

## **American Alpine Institute Lead Equipment Specialist Position**

### **American Alpine Institute Profile**

The American Alpine Institute is a world-class climbing school and guide service that has been based in Bellingham, Washington since its inception in 1975. With a mission to “provide world-class mountain education, exceptional guided experiences and to inspire natural preservation,” the company has provided education and adventure to literally thousands of people.

- AAI operates in 8 states and in 16 countries.
- Approximately 15 people work administratively and in the equipment shop.
- AAI employs up to 60 guides a year throughout its program areas.
- The high season for AAI operations is during the summer season (May-September).
- AAI is accredited by the American Mountain Guides Association, and is the longest continually accredited guide service in America.
- AAI is a Washington State Vocational School and provides education for not-only climbers, but for those who wish to work as guides, outdoor educators and as technical rescuers.

The American Alpine Institute is a great place to work. The staff is highly skilled and passionate about the outdoors and about outdoor adventure. The clientele is composed of motivated individuals who love climbing, skiing, outdoor education and adventure. The people that you meet while working at AAI are some of the best people, and many life-long friendships have been forged at the company.

### **Equipment Services**

Though the primary business of the American Alpine Institute is climbing instruction and guided ascents, the range of equipment services conducted at the Institute constitutes an essential part of the organization’s overall business.

The equipment specialist position is a very important part of the overall equipment services operation. The three main areas that the equipment specialist operates in, are:

- Maintenance and inventory of a large rental and guide service fleet of equipment.
- Assisting AAI’s professional guides in the outfitting of both themselves and their clients.
- Basic retail sales.

This position is offered as full-time, but the amount of work will fluctuate with the seasons. In other words, there will be 40-hours a week (or more) in the summer, and a minimum of 30-hours a week in the winter.

## **Equipment Specialist Job Requirements**

- Have great verbal and written communication skills to be able to effectively communicate with clients, staff and retail customers
- Have basic knowledge of rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering and backcountry skiing / split boarding
- Have a good understanding of outdoor clothing and climbing equipment.
- Have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record
- Be comfortable driving 15 passenger vans, with or without a trailer.
- Live within 30-minutes of our physical location.
- Be willing to work on weekends regularly and to commit to long hours on occasions – Have a flexible schedule. Rendezvous start at 6am and returns often require being on call
- Have the ability to lift up to 50lbs
- Computer literacy. An ability to regularly use email and the internet. Knowledge of Google sheets and Excel is a plus.

### **Compensation:**

- \$14-15/hour
- An ability to audit AAI programs
- Paid Time Off accrued over time
- Access to pro deals

### **Starting Date:**

As soon as possible, but moderately flexible depending on the needs of the successful applicant.

### **Closing Date:**

None is specified. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt.

### **Application:**

This is a shop position, not an instructional or guiding job.

For an application, please visit: [www.alpineinstitute.com/about-us/employment/](http://www.alpineinstitute.com/about-us/employment/)

**If you have any questions whatsoever, please call or email Charlie Lane:**

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The American Alpine Institute is an equal opportunity employer.