



# ASHLEY BAREFOOT

## 2025 MISSISSIPPI TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### PLATFORM

Teachers, step into your power as professionals. Showcase your achievements and lead the way to innovations in education.

### ABOUT ME

Ashley Barefoot has been teaching since 2005 and currently serves as a gifted education teacher at Longleaf Elementary in Hattiesburg. Her personal philosophy of education is to nurture students' curiosity by facilitating discovery opportunities for students and teaching them the skills they need to become lifelong learners and changemakers. A self-declared teacher nerd, she tries to learn something new every year to keep up with her gifted students. As a National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks scholar, she visited Walden Pond while reading Thoreau in 2017, dug into archaeology and American Indian culture in Mesa Verde National Park in 2016, explored the concept of wilderness in the Adirondack Mountains in 2015, and studied the civil rights movement in Jackson, Mississippi in 2013. She analyzed environmental history in Boulder, Colorado with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in 2013, served as an Earthwatch Teach Earth Fellow in Costa Rica in 2010, and spent a month backpacking in the Olympic Mountains with the National Outdoor Leadership School in 2009. In college, she spent a year as an international exchange student in England. She loved it so much she returned the next two summers to backpack across Europe! Her latest passion has led her to explore primary sources at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. in 2022. Outside of school, she recharges her introvert batteries with her cats and a pile of books while her partner referees ice hockey tournaments.



### EDUCATION

- **Masters - Elementary Education**  
William Carey University · 2006
- **Bachelor of Arts - English**  
University of Southern MS · 2000
- **International Exchange Student.**  
Keele University, England · 1997-1998

### CERTIFICATIONS

- Natinal Board Certified Teacher
- Gooogle Certified Educator Level 2
- Teaching with Primary Sources  
Certified Educator
- National Geographic Certified  
Educator
- Gifted Education K-12

### HONORS

- Mississippi Teacher of the Year 2025
- Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship  
Education Teacher Award for  
Mississippi 2022
- NEH Landmarks Program 2017, 2016,  
2015, 2013
- Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminar 2013
- Earthwatch Teach Earth Fellow 2010



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<http://bit.ly/41G9pId>