



2026 LAB TECH/SHIPPING ASSISTANT

Butterfly Wings n' Wishes LTD
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LOCATION (on site):

BWNW Caterpillar Lab
100 - 10703 181 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 1N3

5 OPENINGS AVAILABLE

Pay: \$17.00/hr for entry level candidates

Position runs: end of March-beginning of June (approximately 8-9 weeks total)

Hours: Flexible, mostly full time, see Availability & Hours section below

TO APPLY:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and your availability (including weekends, weekdays, and your free days based on any school/exam schedule) by email to bugs@butterflyab.com

Deadline for Application: Feb 28, 2026

OUTLINE:

We're looking for driven, attentive team members to support our Edmonton caterpillar breeding facility and assist with producing and shipping caterpillar kits for the 2026 school supply season.

This role is formally titled **Lab Tech**, but includes four key responsibilities within our facility:

- **LAB TECH (early week):** Working under the Lab Manager and alongside Senior Techs, you'll handle larvae from breeding populations, prepare caterpillar food, and transfer caterpillars into kits shipped to schools nationwide. You may handle thousands of caterpillars measuring 2–3 mm each day.
- **SHIPPING (late week):** Techs assist the Shipping Team with packaging, quality control checks to ensure larval health, and preparing caterpillars for safe transport.
- **LAB PREP:** At the start of the season, lab prep and shipping support involve team-based projects that promote caterpillar safety and successful rearing for teacher partners.
- **LAB SANITATION:** All staff follow facility protocols and share responsibility for daily cleaning and sanitation tasks to maintain a safe, clean environment.

Our company focuses on education and science communication, delivering caterpillar kits to children across Canada. This entry-level lab technician role offers hands-on experience in entomology, including breeding large volumes of invertebrates in a lab setting. Techs also gain packaging and shipping experience, collaborative team experience, and wrap around skill building in a diversified environment.

Kits are produced on a weekly schedule to ensure young caterpillars are ready for Monday shipments. Staff are expected to work across both lab and shipping tasks, with strong attention to larval health and handling at every stage of the process.

AVAILABILITY & HOURS:

Most lab activities occur Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4 PM, but foodmaking occurs on weekends. As such, weekday availability is preferred, and weekend shifts are by rotation based on workload. We do not operate evenings, or on STAT holidays except by emergency.

OUR SEASON'S SCHEDULE:

- **ORIENTATION:** A 1.5-hour laboratory orientation will be scheduled week of March 23-27, 2026.

● **TRAINING/PREP PERIOD (PRE-SEASON):** March 30-April 10, 2026 is training. Candidates can anticipate flexible work weeks of 8-25 hours during training, with more time spent on prep than other tasks. We can easily accommodate exam schedules.

● **PEAK SEASON:** April 13-May 29, 2026. Full time availability is required. Candidates can anticipate workweeks between 30 and 44 hours with possibility of overtime if desired.

● **WIND DOWN WEEK:** June 31-June 5 – approximately 30 hours of work, to accommodate inventory, replacements, and lab wind-down.

● **TOTAL HOURS:** Employees can expect to work between 90 and 140 hours total depending on your school schedule.

REQUIREMENTS

- Available for 20-40 hours per week, primarily weekdays (flexible), rotating or occasional weekends
- Must be 18 years of age
- Good eyesight is necessary: you are working with delicate wiggling animals 3mm in size
- Able to lift up to 50lbs
- Steady hands and attention to detail
- Candidates cannot be allergic to shellfish or soy
- Must be able to work in a hot, humid environment
- Must be able to wear standard lab PPE (masks, hairnet/beard net, gloves, gown, apron and/or lab coat) for the duration of a shift
- Attention to detail and ability to work sitting down for up to 8 hrs is considered an asset
- Experience in a laboratory or in the related field/study of entomology or microbiology are an asset. Preference for first or second year students in related fields.
- Successful applicants must provide their own set of dedicated lab shoes that will remain on site for the duration of the season

WEEKLY TASKS:

Tasks rotate daily as caterpillars are sorted, food is prepared, kits are assembled, and completed orders are transferred to shipping on a weekly schedule. These workflows repeat throughout the season. Patience and strong attention to detail are essential to ensure product quality and the health of our invertebrate populations.

Tasks include:

- Transferring caterpillars from hatching cups to shipping cups
- Monitoring caterpillars for abnormal pathophysiology and accurately identifying concerns
- Prep and assembly of kit supplies with consistency and accuracy
- Performing quality control checks to ensure proper packing
- Preparing caterpillar food by mixing precise quantities for consistent results
- Cleaning and sanitizing tools, surfaces, and lab spaces
- Following safety, sanitation, and facility protocols across departments
- Accurately packaging kits by order
- Assisting with counting, sorting, organizing, and labeling orders

Working with butterflies can be a real career highlight! Let us know if making a difference is important to you 😊