



# Norman Bird Sanctuary

## 2010 CAMP INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

**American Camping Accreditation:** We are proud to report that in October, 2008, NBS officially received its American Camping Association (ACA) accreditation. We are constantly striving to achieve the highest quality program possible; this certification helps us to ensure an enjoyable and safe summer experience for all of our campers.

**Registration Details:** In order to accommodate the increasing demand for our camp programs, we have added additional weeks and more slots than ever before! Each camper may now enroll for an **unlimited number** of camp sessions per summer. Registration begins on March 15, all slots are awarded on a first come / first served basis. For more information about online registration, please visit our website, [www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org](http://www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org), or refer to the “Registration Frequently Asked Questions.”

**Session Themes:** To help you choose the best camp for your child, we are introducing new themes for each week of camp – all are designed to be interactive, engaging, and age-appropriate. While some activities will differ based on the topic, all weeks will include hiking, animal presentations, and hands-on exploration in nature.

**New Age Groups and Scheduling Options:** In response to parent feedback, we have expanded our popular **Fledglings** camp to five days per week. The schedule will remain 9:00-12:00; however, campers are invited to sign up for our new “Lunch Bunch” option, which features a lunch time with friends and an extra hour for fun and games. Lunch Bunch is held from 12:00-1:30 and is optional for all Fledgling participants. For young campers who prefer a shorter schedule, our “Preschoolers with Parents” program will be offered on a weekly basis.

Campers interested in our Explorers camp now have two options: the traditional Explorers schedule, which features a Wednesday night hike and visit to Sachuest Point, or Field Explorers, which also includes an off-site day trip. Explorers is open to students entering grades 4-6, while Field Explorers is designed for students entering 5-7.

In addition to our high school junior counselor program, students entering grades 8-12 can also participate in our travel camp program! We will offer two week-long sessions of “Ecology Adventurers” programs, which each feature five full daylong trips to ecological hotspots around New England. Choose from *Adventure New England* (Session 4, July 19-23) or *The Blue Planet* (Session 7, August 9-13).

**Memberships:** A current NBS family membership (valid through August 31, 2010) is required to attend NBS summer camp. Memberships can be added during online registration or in person at the NBS office.

**Special Requests / Special Friends:** If your child wishes to be in the same camp group with ONE special friend, BOTH parties must request the same one-on-one pairing on their online registration form. Signing up two children at the same time does not ensure that they will be in the same group. Special friends must be in the same age range. Due to the high number of participants, rosters and schedules can not be changed on the first day of camp, so please plan ahead. We cannot accommodate multiple requests for special friends.

**Scholarship Assistance:** The Norman Bird Sanctuary strives to serve everyone in our community, regardless of financial circumstances. A limited number of partial scholarships are available based on need. To apply, please contact NBS at (401) 846-2577, or download the Scholarship Form on our website, [www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org](http://www.NormanBirdSanctuary.org). All applications are confidential.

**Multiple Session Discounts:** Children registering for three or more sessions of summer camp will receive a 10% discount on their third (or additional) weeks of camp per child. Note that the first two weeks are not affected by this discount and that multiple families/children cannot combine registrations to qualify.

**Cancellation Policy:** We hope that your child will enjoy more than one camp session with us this summer! However, please be aware that our cancellation policy is in effect. There is a \$50 administrative fee for all cancellations and a \$25 fee for all scheduling changes after forms are submitted. **After June 1st, no refunds will be given.** Please do not sign up for camp weeks to “hold” a spot – only register for the weeks that your child plans to attend.

**Check-in:** Check-in will take place every Monday from 8:45 - 9:00am in the NBS front orchard (in case of bad weather, signs will direct you to an alternate check-in location). Please allow an extra 15 minutes in your Monday morning schedule for this. All campers, even returning campers and those attending multiple sessions, must be checked-in by a parent/guardian every Monday. During this registration period, we will make sure that all forms are in order, direct you to your child’s classroom, and provide other important information.

