



FUTURE FORESTERS APPRENTICESHIP

2026 Summer



SMOKEY HOUSE CENTER DANBY, VERMONT

Apprenticeship Details

The Living Lab at Smokey House Center conducts applied research that explores how agriculture and forestry can support new land-based economies in the face of climate change. We test and trial land stewardship strategies that have the potential to weave resilience and abundance across human communities and the ecosystems they exist within. This work is approached through a collaborative lens that emphasizes the importance of long-term partnerships, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and bottom-up local capacity building.

The Future Foresters Apprenticeship (FFA) will provide passionate young forestry professionals with an opportunity to build their skills and expand their knowledge in the beautiful real-world setting that is Smokey House's 5,000 acre property. Participants will spend 10 weeks working and learning in a diversity of forested settings across the property, covering topics ranging from basic field skills training, climate adaptive maple production, forest farming, forest inventory, local wood utilization, silvopasture, invasive species management, and much more. The curriculum is designed to not only provide great learning opportunities, but to do so in a context where participants' efforts will be contributing to real work with a meaningful impact on the future health of our forests and our communities.

Participants will form a cohort of six that spend the summer living communally and working collaboratively for 10 weeks on site. There will be ample opportunities to work alongside both Smokey House staff and regional partners.

Compensation & Benefits

- Weekly stipend of \$720 for 40 hours of work, paid biweekly. Total pay of \$7,200 for ten weeks.
- Paid lunch break and 1 free weekly staff meal.
- Complimentary housing in shared apartment
- Access to a large garden plot and ten free pounds of u-pick blueberries
- One paid sick day and one floating holiday

Required Qualifications & Attributes

- Academic and field experience in forestry. Should be familiar with forest inventory methods and plant identification in Northern Hardwoods. Experience in related fields or other regions can be transferable.
- Strong interest in climate adaptive forest management strategies and forest ecology.
- Interest in collaborative problem-solving and working with a team.
- Ability to work full days in the woods and walk several miles over steep terrain.
- Ability to identify and communicate your own needs and to look out for others.

Preferred Skills & Experience

- Logging and/or chainsaw experience
- Backyard-scale sawmilling experience
- Pesticide application training or licensure
- Commercial maple sugaring experience
- Woodworking or carpentry skill
- GIS
- Field ecology experience
- Data management and analysis (excel or Rstudio)
- Environmental education and/or science communication experience
- Any other skills we missed that you think would help achieve our mission

Future Foresters Apprenticeship
Summer 2026
June 8th - August 14th
40 hours/week, 10 weeks

Smokey House Center, Danby, VT



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Smokey House Center provides equal
employment opportunities.