

Crew Member Spotlight

Name: Moss

Pronouns: They/He

Program: Trail Crew/Spike Crew

Job Title: Crew Member

Was Greenagers your first employer? Yes.

What did you learn about yourself through work with Greenagers?

I learned a lot about the type of environment I'd like to work in when I have a more permanent job in the future. I learned that I love working outdoors and that I'm a lot more interested in this kind of conservation and sustainability work than I had ever thought I would be. More specifically, I've learned the type of work I like within Trail Crew. I really love doing the more technical stuff like stonework/bridge building. I get to use my hands and my brain, and it feels like a mix between art and a giant 3D puzzle. I also have learned through my time on the spike crew that I am far more tenacious than I gave myself credit for – it has been equally the most trying and yet most fulfilling experience of my life.

What types of (Trades/Conservation/Farm) work have you been involved in before Greenagers if any?

Nothing official. Just work around the house like fixing a bench and building a dock with my dad or helping my mom in the garden.

Has working with Greenagers changed your relationship with

Your peers? If so how?

I've made so many great friends through Greenagers; people I don't think I would have been friends with otherwise. I also have realized that I am not alone in my appreciation for nature and work amongst my peers. Initially, I was worried I might not make friends at work, but I've realized I'm almost guaranteed to every season because if someone's the kind of person that would work at Greenagers, they're the kind of person I'd like to be friends with.

Work? If so how?

Greenagers is a great example of a healthy and welcoming work environment. I am very lucky that it has been my first real job because now I have an excellent baseline of the environment I'd like to work in later in life. Over the two summers I've worked on trail crew there was not one day that I wished work would be cancelled or that I would not have to go.

The community? If so how?

I definitely feel more connected to the community now that I've contributed to it in some form. It's really cool to be able to walk the trails near your home and know that you had a hand in creating them. It's also so wonderful just to exist at April Hill. During the year when I'm at school in the city, it always brightens my day to

get a text or email from someone from work (something I doubt most people would say about their jobs).

The environment? If so how?

I've learned a lot about the environment through work; how it functions, how it is impacted, and how I can help sustain it. It's nice to be constantly learning new things about the area I live in.

Will you return to Greenagers or do you have other future plans you are excited about?

Absolutely. I've worked with Greenagers for two seasons now – once on a day crew and once on an overnight crew – and I absolutely love it. I'll be starting college in the fall, which is exciting, and I don't know exactly where I'll be, but I hope to keep coming back to Greenagers for as long as possible and/or doing similar work in college. After undergrad, I think I'd like to join the Greenagers AmeriCorps crew for a year.

Outside of Greenagers, what do you enjoy doing?

I enjoy being outdoors in other capacities; I like hiking, biking, and walking my dog. I am also an avid reader; it's rare to catch me anywhere without at least one book. I enjoy listening to music, and I play the bagpipes.

Please share anything else you would like to add.

If everything else I've said hasn't convinced you that Greenagers is awesome, know this; I wrote about being on spike crew for my *college essay*, and I absolutely would not have written about anything I thought wasn't cool as heck.