Check-in for the rest of the week is at 9:00 am, and parents must check their child(ren) in with their Teacher Naturalists every day. They must be signed in at their classroom by a parent or authorized guardian –this is designed with your child’s safety in mind. If a parent forgets to sign in their child, they will receive a reminder call from the Camp Director. Because our Teacher Naturalists use the morning as planning and preparation time for camp, we request that parents not drop off too early during the rest of the week. Before-care (8:00-9:00) is available on Tuesdays-Fridays if needed.

**Pickup:** Pickup takes place at 3:00 pm. Parents, guardians and authorized individuals listed on the pick-up authorization form must sign campers out with their Teacher Naturalists, and must have photo identification to do so. Parents are asked to call if they will be delayed; unless your child is enrolled in After Care, a late fee of \$10 will be charged for each hour that pickup is delayed after 3:00 pm. A late fee will also be charged for campers who are enrolled in After Care and are picked up after 5pm. We encourage all families to carpool to help with pick-up and drop off congestion.

**Before and After Care:** For the busy parent, extended care is offered between the hours of 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m., for an additional fee. During this time, campers may participate in their choice of supervised, unstructured activities. Before and after care are only offered in one hour increments. Parents will be charged for after care if more than 15 minutes late for camper pickup. When possible, we request that you register for before and after care in advance. ***Please note:*** After Care is available Monday-Friday (\$75), but due to Monday morning registration, Before Care is only available Tuesday-Friday (\$35).

**Snack, Lunch and Water Bottle:** Children must bring their own labeled lunch in a sturdy bag or lunch box and include a mid-morning snack and drink. Refrigeration is not available. Please use reusable containers to cut down on waste. We do not recommend juice boxes – if possible, please use refillable juice, water, and food containers. Due to the high number of peanut allergies among our campers, we respectfully ask that you do not send peanut or tree nut products. Please refer to our peanut policy below.

**Beach Days:** Parents will be notified when a child’s camp group is going to the beach for the day. Regardless of the theme, all camp groups walk to the beach for one day each week (weather permitting). Fledglings and Nature Day groups visit Third Beach, while Explorers and Island Adventures go to Sachuest Point. All groups travel via off-road paths. Please pack all items in a bag that the camper will be able to carry for the full hike to the beach. Make sure your child wears appropriate hiking shoes for walking to the beach, and pack an extra pair of old sneakers/water-ready shoes. Shoes (not flipflops) must be worn in the water, and we recommend that campers wear shirts while at the beach. For Fledglings and Nature Day, pickup on beach day is usually at Third Beach, across the street from the wooden boardwalk, next to the Peabody Beach House; Explorers and Island Adventures can be picked up at the Sachuest Point Visitor’s Center – however, you will be notified of the appropriate location prior to any offsite trip.

**Camp Pests:** Ticks and mosquitoes are commonly found at the Sanctuary and throughout New England. Non-aerosol repellents (for mosquitoes) and Permethrin-treated shoes and clothing (for ticks) are suggested as preventive measures. We ask you to review tick prevention guidelines with your family (please review the NBS Tick FAQ sheet and parent letter for

more information). We will conduct several tick checks every day, but we also strongly recommend that parents check their children daily. A notice will be sent home if a tick is found on your child during the camp day.

Please note that we cannot issue refunds due to high numbers of mosquitoes, but we may modify camp activities to include indoor alternatives on days when mosquitoes are especially severe. We ask that you apply bug spray and sunscreen in the morning before camp and send a bottle of non-aerosol repellent with your child for the week. Permethrin is recommended to prevent ticks, but this can only be applied to clothing and shoes in advance – it cannot be applied to skin.

**Medications:** If your child is taking prescribed medications to camp, it must be in its original container with the pharmacy label, and you must personally check in the medications during Monday morning registration. Over-the-counter products must be in original packaging. These must include dosing information specific to the camper. All medications will be kept with your child’s teacher/naturalist at all times, and should be picked up on the last day of the session. The “Authorization to Administer Medication” and (if applicable; for epi-pens and inhalers only) “Authorization to Self Medicate” forms must be completed for both prescribed and over-the-counter products.

**Behavior:** Camp guidelines for safety and behavior are established within each group at the beginning of the camp week. The Sanctuary’s expectations for campers, such as respect for others, are similar to those in school. If a Teacher Naturalist, the Camp Director, or the Education Director has a concern regarding your child’s actions or behavior, he or she will let you know as soon as possible, and will work with you to resolve the issue. If the behavior does not improve and becomes dangerous to your child or to others in the class, they may be asked to leave camp for that week. In such cases, no refunds will be given.

