

Crew Member Spotlight

Name: Milo

Pronouns: He/Him

Program: Trail Crew

Job Title: Crew Member

Was Greenagers your first employer? Yes

What did you learn about yourself through work with Greenagers?

I've worked on trail crews at Greenagers for the past three summers. I've learned that I can work through almost any challenge. I've also loved seeing that with hard work, I can have a real impact on the world. Maybe my most meaningful experience happened my second summer working at Greenagers. My crew and I were responsible for building two bridges, which was a very technically challenging job. It took us over three weeks to finish the project, but seeing people use something I built truly inspired me, and I ended up writing my personal essay about it for my college applications. Working on the trails has shown me that I can contribute to something bigger than myself and help the community become a better place.

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

Honestly, before joining Greenagers, I didn't have any formal experience in Trades/Conservation/Farm work, but I've always had an interest in outdoor projects. I live in NYC, so I've helped with cleaning up the Hudson River along with local parks. I also had a small background in woodworking as a hobby. While this work was mostly informal, it gave me an appreciation for the environmental projects, which made me feel as though joining Greenager would be a great next step for me.

Has working with Greenagers changed your relationship with

-Your peers? If so, how?

Working with Greenagers has taught me how to collaborate with others in ways I hadn't needed to before. Spending hours together on projects and even camping for weeks on end with each other has built a sense of camaraderie and trust that's hard to find anywhere else. I've learned how to be open to new perspectives, divide responsibilities, and support other members of my crew when they are struggling.

-Work? If so, how?

Before Greenagers, I viewed work, especially physical labor, as more of a chore. But my time working here has completely changed this viewpoint. The work I have done has felt extremely rewarding, especially when I can see the impact it has on the environment and the community. I have realized that work, even when incredibly difficult, can be an opportunity to learn new things and grow in many different ways as a person.

The community? If so, how?

Even though I live in NYC, I spend every summer at my grandmother's house in Berkshires and I now feel much more connected to this community around Greenagers. Knowing that the trails we maintain are used by so many people has empowered me to keep coming back to learn more from this organization. It has also helped me see how small actions, like removing invasive species or fixing a trail, can often have some sort of ripple effect, that slowly, but surely helps the environment and helps anyone who enjoys the outdoors.

The environment? If so how?

Greenagers has deepened my connection to nature and also made me realize how important it is that we care for it. I now understand that the outdoors is not just a place to enjoy, but something that we have to protect. Also, working with nature for weeks on end has made me more aware of the large impact that human activity can have on the environment and how vital it is that we sustain the natural world for future generations.

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

I will definitely be returning to Greenagers at some point soon, whether it will be this upcoming summer, or one following it, I am not sure yet. But it is an amazing place and program that I hope to continue connecting with.

Outside of Greenagers, what do you enjoy doing?

Outside of Greenagers I play and watch a lot of soccer with my two younger brothers, I enjoy hanging out with my cousins, I spend a lot of time outdoors and I play guitar.

Please share anything else you would like to add.

I feel incredibly lucky to have found Greenagers and to have been able to work for an organization like this. It has opened me up in ways I hadn't imagined. It's made me want to pursue some kind of a career in sustainability, maybe environmental engineering.