



Illahaee Mentor Teaching Assistant (TA)

We teach that, no matter how small you are, from the tiniest barnacle to the busiest bee, you can have a meaningful and positive impact in your community.

Barnacles & Bees is a nonprofit organization in Kitsap and North Mason Counties in Washington focused on outdoor education, nature and families. Our goal is to cultivate leaders and creative thinkers, playful families and connected communities. Learning through observation and immersion in nature is at the heart of our organization, our programs, and our values. Find out more about our programs through our website:

<https://www.barnaclesandbees.com/>.

We are looking for a positive, playful, patient, experienced, and team oriented Mentor for the 2023/2024 school year and beyond. We are looking for someone who will be able to grow with us and eventually take on more time or responsibilities as the organization grows.

Job duties include:

- Collaborate in creating activities, games that are consistent with daily lessons and individual goals.
- In the event that the Lead Teacher is absent, the Teacher Assistant will step into the Lead Teacher role and coordinate volunteers and substitute.
- Assist the Lead Teacher in implementing the daily routines, activities, and provide a child with one on one support when needed.
- Create an inviting and emotionally safe classroom that encourages empowerment of children and teamwork.
- Assist the Lead Teacher in providing feedback and reflections for individual students in Nature Journals after class.
- Step in when necessary to help resolve conflict amongst children with the intent of finding clarity and strengthening relationships. (Training here will be provided upon hiring).
- Be responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of all children. This includes helping children stay warm and dry in chilly weather, and assessing risk in an outdoor setting.
- Work with the Lead Teacher- as necessary- to address student behavior problems and report problems and progress to parents.
- Create a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere for families to foster our Barnacles & Bees community. Work with the Lead Teacher in talking with caregivers at pick up and drop off with the hopes of building relationships with families.
- Act as an ambassador for Barnacles & Bees. This may include giving directions, explaining what our program is and/or talking to the curious public in the parks where our classes take place.
- Check email at least once a week and attend monthly staff meetings.
- Barnacles & Bees aligns with current health messages provided by WA State Department of Health and the CDC. More information can be found on our website and through this link:

https://www.cdc.gov/earlycare/pdf/329497-A_ECE_Isolation_SEPT-23-508.pdf.



Professional Qualifications

Barnacles & Bees is seeking candidates with 1-3 years in Early Childhood Education and/or Outdoor and Environmental Education, who also:

- Are dedicated to nurturing young children and have experience with positive guidance discipline.
- Are dedicated to helping children resolve their own conflicts. Comfortable with standing off to the side, watching the conflict unfold, and when/if input is needed for the remaining objective in achieving conflict resolution.
- Understand the benefits, tangible and intangible, of a deeply felt connection to nature at a young age.
- Are dedicated to empowering children to believe in themselves, their strengths and their weaknesses, their differences and their similarities.
- Stand behind Barnacles & Bees values of: Community & Inclusion, Confidence, Curiosity, Creativity, Conservation.
- Are engaging and able to communicate with students, families, and peers.
- Are excited to get dirty and laugh a lot while teaching outside in all types of weather.
- Demonstrate knowledge about the natural world and enjoy sharing that knowledge with children in the field.
- Are comfortable with not knowing the answer to questions about nature, and provide opportunities for children to wonder.
- Have an understanding of cultural competency in the context of early childhood education.
- Able to pass background checks, have their own transportation and cell phone.
- Able to work occasional weekends and evenings (open houses, outreach events, etc.)
- Are capable of moving, playing and carrying weight for 3 hours continuously.
- Have current or are willing to acquire CPR/First Aid Training.

Desired Team Qualities:

- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- A demonstrated ability to collaborate with staff and volunteers.
- Perceptive communicator, willing to listen, speak your mind, practice integrity and transparency, and respect others at all times.
- A willingness to share in the education, growth, and leadership that comes with working with a nascent and values-driven organization.

Barnacles & Bees is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Hours: Part time/13 hours per week (4 hours M,W,F) + 1 floating office hour a week + 1 hour monthly staff meeting

Location: Illahee State Park, Bremerton, WA and flexible workplace

Salary: \$16 per hour -> Mentor TA; \$18 per hour -> Substitute Lead Teacher

Benefits: Paid sick leave as per WA State law

Barnacles & Bees programs run from September to June.

Contact us by email (hello@barnaclesandbees.com) with Resume, Cover Letter and 2 References from previous employers.