

Title: Maple Sugaring Volunteer

Description: Maple sugaring is one of the oldest New England traditions and is one that we continue to carry on here at Prescott Farm. The Maple Sugaring team takes responsibility for the Sap House and the syrup production during the month of March when the sap is running. They directly support Prescott Farm's mission of education and assisting educators during the Tap Into Maple programs.

Time Needed:

Season (Duration): February through April, programs during the month of March

Days: The Programs are all Saturdays in March, and collecting sap occurs one to two times a week.

Times: Saturdays from 9am to 3pm, other times are flexible.

Tasks and Responsibilities:

- **Open sugar house:** Unlock door, open windows, open ceiling vents, take screen cover off boiler, check for debris, open sap valve to boiler, start fire
- **Collecting Sap:** Collect sap, put sap in reservoir, check reservoir valves
- **Program:** Prep 1 bucket before each program (refer to bucket content sheet), put sap in boiler, hand out samples
- **Closing Sugar House:** Turn off sap valve outside, drain remaining sap from tube and turn off sap valve inside, close stove door, cover boiler with screen, close ceiling vents, close windows, fill out timesheet, close & lock door, hide key in hiding space

Qualifications: Desire and ability to learn about maple production processes. Ability to walk on trails and uneven forest floor without assistance. Ability to lift 30lbs for moving sap and firewood.

Training: All Maple Sugaring team member must attend the Maple Production Service Learning Opportunity

Safety: Boots (or other close toed shoes), gloves and weather appropriate clothing is required. Volunteers will be exposed to the forest conditions and the fire burning sap cooker while serving and need to be mindful of forest and fire safety.

Work Site: Sugar Bush and Sap House.

Special Projects: Projects such as updating tree map (1x per Saturday), setting up lines (as needed), and tap trees (as needed) may be available during their service.

Other: Walkie talkies are to be used during the programs so that staff and volunteers can stay in communication with each other.