



Mechanic-in-Training: What is it?

Know what you are applying for

What is Back Alley Bikes looking for?

Good question! We want more than mechanics. We'll teach you how to do that, but we are looking for youth that want to use bicycles to change their city. Apply if you want to be a part of something.

If you want to be more involved, we need to know that. The last question on the application is the most important. Not only will you be working with bicycles, but more importantly you will be working with people. You need to be able to communicate and be willing to assert yourself with those older than you. You will be teaching adults.

If you aren't a perfect mechanic, don't worry – we'll teach you. However, be prepared and ready to step up to the challenge of being a leader in the Detroit Bicycling Community.



Requirements:

- Age 14-18
- Resident of Detroit
- Interest in Bikes
- Physical ability to use hand tools and climb a flight of stairs.
- Work up to 15 hours a week.
- Work shifts on Fri & Sat required all summer long
- Orientation at Back Alley Bikes, June 13
- Ability to have fun

Back Alley Bikes will be looking to hire five MITs (pending funding). Four will work as teacher mechanics and one will be placed with our ride club as a youth ride leader. If you have a preference of which program you want to work with (Youth Earn-a-Bike or Ride Club or Both) please let us know.

What do MITs do?

Teach

- Assist other youth in learning mechanic skills during Youth Earn-a-Bike and Drop-in.
- Explain to youth and adults why knowing bike mechanics is useful
- Teach safe riding techniques to others

Wrench

- Service and prepare used parts for sale
- Diagnose a bike for mechanical issues
- Take apart bikes and rebuild them

Lead

- Encourage feedback and speak up on behalf of youth and Detroit cyclists
- Demonstrate appropriate shop behavior and be inviting to everyone that wants to learn
- Find additional opportunities for youth to participate in the Detroit cycling community

Advocate

- Sharing Back Alley Bike's mission with other youth and the general public
- Explaining our programming to get others involved in multiple programs
- Act as a representative of the youth bike community

How do we do this?

Classroom Time

(First five weeks of the program)

- Perfect mechanic skills with the MIT instructor
- Role play teaching skills with other MITs
- Learn vocabulary to accurately talk about bikes

Youth Earn-a-Bike and Drop-In

(All summer long)

- Peer to peer based education. Youth teaching other youth.
- Develop relationships with other youth in programming
- Practice mechanic skills to sharpen them

Retail Shop

(Last six weeks of the program)

- Practice customer service to develop an employable skill
- Represent youth mechanics in our retail shop to the adult bicycle community

Rides

(At least one ride required during the summer)

- Learn to share the road with other traffic
- Have the skills to safely use a bike as transportation and not just a toy