



NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SUMMER NATURE CAMP - 2023

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where does New Jersey Audubon hold its camps?

New Jersey Audubon (NJA) has three sites across the state: Lorrimer Sanctuary in Bergen County, Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary in Somerset County and Nature Center of Cape May in Cape May County. All camps are designed to maximize outdoor adventures and learning but are different in their camp audience, day length and topics covered.

Who do I call if I have site specific questions?

Summer camp registration is centralized through the ACTIVE Network; all questions about registration and camp details should be directed to the nature center where you have registered your child for camp.

Lorrimer Sanctuary – 201-891-2185

Scherman Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary - 908-396-6594

Nature Center of Cape May - 609-427-3045

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 the center where you are registering your child and the staff can assist. There are many advantages to joining, including discounted rates for other NJA programs, newsletters, and discounts at our shop. Membership fees are nonrefundable.

How do I become a member?

You can become a family member when you register online for summer camp. You can also join by clicking here. <https://community.njaudubon.org/pages/join>

Do you offer scholarships?

Yes. NJA offers financial assistance on a needs basis as long as funds are available. For more information see our [application](#) or contact education@njaudubon.org.

What is your cancellation policy?

If you cancel more than 30 days before the start date of the camp session, NJA will issue a full refund less a \$25 processing fee for each camp session cancelled.

There are no refunds for cancellations less than 30 days of the camp session. Medical/disaster cancellations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and if such cancellation is made through special consideration, NJA will refund camp fee less a \$25 processing fee for each camp session. If your child is absent for any reason fees are not refunded. PLEASE NOTE: NJA does not refund membership fees.

What happens if New Jersey Audubon cancels a session?

NJA normally does not cancel any camp sessions, but if we are required to do so because of an emergency, a full refund will be issued for the missed days minus the registration fee and membership fees.

How do I cancel my registration?

Contact the center where you registered your child, and they will assist you. Please read the cancellation policy above for more information.

What happens if there is bad weather?

Camps are rain or shine. While we have indoor space as needed, campers should bring appropriate clothing (raincoat, boots, etc.) for rainy day fun. In extreme weather, children will be moved to a secure location.

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 a spot opens up, you will have 48 hours to decline or accept the spot and payment will need to be made in full at that time.

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

NJA welcomes children with special considerations to our programs. NJA 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 and NJA reserves 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. It is important that parents/guardians discuss their child's social, emotional, behavioral, or learning needs with the camp staff ahead of attending camp.

What paperwork needs to be completed before the first day of camp?

Besides actual registration, NJA must have a physician-signed medical form and proof of immunization on file with NJA prior to your child attending camp. NJA 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 (medical and religious exemptions apply). See NJA Immunization Policy.

What should my child bring on the first day of camp?

You will receive a final confirmation packet several weeks before the start date of your camp. This packet is sent via email. If you have not received it, check your spam folder and/or please give the center where your child is registered a call.

A specific list of items will be part of the email packet that you receive. Generally, children should dress for outdoor play and bring a change of clothes (just in case!), a lunch or snack (depending on day length), a hat, and a reusable water bottle. Bug spray and sunscreen should be applied at home, and tick checks performed at home at the end of each day.

Medications

Participants must be able to self-administer all of their medications. Our staff will not administer any medication to participants in any of its programs.

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 background checks, CPR/First Aid training, emergency plans, health plans, maintaining staff to camper ratios, and facility safety records.

We also receive a surprise inspection when camp is in session to ensure that we are meeting all the requirements.

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.

How is COVID-19 affecting summer camps this year?

At this time, we do not anticipate any further instructions from Federal, State, and local health agencies to ensure the health and safety of children, staff, parents and others related to COVID-19. If there are specific COVID-19 protocols required at the time of camp NJA will adhere to these. These may include State-required vaccination, wearing a mask and/or maintaining social distance regardless of vaccination status.