**Illness and Emergency Procedures:** If your child becomes ill or injures him/herself to an extent where they must be removed from the classroom, we have a secluded area for resting in the administrative building. Parents will be called immediately if it is determined that the child should not return to camp for that day. **It is extremely important that we have several accurate numbers to reach you in case of illness or emergency.** Small injuries (bumps, small cuts, etc.) will be reported at the end of the day on orange “boo-boo forms.” Please let your child’s Teacher Naturalist or the Camp Director know if you have any questions regarding a particular injury or our reporting procedures.

**Weather/Emergencies:** In the case of severe weather or other emergencies, please call us at 846-2577 regarding camp cancellation (Dial “0” for the main desk, or “15” for Catherine Arning, Education Director). If it rains, camp will proceed as normal and, as always, campers should dress appropriately.

**Packing List:** The following is a list of suggested clothing and supplies for campers. Each child will have a cubby to store belongings. Please label all clothing with your child’s name, and be aware that all clothing may get wet or muddy from camp activities! We recommend sending a complete change of clothes with your child on Monday.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Pack (for carrying lunch)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch, snack, and water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of clothes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakers or other sturdy shoes<br>(No sandals please)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-aerosol bug repellent      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweatshirt or jacket on cool days                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat or visor                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing suit, towel and water-ready shoes (beach days only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gear for rainy days       |

**What NOT to bring:** We ask that campers leave pocketknives, music devices, gum, cell phones, electronic games, portable music players, sporting equipment, toys, pets and any items of value at home. Weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and pets are not permitted on NBS property.

**Camp Food:** Most camp groups will make “puddingstone” as part of a geology-themed snack. This involves eating marshmallows, chocolate chips, instant pudding, and milk. We also provide watermelon at our Friday Fiesta, and other occasional special snacks. If your children have food allergies, please list them on your health forms, and let us know at Monday morning check-in of any other concerns.

**Peanuts:** While we are open to the public and are therefore not a peanut-free facility, many children attending camp this summer have moderate to severe peanut and tree nut allergies. We ask that you not send peanut or tree nut products in

your child's lunches. Groups with an allergy will be notified with additional instructions in a note at the beginning of the week. If your child has a food allergy, please notify us, and we will take every precaution.

**Forms: ALL** Forms must be completed and received prior to the start of the camp season. We have made an effort to streamline these forms for 2010, but ask that you read and complete them in full. This is designed with your child's safety in mind – having accurate records allows us to respond effectively in case of an emergency. All campers, even those who have attended NBS summer and vacation camps in the past, must have 2010 forms on file.

In order to process your forms and ensure a smooth registration, we ask that **all forms be submitted to the NBS office no later than June 1, 2010**. Families registering after this date should submit forms immediately. Note that your child will not be able to attend camp unless all necessary forms are on file. We will make every effort to contact you if your forms are incomplete, but it is every parent's responsibility to verify that their forms are in before camp begins. There are multiple pages for you to sign; please review this list carefully.

- ✓ 2010 Camper Information Form (Parent/guardian must fill out completely and sign – this form **MUST** be completed in full even if you have submitted camp forms in the past. This form includes information on allergies/medical conditions, emergency contact, photo release, authorization to administer medication, and other important details)
- ✓ Copy of a Recent Physical: **Rhode Island Regulations and the American Camping Associations Standards states that you must provide evidence that your child has a health examination (physical) by licensed medical personnel within 24 months of camp attendance and that all immunizations are up-to-date.** Signed and dated copies of a physical form are sufficient.
- ✓ Immunization/vaccinations: **In addition to the physical form signed by your physician, we also require a copy of camper immunization records (must be current within the last 24 months).**
- ✓ Authorization to Self Medicate (This form should be filled out and signed by the parent/guardian if a camper will be bringing an epi-pen and/or inhaler and wishes to administer it independently)
- ✓ A copy of the insurance card (only required for Field Explorers, Island Adventures, Summer Challenge, and Ecology Adventures Participants)