



Preschool Camp Frequently Asked Questions

Is my child ready for camp?

Our preschool camps provide a safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment for children ages three through five. In order to provide the best experience for our campers, we require that they:

- are fully potty trained and can independently use the bathroom at Gilsland Farm;
- are willing and able to sit for short circle times, as this is when we review safety expectations and daily routines;
- can, with support and guidance, transition between activities and locations throughout the day (ex. snack to bathroom to hike).

Participation in our [family programs](#) gives younger children a chance to build relationships with Maine Audubon educators and become familiar with Gilsland Farm without having to separate from their caregiver, making this an ideal way to prepare for attending camp when they are ready!

What is your adult-child ratio?

We follow a 1:5 ratio and have room for ten campers each session. During the summer, our two staff educators are often joined by one or more high school-aged volunteers participating in our Environmental Education Assistant (EEA) program.

What is the camp day like?

Our daily schedule is a mix of structured outdoor activities 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 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.

Half-day camps		Full-day camps	
9am	Check in	9am	Check in
9-9:20	Free play	9-9:20	Free play
9:25-9:45	Circle time	9:25-9:45	Circle time
9:45-10:15	Snack time	9:45-10:15	Snack time
10:30-11:30	Nature hike and outdoor activities	10:30-11:30	Nature hike and outdoor activities
11:30-12	Art project and free play	11:30-12	Art project and free play
12-12:45	Lunch	12-12:45	Lunch
12:45-1	Closing circle	1-1:30	Rest/quiet time
1pm	Check out	1:30-2	Indoor free play/sunscreen reapplication
		2-2:30	Outdoor game or activity
		2:30-3	Snack time and closing circle
		3pm	Check out

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 facility is nut free. We wash hands before and after eating and use separate picnic blankets to separate campers from allergens as needed. Please contact camp staff before your child attends if you have any concerns or questions.

Do you offer before or after care?

Our staff put lots of time and energy into creating a enjoyable and immersive camp experience for your child.

Unfortunately, we do not also have the capacity to offer before or after care. That said, we may be able to connect you with Environmental Education Assistants (EEAs) who are interested in babysitting or with other camp families that would like to carpool. Please let us know if that is the case.