



**Marion Natural
History Museum**
—NATURALLY CURIOUS—

— 2023 —

Coastal Explorations



LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Children's Summer Program

The Marion Natural History Museum's Summer Program is one of the most well known and well regarded in the Southcoast area. Children from across the country visit us each summer and participate in the program.

The programs are designed for small groups, and registration is limited.

9 AM–Noon | Members: \$25 | Non-Members: \$30

July 7 – Seaweeds | Grades entering 3 – 6

Meet at Brainard Marsh to learn a little about our local seaweeds and the invasive species affecting the ecology of our shorelines. We'll also be collecting and inspecting the seaweeds we find with microscopes and magnifiers, and each student will be making a seaweed pressing. Location may have to be switched to the museum due to inclement weather.

July 14 – Amphibians | Grades entering 3 – 6

Frogs, salamanders, and newts, oh my! What makes these animals so special? We'll be taking a close look at amphibians and aquatic invertebrates in the wetlands at Washburn Park. We'll be netting vernal pools and ponds, looking under logs, and exploring the woods looking for our resident species. Location may have to be switched to the museum due to inclement weather.

July 21 – Bird Island | Grades entering 2 – 6

Trip to Bird Island with Marion Harbormaster. Let's learn to identify the rare and special bird species that rely on Bird Island for their nesting habitat. What efforts have been made to restore the island to make it available for nesting? Meet at Island Wharf. Don't wait to register – this one will fill fast! Location may have to be switched to the museum due to inclement weather.

July 28 – Barrier Beach | Grades entering 3 – 6

Let's meet at Planting Island Beach to explore two examples of Marion's coastline. We'll take a look at our rocky intertidal shores and our calmer salt marshes. We'll find out what's so special about barrier beaches and what important roles they play in our coastal landscape. Location may have to be switched to the museum due to inclement weather.

August 4 – How to Build a Wetland | Grades entering 3 – 6

Most of our region’s cranberry bogs were once white cedar swamps or other wetlands. Because of the manipulation of the water when the bogs are made, an abandoned bog needs help to recover to a wetland habitat. We will explore the geology, hydrology, and ecology of a restored cranberry bog at Grassi Pond in Marion and discover the value of diverse wetland habitats. Location may have to be switched due to inclement weather. Meet at Grassi Bog.

August 11 – Sandy Beaches | Grades entering 3 – 6

Meet at Silvershell Beach to explore our sandy beaches and saltmarsh. We’ll also look at Sprague’s Pond with hands-on experiments and take a look at the important service this area is designed for. We’ll also be netting fish with the seine net and try our best to identify the species. Location may have to be switched to museum due to inclement weather.

August 18 – Shellfish | Grades entering 3 – 6

Shellfish and fish prints. Can you tell a bivalve from a mollusk? We’ll be taking a look at the upwellers on Island Wharf, learning about oysters and other shellfish with Marion’s Shellfish Warden, and hearing about the important role they play in the bay. We’ll also be making fish print t-shirts. Please bring a clean cotton t-shirt or cloth the day of the program. Meet at Harbormaster’s office, Island Wharf.



Marion Natural History Museum

Visit us! Volunteer! Become a member!
Museum Hours: Wed: 12-4 | Fri: 12-2
2nd Sat of every month: 10-12

Coastal Explorations

These half-day programs feature exploration of our rocky intertidal shorelines, salt marshes, estuaries as well as freshwater riverbanks, swamps, ponds and bogs to take a close-up look at the birds, amphibians, fish and invertebrates that make these areas so special. Locations will change daily based on planned activity. *Parents and students will be expected to be in compliance with COVID health and safety protocols.*

Cost per program: Members: \$25, Non-Members: \$30

We encourage you to register online at marionmuseum.org, but for your convenience we have also provided the form below:

----- **SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM** (or register at marionmuseum.org/summer-programs) -----

YES! PLEASE REGISTER MY CHILD FOR THE FOLLOWING SUMMER PROGRAM(S):

- Seaweeds
- Amphibians
- Bird Island
- Barrier Beach
- How to Build a Wetland
- Sandy Beaches
- Shellfish

Cost per program: Members: \$25 Non-Members: \$30 | **Registration** is not complete without payment | **Refund & registration policies** are on our website.

Please note: Paper registration forms (with payment!) are to be mailed or dropped off to the Marion Natural History Museum, 8 Spring Street, 2nd Floor, or P.O. Box 644, Marion, MA 02738. *Please do not bring the forms to the school or library,* thank you! Questions? Contact Elizabeth Leidhold via e-mail at director@marionmuseum.org.

Name Member Non-member

Address

Telephone E-mail

MNHM liability waiver: I hereby consent to allow my child to participate in the Marion Natural History Museum (MNHM) summer program. I agree not to hold MNHM or any of its staff, board members, volunteers or any and all individuals and organizations assisting or participating in the MNHM program/activities responsible for any injury to my son or daughter or property damage resulting from my child’s participation in said programs/activities.

MNHM photo/media release: I grant the Marion Natural History Society and summer program teachers the right to use, reproduce, and/or distribute photographs, films, video recordings of my child for use in any materials they may create.