



## **New Jersey Audubon**

*Education Department*

*Center for Research and Education*

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## **New Jersey Audubon Summer Nature Camp Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who do I call if I have questions?**

All questions about registration and camp details should be directed to the nature center where you have registered your child for camp. Refer to the contact list, below.

### **How is COVID-19 affecting summer camps this year?**

NJ Audubon follows all Federal, State, and local health guidelines to ensure the health and safety of children, staff, parents, and others. The guidelines are rapidly changing, so be sure to check your email for any important changes.

- All campers must be pre-screened every day before camp begins. This can be done via the link emailed to you, or on-site using the appropriate QR Code. If an electronic device is not available, we can provide a paper form.
- Most camp activities will be held outdoors; please prepare for varying weather conditions.
- Class size will be limited to the number of children we can safely move indoors during extreme weather circumstances.
- Masks must be worn by campers and staff whenever they are indoors. Masks may be removed when campers are outdoors, in their cohort and able to maintain 6 feet of distance from other cohorts. If your child has a medical condition which requires them to wear a mask or would otherwise like to wear their mask outdoors, we will take frequent water breaks where campers will be distanced and can safely remove their mask.
- NJA staff will not be providing any food or snacks but will provide water for all campers as needed.
- There will be no sharing of equipment or materials; all children will receive the necessary supplies for the week.
- Each child will be assigned an indoor location to store backpacks and snacks or lunches. Contact your center for information on storing/reheating of lunches and snack.
- All shared spaces will be sanitized between cohorts and after use including classrooms, tables, chairs, restrooms, and other surfaces.

### **Is NJ Audubon requiring Camp Staff to be vaccinated for Covid-19?**

We are currently not *requiring* staff to be vaccinated; however, we are encouraging all eligible employees to be vaccinated.

### **Do I have to be an New Jersey Audubon member to register for camp?**

Yes. If you do not know your membership status, please contact your camp center and the staff can assist.

**How do I become a member?**

You can become a member when you register online for summer camp. You can also join by clicking [here](#).

**Are there session waitlists?**

Yes. Due to the number of children registered for waitlisted camps, we will only contact you if space becomes available. If contacted, you will have 48 hours to decline or accept the spot and payment will need to be made in full at that time.

**How do I cancel my registration?**

Contact the center where you registered your child. If you cancel 30 days or more before the camp session start date, NJA will issue a full refund minus a \$25 processing fee for each camp session cancelled. There are no refunds for less than 30 days, although medical/disaster cancellations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If such cancellation is made through special consideration, NJA will refund camp fee less a \$25 processing fee for each camp session.

**Are Membership fees refundable should I cancel our camp session?**

No. We hope you will join us for other programs and enjoy your Member Benefits.

**What happens if New Jersey Audubon cancels a session?**

NJA normally does not cancel any camp sessions. If we are required to do so due to issues related to COVID-19, you will receive a full refund for the missed days minus the registration fee and membership fees.

**Who can I talk to about my child's special needs (learning, behavior, health and allergy etc.)?**

NJ Audubon welcomes children with special considerations to our programs. NJA requests that parents/guardians discuss their child's social, emotional, behavioral, or learning needs with the camp staff at the center where your child is registered. This request ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone participating in the program.

NJ Audubon will make reasonable accommodation to include children with special considerations in our programs, but we also understand that our summer camp program may not be suitable for every child. If we feel our camps are not the best fit for your child, we reserve the right to ask that a child not participate in the program. We also reserve the right to request that a parent/guardian remain with the child during the program OR the parent/guardian provides a trained professional to accompany the child.

**I am already registered for summer camp. What do I need to have ready for the first day?**

You should have received a list via immediately after registering for camp. If you did not see that email, check your Spam folder for an email from *Active Network* and/or contact your camp center.

General items include:

- Backpack
- Close-toed shoes (sneakers, hiking shoes, Kean sandals) – slides, flip-flops, Crocs are not acceptable for use during camp
- 1-2 water bottles
- Snack and/or lunch – all the food your child will need for the day
- Insect repellent and sunscreen (NJA staff *cannot* apply during camp)

- Extra mask – just in case we are forced indoors
- Hat
- Extra clothes/light jacket if you feel it's necessary

What to keep at home:

- Electronics – phones, games, etc
- Pets – please enjoy these at home (yes, we have had campers bring in their snakes and turtles)
- Jewelry and other valuables
- Walking sticks or other very specific gear (unless required for camp)

### **What forms do I need to fill out?**

The Universal Healthcare Form with vaccination information attached. Please “snail” mail or drop the forms off at your center BEFORE THE START OF CAMP. If you must send them electronically, please make sure they are clearly scanned – no cell phone photos of documents will be accepted.

Make sure you leave 2-4 weeks to get this physician-signed medical form and proof of immunization from your doctor. New Jersey Audubon camps are State of New Jersey-certified and therefore adhere to the State of New Jersey, Department of Health policy regarding immunizations. All children attending our camps must show proof of immunization or a letter from a doctor or religious institution stating your child is exempt from vaccinations. As per State Statute, NJ Audubon can reserve the right to refuse non-vaccinated children.

### **Will you administer my child's medication while at camp?**

NJ Audubon Staff and volunteers cannot administer any medication to your child. Your child must be able to self-administer all their medications. If they are unable to do so, a parent or guardian may come to camp at the appropriate time to administer medication.

### **Do you run background checks on your summer camp staff?**

Yes. The safety of our campers is our top priority at NJA. We follow all requirements set forth by the State of New Jersey which includes criminal and sexual offender background checks.

### **What other safety precautions do you take?**

All camp staff are CPR and First Aid Certified for their appropriate level of involvement. Staff are trained as to our site-specific emergency plans and health plans. We also keep to strict staff to camper ratios and check our facilities daily for hazards or safety concerns. Each camp is inspected by local and state health officials prior to opening and again during camp to make sure we are following the NJ Department of Health guidelines.

### **Are you a nut-free camp?**

No, we are not nut-free and campers may bring nut-containing foods to camp. If a child has a severe allergy we will ensure that they have a safe space to eat snack and lunch with other children whose food will not trigger the child's allergies.

The Universal Healthcare Form, Behavior Policy, Medical and Special Needs and Covid-19 Protocols can be found at <https://njudubon.org/summer-camps/>

**Camp Contacts and Information:**

<https://njudubon.org/summer-camps/>

**Camp Directors:**

Lorrimer Nature Sanctuary

Kirsten Holt – [kirsten.holt@njudubon.org](mailto:kirsten.holt@njudubon.org)

908.396.6568

Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary

Stephanie Punnett – [stephanie.punnett@njudubon.org](mailto:stephanie.punnett@njudubon.org)

908.396.6594

Plainsboro Preserve

Anne Marie Price – [anne.price@njudubon.org](mailto:anne.price@njudubon.org)

609.400.3849

Nature Center of Cape May

Emily Wilmoth – [emily.wilmoth@njudubon.org](mailto:emily.wilmoth@njudubon.org)

609.400.3858

Camp Administrative Support

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908.396.6506