



Elementary Camps Frequently Asked Questions

What are the age requirements for elementary camps?

Our elementary camps are open to children who were enrolled in grades K-3 during the 2022/2023 school year (rising 1st-4th graders). In order to ensure program quality and to fairly allocate limited spots, we are unable to make exceptions to these age requirements.

Is my child ready for camp?

In order to provide the best experience for our campers, we require that they meet age criteria for camp *and*:

- can transition multiple times each day between activities and locations (ex. snack to bathroom to hike);
- are willing and able to participate in circle times, as this is when we review safety expectations and daily routines;
- can care for their basic needs and/or speak up when help is needed, while spending the majority of the day outdoors;
- are fully potty trained and can independently use the bathroom at Gilsland Farm.

What is your adult-child ratio?

We follow a 1:5 ratio, with a maximum group size of 20 campers. During the summer, our staff educators are often joined by one or more high school-aged volunteers participating in our Environmental Education Assistant (EEA) program.

Please note that we are unable to provide ongoing 1:1 behavioral support, but are able to accommodate such support when it is provided. Please reach out to Molly Woodring, Camp Director at mwoodring@maineaudubon.org or 207-731-2330 x231 to discuss this process further.

What is the camp day like?

Our daily schedule includes a mix of small and large group activities, routine circle times and group discussions, and free play. Below is our typical routine, though changes due to weather, special activities, or children's needs or interests may occur.

We ask that all campers try to use the bathroom after snack and lunch and offer opportunities to use the bathroom during other transitions or as needed. We take water breaks frequently throughout the day and encourage everyone to drink water during snack and lunch.

Sample Camp Day	
9am	Check in - drawing, games, etc. while everyone arrives and gets settled
9:15am	Circle time - welcome, review rules & schedule, WOW board, mystery animal clue
9:45 am	Snack time
10am	Restrooms/handwashing/gearing up for morning activities
10:15-11:45	Morning activity time*

11:45am	Lunch
12:15-12:45	Moose Woods free play
12:45pm	Midday circle - WOW board, next mystery animal clue, review afternoon plan
1-2:30pm	Afternoon activity time*
2-2:30	Afternoon game or activity
2:30	Pack up, then closing circle - WOW board, mystery animal reveal!
3pm	Check out

*Activity times include a mix of large and small group activities, games, hikes, art projects, and more!
Exact plans depend on that day's theme, weather, and group interests.

Is camp nut-free?

Because Gilsland Farm is open to the public and we sell nut products in the Nature Store, neither our camp nor our facility is nut-free. We wash hands before and after eating and do not allow campers to share food. Please contact camp staff before your child attends if you have any concerns or questions.

Do you offer before or after care?

Unfortunately, we do not have the staff capacity to offer before or after care at this time. Our staff put lots of time and energy into creating an enjoyable and immersive camp experience for your child. We also factor camper stamina into our schedule - our young campers need time to rest and recharge after a busy day spent almost entirely outdoors.