

Prescott *Farm*

Environmental Education Center

Pre-K—6 School Programs



928 White Oaks Road
Laconia, NH 03246

(603) 366-5695

www.prescottfarm.org

Welcome to Prescott Farm!

Dear Educators,

Welcome to Prescott Farm Environmental Education Center! We are excited to work with you to give your students an unforgettable experience in the natural world. Our 160-acre property provides the setting for year-round environmental education programs and includes woodland and field trails, a “green” building with geothermal and solar energy systems, restored historic barns, an old-fashioned maple sugaring operation, heritage gardens, and a forested pond.

We have designed our school programs to supplement your curriculum. As such, we have aligned our programs with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and/or NH Social Studies Frameworks and can provide more detailed information upon request as to how our programs meet the standards. We believe that our programs should not be used as a stand-alone field trip, but rather a quality experience that will enhance and reinforce information that you are already working on in your classroom. **This booklet describes some of our most popular programs, but keep in mind that we can also work with you to design a special program that meets your specific needs!**

Our programs are led by experienced environmental educators with the goal of fostering an appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural history of Prescott Farm, and by extension, students’ own special places as well. We also like to think that by giving a child a sense of place, we are giving them a sense of self.

Call us at the number below or use our online field trip request form as soon as possible to schedule your visit as days and time slots are limited. You are welcome to extend your time here to include your lunch and/or snack time and time in our Natural Play-scape. Also, if you can’t take a field trip, remember that we can come to your school instead—see pages 8-9 for more information.

Please call us anytime with questions—
We hope to see you very soon!

Prescott Farm Staff

info@prescottfarm.org
(603) 366-5695 ▪ (603) 366-5720 (fax)



All Ages

2 hours ▪ \$7/student ▪ Min/Max 10/60

Maple Sugar Madness!

Join us in March to experience an old-fashioned New England tradition—making maple syrup!

Our most popular field trip! From tapping a tree to tasting delicious maple syrup, students will learn from hands-on participation in the complete sugaring process. Students will build tree ID skills and learn the parts of a tree and their functions, use measuring tools to find an appropriate tree to tap, see and use historical and modern tree tapping tools, learn the history of maple sugaring including Native American legends, discover the math and chemical/physical science in the boiling process, and of course, enjoy a taste!

The program involves bit of a walk to our Sugar House—about 15 minutes each way. Please note that you will be hiking back up hill after the program. Please wear boots and dress appropriately for the weather.



Reservations are required.

Call 366-5695 NOW to save your date in March!

The program can be tailored to be age-appropriate for students in grades PreK-12. Programs can be booked Monday—Friday for the

Grades PreK-2

Seasonal Discovery Walks

NGSS: K-LS1-1; K-ESS2-2; 1-LS1-1; 1-ESS1-2; 2-LS4-1

Nature tells a new story in every season as the annual cycles bring changes to the world. Each program incorporates active imagery, sensory exploration, and hands-on discovery of the natural world. Enjoy the colors, smells and sounds of the season!

Autumn Adventures

Why do leaves change color? How do animals get ready for the cold winter ahead? Let's go on a walk to explore fall's mysteries!

Wonders of Winter

Brrr! Even though it is cold outside, there are lots of amazing things to discover—from animal tracks to nature's icy artwork!

Signs of Spring

The world is waking up! Use your five senses to discover what animals and birds are up to and what exciting things are happening in the garden.

Going Buggy

NGSS: K-LS1-1 1-LS1-1; 1-LS3-1 2-LS4-1

Insects are everywhere! Explore the various families of insects and look for evidence of their presence from ant lion dens to weevil holes in acorns. Students will learn what makes an insect an insect and discover their many roles, habitats, and adaptations. (*Spring & Fall*)

Spider Quest

NGSS: K-LS1-1; 1-LS1-1; 1-LS3-1; 2-LS4-1

Did you know there are about 350 different kinds of spiders in NH? On this creepy-crawly Quest, students will learn cool facts about spiders including how they camouflage themselves, how they move and how they hunt their prey. *(Fall)*

Seed Search

NGSS: K-LS1-1; 1-LS1-1; 1-LS3-1; 2-LS2-2; 2-LS4-1

From acorns to zinnia seeds, seeds come in an incredible diversity of sizes and shapes. Students will explore how seeds are spread and then go on a walk through the forest, field and garden to collect as many kinds as possible. *(Fall)*

Web of Life

NGSS: K-LS1-1; 2-LS2, 2-LS4-1

How are living things connected to each other? Students will participate in games and hands-on activities to discover how living things in our environment help each other survive and thrive. *(Spring & Fall)*



