

CANADIAN MAPLE SHACK INC.
GUIDELINES FOR THE SCHOOL ACTIVITY

Set up information

- Our trailer is 8X12 with a curb side service window
- Our location needs to be accessible with truck and trailer. Please ensure to clarify location prior to arrival.
- A good location would be curbside, parking lot or a field if the snow and accessibility permits.
- We are fully independent and DO NOT need access to power
- We will arrive to your school 1 hours prior to the start of the first group. At this time, we will hand you the material and costumes, we will unload the trailer and start setting up.

Timelines and group size

- 20 minutes for groups of 40-60 is the standard. Please refer to the example schedule.
- The schedule is only an EXAMPLE. We will require a schedule from you. You can use the template to create your own schedule.
- Plan your carnival to have groups rotate between activities every 20 minutes. The taffy is one station and you can use all the other activities as stations as well. (This is what we find works well but you can plan and have the schedule any way you like)
- We will boil syrup according to the times and numbers on your schedule. Please let us know if there are changes, groups added etc. to ensure everyone gets their taffy.

Supervision/volunteers

- **We only supervise the taffy station. All the material is provided to you for all other aspects/ games and stations and you oversee those stations.** If you require help with planning and additional explanations, please contact us and we will be happy to support you.
- We will be outside in the tent boiling and preparing the syrup.
- We provide music outside and will try to have the children dancing and interacting if time permits after they are done with the taffy. If you have a volunteer outside, please encourage them to initiate the dancing outside.
- Children are asked to line up in front of the taffy station, we call them at the taffy tables usually 4 at a time.
- Make sure their taffy is rolled and hardened before they eat it.
- Once their taffy is rolled, they are encouraged to go to a designated area * to eat their taffy and leave room for the next children in line.
** Some schools rent the fire pit and have children sit around the fire while eating their taffy. This is optional.*
- Children are reminded to put their sticks in the garbage once they are done. We do not hand out the sticks prior because children usually tend to put them in their mouth and will contaminate the snow.
- If you have a student or adult volunteer outside, they can help with lining up the children and supervise them as they roll their taffy. Some schools have a “lumberjack” at each table to help the kids. Some school match up smaller children with an older “buddy”. We find this to be very helpful especially if you have kindergarten and first grades.

Pouring/rolling of taffy:

Once the taffy is poured on the snow:

- We will place the stick at the end in the taffy. Wait for it to harden (a few seconds)
- When you can pull your taffy up from the snow and it is firm (almost like a slice of bacon) then it is ready to roll. We will let you know when to start.
- Roll you taffy onto the stick sideways while pressing it gently in the snow.
- The CMS staff will help explain how to do this at the tent.

Presentation and games:

Cabane a sucre and spoon presentation:

- The presentation inside is on a USB stick. We will provide you with the USB stick and the spoons (metal, enough for groups of 60) the morning of the event. You will need to set up a classroom with projector for this station. Presentation can be played as a whole or use of only some sections.
- The presentation includes:
 1. A short video on the “cabane a sucre”:4 min
 2. A short video on the history of spoon playing: 1,33min
 3. A short tutorial on how to play the spoon: 1,12 min
 4. Traditional tap dancing and music for the children to practice the spoon playing: 1.41 min
 5. The song “allons a la cabane” for the children to sign along: 2,44 min
- You can practice the song with your FSL students prior. Visit the www.canadianmapleshack.com site for a link to the song. I have provided you with the lyrics.

Costumes:

- We will provide you with the mascot costume (Bonhomme) as well as 4 lumberjack costumes the morning of the event. Use the costumes any way you want. There is a list of items inside the lid of the box, please ensure all the items are back in the box for pick up at the end of the day.

Lumberjack race:

- We will provide you with 4 wood logs on a rope (small enough for children)
- We will provide you with 4 “lumberjack” sashes (for the children to wear while racing)
- We will provide 4 cones
- You can have the game run as a relay with 2 teams of two or have four children race at once. Works inside the gymnasium or outside.

Tug-o-war (professional tug-o-war rope provided)

Burlap sack race (4 burlap sacks provided)

Can toss (podium with cans piled up and soft foam balls)

***Ask us for more info if you need clarification on these games. ***

Weather/cancellation

If the night before or on the day of the event the weather forecast is for temperatures colder than -25 Celsius with wind chill, we reserve the right to cancel. We would reschedule the event at your earliest convenience. If your school feels it is too cold, please contact us the evening before and we can discuss our options.

Please understand that sometimes the weather makes it unsafe for our staff as well as for your party. We will always try to accommodate you in every way and help make your day a success.

Fire pit rental

The cost for the fire pit rental is \$60 and it comes with a starter stack of wood. We will deliver it to you when we arrive on location. The use of the fire pit is entirely the responsibility of the renter. The renter will need to provide their own wood (with exception of kindling included) We are only responsible for providing it to you and picking it up after the event. CMS will clean up the burnt wood and ashes if required.

We also have a propane fire pit, comes with propane.

Invoicing and payments

You will be invoiced based on the numbers of participants given by you. We do pre-count taffy sticks to ensure accuracy. Please have a teacher supervise groups at the taffy table, especially with older kids, we have had instances of children coming around multiple times for taffy which increased the initial numbers dramatically.

REMEMBER THESE ARE ONLY GUIDELINES TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE EVENT.

FEEL FREE TO ASK US ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

THIS IS YOUR DAY!!!

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU MAKE THIS DAY PERFECT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.