

Volunteer Position Description Education Compass Advisory Team

About Prescott Farm

Prescott Farm is a nonprofit environmental education center that provides nature-based learning experiences for children and adults to cultivate connections to our natural world. Our vision is to develop a thriving community of environmental stewards.

Since 1997, Prescott Farm has provided an array of year-round environmental education programs for all ages and a place in the Lakes Region community that encourages curiosity and discovery, healthy lifestyles, connection, and fun.

Title of volunteer position: Education Compass Advisory Team (CAT) Volunteer

Committee Description: The Education Compass Advisory Team includes community members who share a commitment to Prescott Farm's mission and volunteer their time and expertise in an advisory capacity. The team is primarily tasked with helping to navigate a sustainable future for Prescott Farm by focusing on enhancing our current programs and creating new educational opportunities for the community all while staying on mission.

Education CAT members represent an array of professional backgrounds and provide the expertise necessary to help Prescott Farm enhance our current programs by delivering on key goals. The current goals of the Education CAT include:

- Creating more program opportunities
- Making our programs more accessible
- Being practice participants for our field trip programs
- Putting up new wayfinding and educational signage around the property

Time Needed:

Commitment: 2 years

Time Required:

- Initial Discovery Tour (if not yet attended) of one hour.
- One-hour orientation and training
- Bi-monthly (6 per year) team meetings of 1-2 hours
- Additional volunteer projects may require additional time.

Days & Times: 3rd Tuesday of every month in the evening (usually 4-6 pm)

- **Next Meeting:** September 15th, 2026, 4-6 pm in Helen's Meeting Room

Tasks, Responsibilities, and Expectations: Education CAT members are trusted advisors to Prescott Farm and ambassadors of Prescott Farm in the greater Lakes Region community. Team members are expected to provide professional expertise, insights, and guidance to the organization. In addition, members may connect community members and businesses to the work of the organization to help raise visibility and build ongoing support for Prescott Farm's programs.

Team members may participate in any or all the following ways to help attain the educational goals of Prescott Farm, depending on interest, expertise, and comfort level:

- **Field Trips:**
 - Participate in training for new field teachers and provide constructive feedback.
 - Analyze data from school field trip participants about their reasons for choosing Prescott Farm for their field trip, what time of the year is best for field trips, and other relevant data determined by the Camp and School-Age Programs Director.
- **Signage:**
 - Participate in wayfinding and interpretive signage planning and identifying signage needs and opportunities.
- **Programs:**
 - Identify emerging trends or bring information about successful programs offered at other Nature Centers that are on mission for Prescott Farm.
 - Create and help organize new community programs. This may include but is not limited to a Speaker Series and a Book Club.
 - Speaker Series: Tasks may include creating a list of topics that are on mission and identifying experts on the topic who might be invited to Prescott Farm.
 - Book Club: Tasks may include recruiting new members to join, selecting fiction/nonfiction books on mission for the club to read and discuss, and developing discussion questions for book club meetings.
- **Accessibility:**
 - Develop strategies for making Field Trips, Community Connection, Camp, and Preschool Programs accessible to everyone at Prescott Farm.

Qualifications: Individuals wishing to participate in a volunteer capacity on the Education Compass Advisory Team should demonstrate the following strengths, skills, and interests:

Mission & Core Values

- **Mission Alignment:** A genuine enthusiasm for nature and a strong commitment to supporting Prescott Farm's mission of environmental education.

Professional Expertise & Experience

- **Specialized Expertise:** Demonstrated professional experience in at least one of the following fields:
 - **Education:** Experience working in PreK through Post Secondary Education or Homeschooling. Expertise in the science and environmental education field is preferred but not required.
 - **Agriculture:** Expertise in organic, regenerative agriculture or livestock practices that could be used in programming.
 - **Special Education:** Experience working with and promoting opportunities for disabled individuals and ability to provide insight into making our programs and campus more accessible to everyone.

- **Cooking/Food:** Experience in garden-to-table food preparations or general professional expertise in the kitchen.

Technical & Operational Requirements

- **Digital Proficiency:** Must have consistent access to email and be comfortable using digital tools for collaboration (e.g., video conferencing and secure cloud-based document sharing).
- **Time Commitment:** Ability to attend bi-monthly meetings and participate in Education CAT community groups, events, and other opportunities on behalf of the Education CAT.

Training & Support: Prescott Farm will provide an initial orientation to the property and an overview of our programs.

Location: Meetings will be held at Prescott Farm or online via Zoom. Minutes of each meeting will be made available to Education CAT members. If a team member is unable to attend a meeting, it is that member's responsibility to review the minutes of the missed meeting as soon as possible.

Special Projects: Every effort will be made to pair members' interests and skills with their role on the Education Team. Additional special projects may include community outreach, leading/organizing a community group, and other seasonal opportunities.

Staff Liaison: The Education Advisory Team is coordinated by the Volunteer & Administrative Coordinator, Miranda Benson, the Camp and School-Age Programs Director, Phoebe Hartvigsen, and the Preschool Programs Director, Shannon Marden.

Team Leader/Board Liaison: The Education Compass Advisory Team is chaired by a member of the Board of Directors of Prescott Conservancy, Inc. The current Education CAT chair is: Loren McCabe.