Grades 3-6

Amazing Amphibians

NGSS: 3-LS1-1 3-LS3; 4-LS1-1; 5-LS2-1; MS-LS3

One of the most amazing things about spring is the re-appearance of frogs, newts and salamanders. Students will learn about the unique amphibian life cycle as we head to the pond on a Quest to discover as many of these mysterious critters as possible! (*Spring*)

Water, Water Everywhere

NGSS: 4-ESS2-1; 5-ESS2; MS-ESS2-4

Where does the water at Prescott Farm come from? Where does it go? How long has it been here? Students will experience the many paths water can take as it moves through the natural cycle when they visit an old spring and explore the different habitats at Prescott Farm. (*Fall or Spring*)

Farm Ecology

NGSS: 3-LS3-1; 3-LS4; 4-ESS3-2; 5-LS2-1; 5-ESS3-1; MS-LS2

NH Social Studies SS:GE:2

Where does our food come from? Plants! Growing food is highly dependent on nature — from soil to the water cycle to plant photosynthesis. Students will visit different stations at the farm and learn how these important natural processes contribute to a healthy farm ecosystem. (*Spring*)

Wild Orienteering

NH Social Studies SS:GE:1

This is not your average orienteering course! Student teams complete a course and solve a natural history mystery. This program focuses on the basics of map and compass orienteering, natural history facts and stories, observation and identification and team cooperation and communication. (*Fall or Spring*)

2 hours ▪ \$7/student ▪ Min/Max 12/48

The Forest Ecosystem

NGSS: 3-LS1; 3-LS3-1; 4-LS1; 5-LS2-1; MS-LS2

Our forests are incredibly dynamic ecosystems. Students will visit several stations to learn about plant and animal life cycles, and how energy moves through the food web from producers to consumers to decomposers. (*All Seasons*)

Track Detectives

NGSS: 3-LS3; 3-LS4-2; 3-LS4-3; 4-LS1-1; 5LS-2

Tracks always tell a story! However, reading that story takes some detective skills. Students will learn the basics of “print, pattern and place” and go out on our trails to see what our animal neighbors (frequently mice, squirrels, foxes and deer, and sometimes if we’re lucky, porcupines and bobcats!) are up to. (*Winter*)



At Your School

Can't get to Prescott Farm? Don't worry—we realize how hard it can be to schedule a field trip, so we can come to you! Programs can range from a one hour visit to a long-term “Naturalist in the Classroom” project — call us for pricing and details at (603) 366-5695. Again, programs are not limited to those listed here—we can work with you to design a program at your site that meets your needs.

In Our Own Backyard

It doesn't always take a field trip to discover a whole new world! What natural wonders lie in your own school's backyard? Take a walk with one of our environmental educators and you'll be amazed at what you'll find! *(Anytime)*

Wildlife Tracking

In this three-part class, our educators first meet with students for two in-class programs and then go on an outdoor tracking field experience. The in-class programs will include the **NH Mammals** program below, as well as wildlife track ID and gait patterns, in prep for the field experience. Snowshoes are provided as needed. *(Winter)*

NH Mammals

Whether it's animal adaptations, life cycles, or predator/prey relationships, NH mammals tell the state's science and ecology story. Using mounts, skulls, and pelts, students get a close look and hands-on experience with many of NH's well known but misunderstood wildlife species. *(Anytime)*

Sheep to Sweater

Where do our clothes come from? How has the process of making cloth changed over the years? During this program, students will read a story about making clothes from sheep wool, then get hands-on experience in all parts of the process: carding, spinning, dyeing and finishing with a small weaving project. One of our most popular programs! *(Anytime)*.

Naturalist in the Classroom Program

Prescott Farm offers long-term place-based education programs through our Naturalist in the Classroom program. Place-based education immerses students in local heritage, culture, ecology, landscapes, opportunities and experiences as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and other subjects. Place-based education encourages teachers and students to use the schoolyard, community, public lands, and other special places as resources, and turns communities into classrooms. Multiple studies have determined that place-based education fosters students' connection to place and creates vibrant partnerships between schools and communities. It boosts student achievement and improves environmental, social and economic vitality. In short, place-based education helps students learn to take care of the world by understanding where they live and taking action in their own backyards and communities*.

