

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Volunteer Job Description: Kellogg Forest Maple Syrup Production

Location:

Michigan State University
W.K. Kellogg Experimental Forest
7060 N 42nd Street
Augusta, MI 49012

Agency:

MSU Kellogg Biological Station
3700 East Gull Lake Drive
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Contact Person: Volunteer Program Coordinator

Telephone: (269) 671-2263

Supervision:

Resident Forester (direct)
Volunteer Program Coordinator (indirect)

Purpose of position: Help with maple syrup production and share the rich history of the maple syrup process.

Task Description/Specific Duties:

- Early season tapping at the end of February
- Collect sap as needed in the Kellogg Forest sugar bush and transfer sap to cabin tanks
- Keep evaporator fire box burning
- Help with the cooking of sap in the evaporator
- monitor evaporator cooking sap to syrup
- Transfer cooked syrup from evaporator to canner
- late season clean up, Back flush male lines in the forest, Clean tanks and equipment



W.K. Kellogg Biological Station

3700 E. Gull Lake Dr.
Hickory Corners, MI 49060

269-671-5117

Fax: 269-671-2351

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Days and Times Needed: Maple production is weather dependent but active maple season is the last week of February thru March into the first week of April. Maple production is primary during the month of March and the production crews normally work in 4 hour shifts, in groups of 3-5. Crews work longer hours when sap flow is peaking. After training, new maple production volunteers will be placed on a call list and notified when maple syrup production is happening and assistance is needed.

Qualifications: Minimum age 16 with parent involvement. Have an Interest in getting involved in all aspects of the maple syrup process.

Orientation and Training: An introductory training is provided in late January or early February and training continues while performing tasks.

Benefits: Volunteers receive free entry and 10% off merchandise at the bird sanctuary when they present their volunteer ID, and an invitation to the annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

Last update: September, 2015