camp July 4	Doodlebugs	Wingin' It	Junior Buddies
July 8-12	Growing Up Wild	Picture Perfect	Junior Buddies
July 15-19	Marvelous Mammals and More!	It Just Makes Scents	Junior Buddies
July 22-26	Splish, Splash!	Hoo's Hunting Who?	Early Childhood Discovery Junior Buddies
July 29-August 2	Ants in my Pants: Bug Safari	Wild Jobs	Junior Buddies
August 5-9	Forest Fairytales	Aquatic Odyssey	T.R.I.P. (9th-12th Grade) Junior Buddies
August 12-16	Creature Features	Exploring Mario's Magic Mushroom Kingdom	Junior Buddies

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

Please Be Mindful of Camp Space Limitations

We are pleased to once again be able to hold two duplicate K-2 sessions each week this summer, which allows 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. 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 insurance 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 suggest 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 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: 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

- 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 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, 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.

SPECIALTY CAMPS



JUNIOR BUDDIES

(A “Counselor In Training” Program for 12-14 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 (12-14 years.) 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 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 only four Junior Buddies per week, two per K-2 camp session, so that we do not bypass the allowed Camper:Counselor ratio.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DISCOVERY (Ages 3-4 with an adult)

July 22-26— 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

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

August 5-9

10:00 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, animal care, and bird conservation. 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, baby bird hand feeding basics, and conservation initiatives connected to our wildlife rehabilitation work. 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 responsible, willing to communicate with others in the group and work together on program activities, work quietly in a rehab clinic setting and abide by clinic rules. **Some labs will involve working with deceased specimens.



T.R.I.P. campers learn how to care for and feed Chimney Swifts

SPROUTS

Entering Kindergarten - 2nd Grade

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



HELLO! IT'S NATURE CALLING! — June 24-28

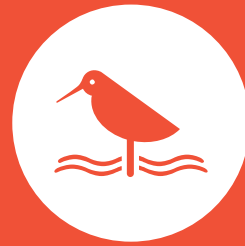
The outdoors can be filled with all types of sounds, from birds singing to insects buzzing, to the wind blowing the leaves on the trees. We will use our listening ears to hear and identify different “noises,” and learn how and why animals make the sounds they do.

DOODLEBUGS — July 1,2,3,5

This artsy week will have campers spending a lot of time drawing/painting/crafting what they see, from insects to birds to flowers and more. You don't have to be an artist, just bring your imagination and your creative side (and maybe a little desire to get messy!) *There is no camp on Tuesday, July 4th, but there will be an optional evening camp session on Wednesday, July 3rd.

GROWING UP WILD — July 8-12

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. How fun do you think it would be Growing Up Wild?



MARVELOUS MAMMALS AND MORE! — July 15-19

Let's dive into all things hairy as we explore the world of mammals (and other animals.) We'll learn about fur, teeth, habitats, and so much more, and may even have the opportunity to meet a certain mammal with a very important job helping humans!

SPLISH, SPLASH! — July 22-26

Splish, splash, do animals take baths? Some do, and not always with water! But, we'll have fun exploring, playing in, and learning about water during this camp session. We'll learn different ways plants and animals use water to survive. Campers should come to camp prepared to at least get a little wet, and bring a labeled towel, extra set of clothes, and come dressed in a bathing suit or clothes that can get wet and/or dirty.

ANTS IN MY PANTS: BUG SAFARI — July 29 - August 2

We're going on a bug hunt! We'll learn how to identify and classify creepy crawlies from insects to spiders, and learn that bugs are not as bad as you might think! Well, unless you actually have ants IN your pants!

FOREST FAIRYTALES — August 5-9

During this enchanting week, campers will have the opportunity to create their own magical creature and document it throughout the week on their nature camp adventures. We'll build fairy houses and have fun discovering secrets of the forest as we transform it into a world of dragons, fairies, gnomes, unicorns, and more.

CREATURE FEATURES — August 12-16

Plants and animals have many different adaptations to help them survive in the wild, from finding food to finding others of their kind. We'll take a look at how they use their special features and even try out some of them ourselves through fun activities.



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



BRANCHING OUT — June 24-28

We'll learn all about the "tree-mendous" forest ecosystem during this week of camp, including various types of trees, how birds and other animals use trees and why they call the forest home. Come see the forest in a whole new way!

WINGIN' IT — July 1,2,3,5

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 Motus tower can help with

bird conservation and how we can continue to protect birds for years to come.*There is no camp on Tuesday, July 4th, but there will be an optional evening camp session on Wednesday, July 3rd.

PICTURE PERFECT — July 8-12

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. During this week of camp, we will spend time exploring the nooks and crannies of the Audubon sanctuary documenting some of our favorite discoveries through the camera lens, or by drawing them on paper. Students should bring a fully charged digital camera or sketch pad to camp each day, if you have one.

IT JUST MAKES SCENTS — July 15-19

Ahhh, the delightful scent of fresh cut grass. The refreshing smell of a soft rain on a warm summer's night. The pleasing aroma of a startled, irritated skunk in your backyard. Ok, maybe not that one! Nature is filled with various aromas/odors that you may not necessarily know about, so we'll discuss why and how various plants and animals give off those smells and even use our noses to "sniff some out." Join us for this "scentsational" week of camp!



HOO'S HUNTING WHO? — July 22-26

Dive into the world of predators and prey as we learn about food chains, teeth, and beaks. Be on the lookout for various animals throughout the sanctuary. Are they a predator, prey, or both? Let's examine owl pellets and look for clues in various habitats around the center to see if we can discover "hoo's been hunting who!"

WILD JOBS — July 29-August 2

Back by popular demand, this session opens our campers' eyes to a world of opportunities for a career in environmental sciences. Learn from Audubon staff and guest speakers about work in env. education, wildlife rehabilitation, conservation law-enforcement, and more.

AQUATIC ODYSSEY— August 5-9

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 throughout the Audubon property.

EXPLORING MARIO'S MAGIC MUSHROOM KINGDOM— August 12-16

How awesome would it be to live in a kingdom of mushrooms, flowers, and turtles with raccoon and bee power-ups? We'll learn about some of the things we would find if we dropped down a pipe into Mario's world, including fast-racing animals and fun mustaches that can be found in the real animal kingdom!



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

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.



- Simply put, 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 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. 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. *Please note that there may be 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

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



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