

HEALTH AND SAFETY 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. If you or your child are feeling ill, 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.



Register for Camp Here



185 East Flat Hill Road
Southbury, CT 06488
203-405-9113
bentoftheriver.audubon.org/summer-camp

Bent of the River
Audubon Center

Audubon Summer Day Camp 2026



Students grade 1st – 8th enjoy exploring nature at Bent of the River Audubon Center

Camp at-a-Glance

Dates	Naturalists 1st - 4th \$350 per week	Explorers 5th - 8th \$350 per week
6/29 -7-2	Conservation Heroes	Wilderness Ready
7/6 - 7/10	Nature Detectives	Great Bent Bird Mystery
7/13 - 7/17	Splash Lab	River Exploration
7/20 - 7/24	Outdoor Magic	Hogwarts Comes to the Bent
7/27 - 7/31	Creepy Crawlies	Flight Training
8/3 - 8/7	Wild Crafts	Adventure Artists
8/10 - 8/14	Eco-Warriors New 9th - 12th \$375	



Campers exploring the forest floor
Photo: Bent of the River

Camp Age Groups

Camp groups are arranged by grade. Naturalists are campers entering grades 1 - 4 in Fall 2024 and EcoDiscoverers are campers entering grades 5 - 8. Eco-Warriors are campers entering grades 9 - 12

Camp Hours and Length

Camp sessions last one week, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Every Friday family is invited to join us for a camp slideshow in the barn at 3:30 pm.

Camp Registration

Camp spots will be reserved only after registration is completed and tuition is received.

Pricing

Tuition is \$350 per camper per week. For the both camps the week of 4th of July, tuition is \$280.00 Eco-Warriors is \$375 per camper.

Summer Camp

Creating outdoor experiences and memories that last a lifetime

Campers at Bent of the River's Audubon Summer Day Camp explore nature in a fun, safe environment within the 700 acres of our nature sanctuary. Audubon Camp fosters curiosity through outdoor exploration that helps campers develop an understanding of the natural world. These unique experiences and adventures can grow into a lifelong appreciation for our environment.

Our camp days are filled with a variety of activities—including hiking, brook walks, river exploration, crafts, nature-themed games, live animal interactions, and birding. For the safety of our campers, families, and staff, we strictly follow the latest COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Our staff is selected for their experience and skills working with youth in environmental education and for their interest in local ecology and natural history. All staff must pass background checks and are required to hold current CPR and First Aid certifications, making camp a safe place to learn about and experience nature. Our staff has helping hands each week from our Leaders in Training, experienced campers gaining skills in environmental education leadership.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Payment (minus 20%) will be refunded for cancellations received at least two weeks before the first day of camp to be attended. If Audubon must cancel a session, you will receive a full refund for that session only. No refunds will be given for cancellations made within two weeks of camp.



Campers getting creative for an egg drop competition
Photo: Bent of the River Audubon Center.

Naturalists

Campers entering 1 - 4, join us for up to 6 weeks of summer day camp fun. Learn about and enjoy different nature themes each week.

6/29 - 7/2 Conservation Heroes

Create your heroic persona and transform into a Conservation Hero! Use your nature powers for good to help the critters at the Bent while having fun along the way.

7/6 - 7/10 Nature Detectives

Join your fellow detectives this week to investigate curious happenings at the Bent each day. Can you use friendship and teamwork to solve the clues?

7/13 - 7/17 Splash Lab

Be prepared to get wet this week and join our Splash Lab! Cool off from the summer heat by dipping your toes in the river, looking for critters in our vernal pool, and exploring Crayfish Alley.

7/20 - 7/24 Outdoor Magic

This week, the Bent will magically transform into Hogwarts. Be a part of the wizarding world, make potions, play Quidditch, and find magical creatures around every corner!

7/27 - 7/31 Creepy Crawlies

Under logs, swimming in the vernal pool, or flying through the meadow, insects are everywhere. Spend this week learning about their cool adaptations and get up close with these creepy crawlies.

8/3 - 8/7 Wild Crafts

Let's get messy and creative! If you love to make sculptures with mud, paint with leaves and twigs, and create jewelry with materials you find throughout the Bent, then this is the perfect wild craft week for you.



Campers eating edible slime Photo: Bent of the River Audubon Center.

Eco-Discoverers

Campers entering Grades 5 - 8, join us for up to 6 weeks of summer camp fun. Learn about and enjoy different nature themes each week.



