

Loon Chick Watch on Squam Lake

Loon Chick Watch volunteers assist the Squam Lakes Association and the Loon Preservation Committee in protecting the threatened loon population on Squam Lake. Loon Chick Watchers protect loon nesting and/or brooding sites during the busy recreation times on the lake to help reduce loon disturbance. Loon Chick Watchers also educate lake users about the threatened loon population on Squam Lake, while also teaching them about sustainable, low impact, and safe recreational practices.

What do I do to prepare for Loon Chick Watch?

- Sign up for a Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and/or special holiday shift by contacting Melissa Leszek, SLA Community Engagement Coordinator – melissaleszek@squamlakes.org
- Watch the online training video
- Pick up outreach materials, boat banners, and lead-free tackle packets from the SLA
- Sign and return Loon Chick Watch waiver to SLA

What do I do during Loon Chick Watch?

- Slowly approach loon family and position boat at least 150 feet away
- *Stay at a safe distance from the family during your shift*
- *Protect* the family from approaching boats and *educate* the boaters
 - If the oncoming boat is approaching at high speed, get the boater's attention and direct them away from the loons
 - If possible, talk to the boaters about protecting loons
 - If the boaters are approaching slowly, intercept them at a safe distance from the loons and talk to them about protecting loons
 - Distribute brochures and/or non-lead tackle
- *Record* your data on number/types of boats that came in the vicinity of the loons, if the loons reacted to any of the boats and what they did, and whether any other loons interacted with the family

*****ALWAYS REMEMBER TO KEEP A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL DISTANCE FROM THE LOONS. IF THE LOONS SHOW ANY SIGN OF STRESS OR MOVE AWAY FROM YOU, YOU HAVE GOTTEN TOO CLOSE. PLEASE BACK AWAY.*****

What do I do after Loon Chick Watch?

- Fill out the **ONLINE Loon Chick Watch Report Form** and submit your observations <https://www.squamlakes.org/loon-chick-watch-report-form>

Thank you for volunteering to protect Squam's loons!

