

Attention Young Members of Tulsa Audubon!

Birding Camp Scholarship Available

Tulsa Audubon is pleased to announce we are offering two scholarships to young birders to attend a youth birding camp in the summer of 2016. There are several such camps in different parts of the country and the scholarship can be applied to any of these. The eligible camps are outlined below. Some excellent discussion on youth birding camps can be found on this Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/youngbirders>

More good info can be found on the American Birding Associations Young Birder's Blog:

<http://youngbirders.aba.org/>

To be eligible, you must meet these criteria:

- Live in the general Tulsa area
- Be between 14-18 years old (as of June 1st, 2016)
- Be willing to provide a short report (about 10 minutes) at a TAS meeting
- Be willing to provide 10 volunteer hours (such as at Oxley, giving a bird talk to an elementary school class, leading a youth field trip, etc., or your own idea, something meaningful to you.)

To apply, please provide these three things:

1. Write an essay (approximately 500 words) answering these questions: What is the importance of birds to you, why is birding an important activity for you, and how does it make you a better conservationist?
2. List your five greatest achievements to date. (These need not be bird-related.)
3. Provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher, parent or an adult birding friend that should cover what they know about your commitment to birds and birding.

The deadline to apply is January 31, 2016, but you are encouraged to send in your applications as soon as possible, since these camps fill up *very fast* and we will judge applications as they arrive.

The scholarship will cover up to \$1,300 of the camp fee. Transportation and other incidental expenses will be paid by the camper or his/her family. *Additional funding to help with transportation may be available on an as needed basis.*

Please note we hope to offer this scholarship in future years, so if you are not selected this year, there will be future opportunities. We want every young birder to have a chance to attend one of these camps!

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Camp you wish to attend: _____

Entries, including the above information, should be returned to John Kennington.

They can be emailed to johnkennington@gmail.com or mailed to 11224 S. 83 E. Ave., Bixby, OK 74008

ABA's Camp Colorado July 16-22, 2016 or July 25-31, 2016 \$1,295 (covered by scholarship)

<http://events.aba.org/aba-young-birder-camps/>

Location: YMCA of the Rockies – Estes Park, Colorado

Description: Join us as we explore Colorado from grasslands to glaciers! From the shortgrass prairie of northeastern Colorado to the aspen groves and alpine tundra of the Rocky Mountain National Park, Camp Colorado 2016 has it all! For our fourth year in a row based out of Estes Park, our home away from home will be the YMCA of the Rockies, bordering the majestic Rocky Mountain National Park. Campers will find plenty of opportunities to take their birding skills to the next level, meet other young people with similar interests, explore careers in birding and ornithology, and, of course, learn about the bird life and natural history of northern Colorado.

ABA's Camp Avocet July 30 - August 5, 2016 \$1,295 (covered by scholarship)

<http://events.aba.org/aba-young-birder-camps/>

Location: The Virden Center – Lewes, Delaware

Description: Our newest ABA camp in its second year will be based at the University of Delaware's stunning Virden Retreat Center in historic Lewes, Delaware, only minutes away from two major National Wildlife Refuges and a short ride to six, ecologically-based birding regions! Are you looking for shorebirds? Well, Camp Avocet will be stacked full of migrants such as dowitchers, Black-necked Stilt, Semipalmated, Western and Least Sandpipers, and of course American Avocets numbering in the hundreds. Delaware boasts an outstanding fall migration of shorebirds with easy access and fabulous viewing opportunities. Fabulous field trips led by ABA Staff and guest instructors will be punctuated by terrific educational workshops, making Camp Avocet 2015 a truly exceptional experience!

VENT's Camp Chiricahua June 20-July 1, 2016 approx. \$1,695 (\$1,300 covered by scholarship)

<http://www.ventbird.com/birding-tour/2013/08/06/camp-chiricahua>

Location: southeastern Arizona (Tucson, Portal, Sierra Vista)

Leaders: Michael O'Brien and Louise Zemaitis

Description: Camp Chiricahua presents young birders with an extraordinary opportunity to share a mutual love of birds and nature in one of the greatest natural history locations in North America—southeastern Arizona. The primary focus of the camp is on the rich birdlife of the region, but we will also explore all aspects of nature, and spend time learning about habitats and ecosystems. Campers do not need to be expert birders, but should possess an interest in birds and nature. Campers should expect to see most of the special birds of southeast Arizona, including such sought-after species as Elegant Trogon, a good variety of hummingbirds, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Red-faced Warbler. Evening night drives will provide additional opportunities for mammals, reptiles, and insects.

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