Campers exploring the River edge
Photo: Bent of the River Audubon Center.

6/29 - 7/2 Wilderness Ready

Learn how to survive in the wilderness with your fellow campers. Create forts, forge partnerships, and seek adventure as you solve challenges and learn to survive by relying on each other.

7/6 - 7/10 Great Bent Bird Mystery

Something mysterious and feathery is going on at the Bent. Decode secret messages, solve riddles, and uncover the truth. Do you have detective skills to solve this avian mystery?

7/13 - 7/17 River Exploration

Looking for a wet and wild adventure? This week is all about keeping cool while exploring our aquatic habitats. Find all sorts of water-loving creatures and play water games with your fellow campers.

7/20 - 7/24 Hogwarts Comes to the Bent

Even Muggles get to go to Hogwarts this week. Get sorted into your houses, make your own wand, craft potions, and cast spells to find the magical creatures lurking around the Bent.

7/27 - 7/31 Flight Training

Curious about the flying feather friends that call the Bent home? This week, we get birdy and learn all about the wonder of birds. Go birding, check out our feather collection, and learn about how scientists track birds.

8/3 - 8/7 Adventure Artists

Go on an adventure to unleash your inner artist this week. Get creative by making paper, painting with natural materials, and making sculptures with what you can find.

New

Eco-Warriors

Campers entering Grades 9 - 12
Ages 13 - 17

8/10 - 8/14

Are you a teen who loves to be active outdoors? Do you have an interest in nature and conservation? Well this year we are offering our first Eco-Warriors week for all of the nature loving teens. This week is filled with all sorts of nature adventures and activities. Go on long hikes, explore habitats, learn from real wildlife conservationists, and most importantly, have fun.

This camp is Monday through Friday. Monday through Thursday camp hours are 9 am to 4 pm. Friday camp hours are 4 pm to 9 pm. Friday will have a celebratory bonfire with parents welcomed to wrap up the summer.

Activities include:

- Orienteering
- Extreme hiking
- Bushwhacking
- River exploration with kick nets
- Fire starting
- Birding
- Knot tying
- Tracking
- Shelter building
- Tie dye
- Water chemistry
- Tool making



Campers gathered for a group photo. Photo: Bent of the River Audubon Center.



Fun Outdoors!



Campers enjoying camp activities.
Photos: Bent of the River Audubon Center.

Camp FAQS

Hours of Operation

Audubon Summer Day Camp is held Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Drop off your camper no earlier than 8:50 AM and arrive promptly at 4:00 PM for pick-up.

Sign-in/Out Procedures Each Day

Parents/Guardians accompany their children to camp and sign them into the program on the attendance sheet when they arrive.

Parents/Guardians also sign their children out upon pick up. Campers should be signed in and out every day with their assigned counselor by parents or an authorized adult (18 years and older). Please do not leave children unattended at the Center before the camp day begins at 9:00 AM. Please be prompt or call to inform staff if you know if you will be late.

Emergency Plan

The camp staff is trained to care for minor injuries at camp. Should a serious injury occur, the Camp Director or Assistant Director will notify you or an emergency contact person.

If your child will be absent from camp, please call Kate at Audubon Center at Bent of the River at 203-405-9113 before 8:45 AM.

Medication and Sunscreen/Insect Repellant

All campers should come to camp wearing sunscreen and be prepared to reapply it when necessary. Staff cannot supply sunscreen or insect repellent.

Camp Supplies

Below is a list of things your child will need at camp: Lunch and two snacks (mid-morning & afternoon) (refrigeration available.)

Please place in a labeled backpack for carrying things on hikes

1. Extra pair of shoes and socks
2. Warm clothing such as a sweatshirt or sweater
3. Waterproof raincoat or poncho
4. A ball cap or hat for sunny days
5. River Shoes (close-toed shoes that can get wet – Keens are a favorite, old sneakers work well, no open-toed water sandals, please)

Please label the bag and all contents with your camper's first and last name (lunch bags, clothing, water bottles, etc.)

Campers should arrive each day in comfortable clothes (shorts are fine) that can get dirty and closed-toed shoes. Campers should arrive with sunscreen and insect repellent (if desired) applied, so they are ready to begin the day.

Please do not bring food that requires heating. Please leave electronic devices such as cell phones, handheld game/music devices, or tablets at home as well as any toys or other personal items. Thank you!