



MICHIGAN AUDUBON

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Applications Being Accepted for Michigan Young Birders Camp 2020

OKEMOS, MI – Michigan Audubon is recruiting middle and high school students to join the week-long Michigan Young Birders Camp (MYBC) taking place June 21–26, 2020. Students will practice and improve their bird identification skills, learn about ecology and conservation, and build friendships and connections with other nature lovers in their peer group from around the state. This overnight camp will be based at the Alma College campus and will involve day trips to several sites in mid-Michigan. Students of all skill levels of bird identification are encouraged to apply.

With the use of technology on the rise in youth, coupled with a decline in exposure to the outdoors, programs such as the MYBC are invaluable for promoting and maintaining a desire to protect the natural world. “Michigan Audubon is fostering an informed connection to the natural world with this birding immersion camp,” said Executive Director Heather Good. “This collaborative effort gives adolescents memorable, experiential learning about native ecologies, habitats, birds, wildlife — knowledge that will likely stay with them for life.” Facilitated by a passionate group of volunteer leaders and camp counselors resulting in ample one-on-one guidance, MYBC 2020 helps students understand the environment around them while gaining fun and unforgettable skills and experiences.

Without direct experiences in nature, research findings suggest that children are missing opportunities to enhance their health and well-being, and to develop responsible long-term environmental behavior. “Time in nature is not leisure time; it’s an essential investment in our children’s health and in the future of our planet,” Good said.

The week will begin with activities and an overview of birding basics and etiquette, and will continue with several exciting field trips to various nature centers and venues, including the renowned, Smithsonian-affiliated museum at Michigan State University to experience its elaborate avian specimen collection.

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The MYBC is designed and implemented with partnerships through Alma College and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The cost of the camp is \$500 per student, which includes lodging, food, and supplies. Scholarships are available based on need and availability. For those interested in attending MYBC 2020, please contact Lindsay Cain at lcain@michiganaudubon.org or call (517) 580-7364. If you would like to donate to MYBC 2020 to help keep this registration cost low and ensure scholarships are available for students that would not be able to attend otherwise, please visit www.michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders/.

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About Michigan Audubon

Michigan Audubon connects birds and people for the benefit of both, through conservation, education, and research efforts in the state of Michigan. As a non-profit conservation organization, Michigan Audubon has 18 sanctuaries, more than 30 local chapters throughout the state, and manages Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. Visit www.michiganaudubon.org for more information.