Our educators work directly with students on everything from snowshoeing treks to school gardens, and have also been involved in a wide range of projects including professional development for teachers and creating outdoor learning spaces. Funding for the programs comes from the school, PTA, and grants. We currently work approximately 5 hours per week in the Inter-Lakes, Gilmanton, and Belmont Elementary Schools—**we'd love to develop a relationship with your school, too!** Call us at (603) 366-5695 to begin the discussion—we can come and provide an informational meeting for school staff and parents.



*Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative. 2010. *The Benefits of Place-based Education: A Report from the Place-based Education Evaluation Collaborative (Second Edition)*. Retrieved [11/9/2015] from <http://tinyurl.com/PEECBrochure>.

Non-School Youth Groups

Homeschool groups, church groups, and other youth groups are welcome to register for any of the programs in this booklet. You get the group together, we do the program! Again, programs are not limited to those listed here—we can work with you to design a program that meets your needs.



Older Students & Adults

There are many great opportunities at Prescott Farm for older students. Our educators can work with you to design an inquiry-based experience for your middle and high school students that fits the needs of your curriculum. We also have valuable opportunities for individual students including volunteer positions, occasional internships, and our Leader-in-Training program during our summer camps.

We can also provide professional development experiences in environmental education for teachers at your school so they will feel more comfortable integrating the outdoors into their curriculum. Please call to speak with us! (603) 366-5695

Scheduling & Payment

Pre-registration is required for all programs. Programs are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call at least two weeks in advance. Payment is expected for all programs at least 2 weeks in advance of the program.

Cancellations

If you must cancel or reschedule a program, we ask that you give us as much notice as possible. We have a heavy schedule of programs and early notice ensures greater flexibility to change time slots to meet everyone's needs. If cancelled 8 or more days prior to the program, the full program fee will be refunded. If cancelled 7 days or less prior to the program, half of the program fee will be refunded.

Weather

Happy students are warm/cool and dry students. All programs at our site are outdoor experiences, so please have students and Adult Monitors prepared for the temperature and weather extremes of New Hampshire. This includes jackets, hats, and appropriate footwear. If the weather is severe, we will try to reschedule the program where openings are available, only IF you call beforehand. **If you do not call ahead, there may be a fee to reschedule as noted in our cancellation policy (above).**

