

2023 LAB TECHNICIANS (“Caterpillar Counters”)

4-6 OPENINGS AVAILABLE

We are seeking passionate, attentive, and driven people to assist in our Edmonton caterpillar breeding facility, and to facilitate the production of our caterpillar kits for our 2023 shipping season.

Our company has a strong focus on education and prioritizes science communication to children all across Canada through our range of caterpillar and other living science kits. As a tech working with native insect species in a lab setting, this job provides the opportunity to expand your knowledge in the world of entomology and gain lab experience in a facility breeding high volumes of invertebrates.

ROLE:

Techs work as a team with our Lab Manager and Assistant, primarily to move painted lady caterpillars from the breeding cups into the shipping cups and complete the finished kit that goes to schools nationwide. Thousands of caterpillars 2-3 mm in size may be counted by a staff person in a day.

Kits are produced on a weekly schedule so that young caterpillars are ready to go for our scheduled shipping dates. Assistance in food production, livestock management, and other assorted laboratory tasks may be required. Shipping tasks, including packaging, labeling, inventory, and handling, may also be required. Staff will be expected to maintain various protocols and follow procedures at all times in the lab and in the facility.

LOCATION:

BWNW Caterpillar Lab
10342 59 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6H 1E6

CONTACT:

Corrienne Brons
780-462-1839
www.butterflyab.ca
bugs@butterflyab.com

TIMELINE AND HOURS:

- **ORIENTATION:** A 1-hour orientation will be scheduled for the week of March 27 (the last week of March). Exact date and is flexible, several options are available.

- **PRE PEAK SEASON (TRAINING PERIOD):** April 3rd-April 14th, 2023 is our training period, immediately prior to peak shipping weeks. Candidates can anticipate workweeks of 8-25 hours during training, these are our most flexible weeks. We still ship, but at a reduced rate.

- **PEAK SEASON:** April 17th to May 26nd. Full time availability is required. Candidates can anticipate workweeks between 25 and 40 hours.

- **WIND DOWN WEEK:** Week of May 29-June 2. This is a slower week as we wrap. Candidates can anticipate a work week of 15-25 hours.
- **TOTAL HOURS:** Students can expect to work between 90 and 130 hours total.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Tasks are rotated on each day, as we prep fresh kits and then move them to the shipping department on a weekly schedule. The weekly patterns repeat all season long. Patience and attention to detail are of the utmost importance for this role to ensure a quality product to our customers and the health of our invertebrate populations.

Tasks consist of:

- Moving caterpillars from their hatching cups into their shipping cups
- Monitoring your caterpillars while working with them for abnormal pathophysiology
- Accurate and consistent identification of abnormal pathophysiologies
- Complete the kits with accuracy and consistency
- General cleanup and sanitation of tools and the lab
- Adhere to protocols and procedures to facilitate a clean and safe working environment
- Adhere to safety and cleaning protocols while on site in the various departments
- Lift up to 50lbs

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be 18 years of age
- We are asking candidates to be vaccinated for the start of the job
- Good eyesight is necessary: you are working with delicate wiggling animals <3mm in size
- Candidates cannot be allergic to shellfish or soy
- Must be able to work in a hot, humid environment
- Must be able to wear our laboratory PPE (masks, hairnets, gloves, gown and/or apron) for the duration of a shift
- Attention to detail and ability to work sitting down for up to 8 hrs is considered an asset
- We do not have academic prerequisites, however, experience in a laboratory or in the related field/study of entomology or microbiology are an asset

PAY

Pay starts at \$17.00/hr for entry level candidates and is negotiable based on candidate's education, experience and availability in our season.

Deadline for Application is March 15th.