



Great Outdoor Summer Job Opportunity:

2024 UMaine Cooperative Extension Apple Orchard Scouts

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has two full-time summer positions available for apple orchard scouts. Start date is mid-May or as soon as possible thereafter. The end date is late-August. We are somewhat flexible for both start and end dates, and can also accommodate if a scout needs a few days off during the May-August scouting period.

No academic or related work experience is required. Base pay is at least \$14.50/hour. Scouts must have had a driver's license for two years. The apple scout route is based at the UMaine Highmoor Farm Agricultural Research Station at 52 Route 202, Monmouth ME. Scouts can begin and end workdays at a Cooperative Extension office in southern or central Maine that is closer to their residence to reduce travel time to and from work. (There are offices in every Maine county). Part of the each day's work is reporting done from home.

The scouts work as a pair in a 4-day 40-hour work week. Training, vehicle, and gas are provided to travel to orchards in a weekly route through central and southern Maine between Newport and Sanford to inspect apple trees, check traps, and collect data on apple insect and disease pests.

Scouts report observations to growers and to their supervisor by email and enter data into Excel. The data are also used to produce a statewide email newsletter sent to over 500 subscribers to help apple growers make decisions regarding pest management. This has been a great job for college students since 1989, with many scouts liking it so much they came back for second and third years. Many have gone on to careers in agriculture, ag support services and/or graduate degrees in biological sciences. If there is interest, the summer work could also be used as a summer internship for class credit.

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