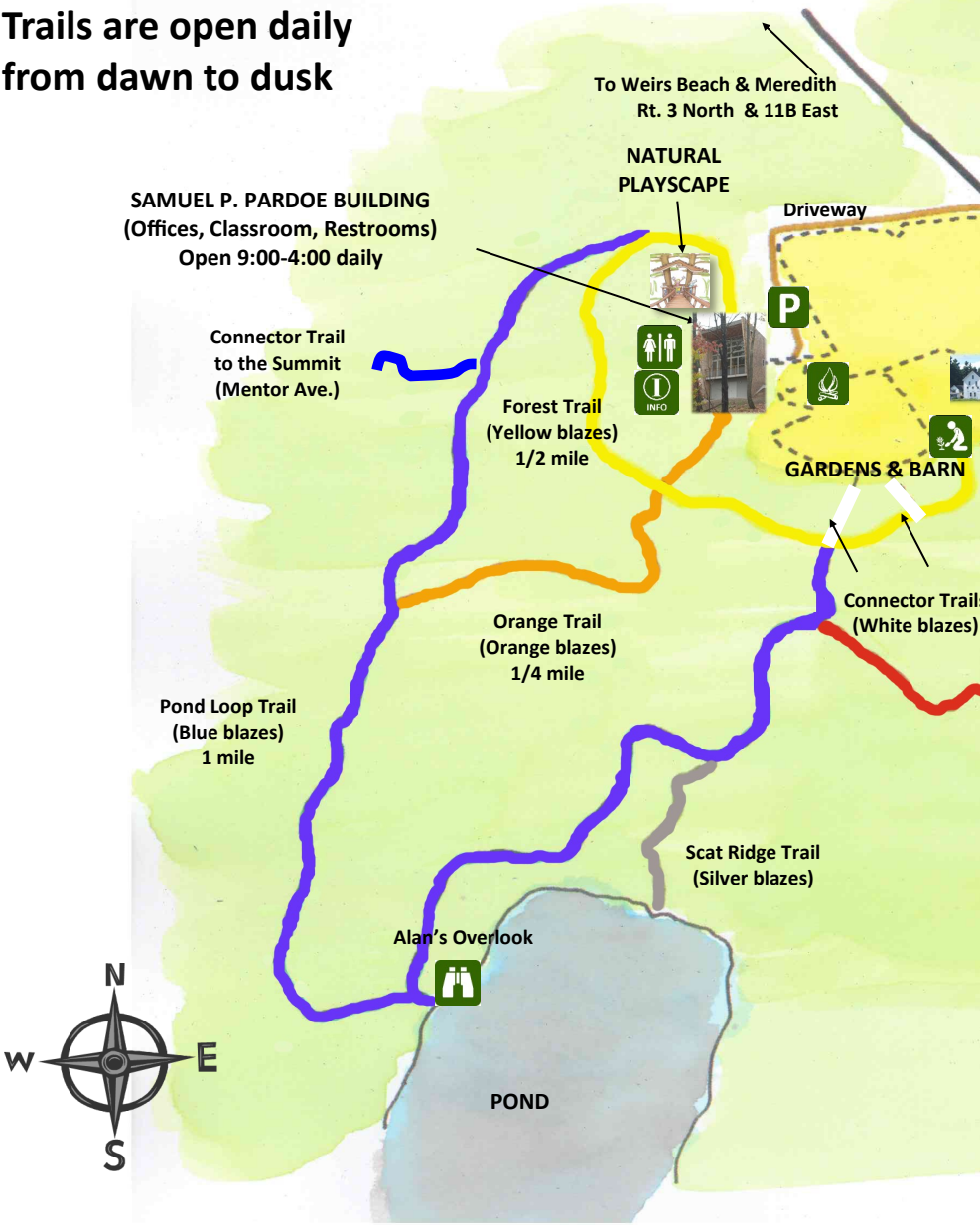
Adult Monitors

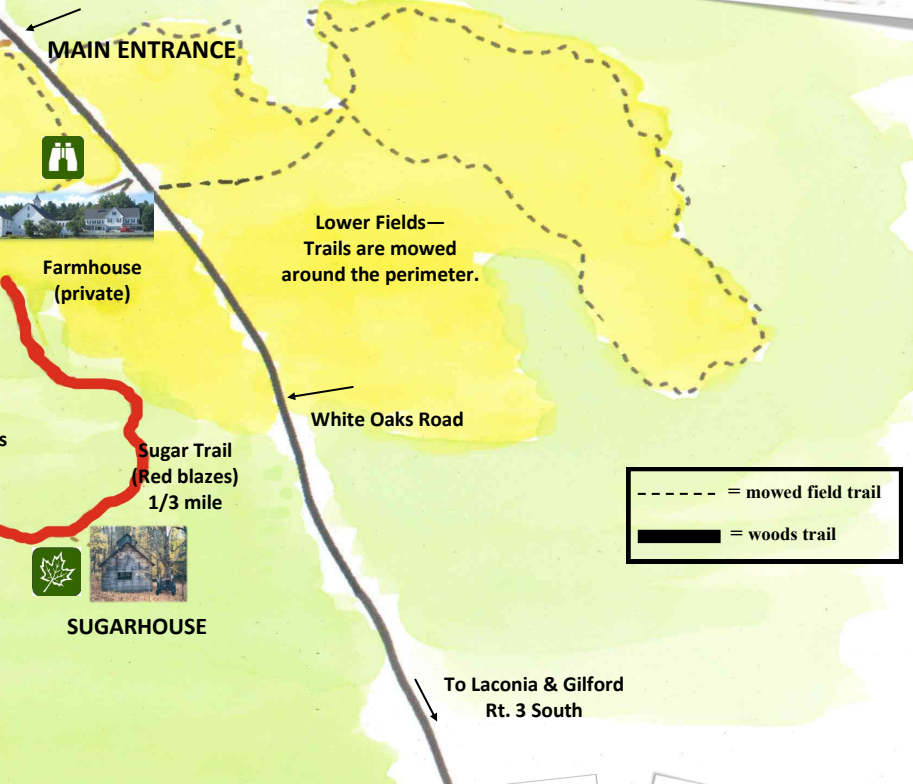
We require your group to provide **one Adult Monitor per ten students** for field trips to Prescott Farm. These can be other teachers, parents, relatives, etc., but we ask that they understand that before arriving they will be responsible for: 1) assisting our educators and assuring that all students are participating in any given activity; 2) crowd control and 3) participating in all activities and helping to engage the children in the learning experience. Additional adults (beyond the required 10:1 student/adult ratio pay \$7 each).

We appreciate your cooperation with our program policies. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us and let us know. We are always looking for ways to make things run more smoothly for everyone!

Map of Prescott Farm

Trails are open daily
from dawn to dusk





Prescott Farm

Environmental Education Center

928 White Oaks Road

Laconia, NH 03246

Place
Postage
Here



Call (603) 366-5695 NOW to register for a Field Trip!