

Volunteer Vibes - *Volunteers play many crucial roles at the Preserve. They maintain trails, welcome visitors, conduct research, educate youth groups, support special events, beautify our gardens, capture breathtaking photography, and much more, contributing their time, talents, and thousands of volunteer hours annually. We will be regularly featuring our volunteers in Talus Talk so that we can all learn who they are and why they do what they do for the Preserve. Let's meet our volunteers!*

Shannon Hinkey

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the northern hills of Appalachia – mostly south and central Pennsylvania.

What is your volunteer role(s) here at Mohonk Preserve?

I've been a Backcountry Patrol volunteer since May 2021.

Why did you decide to volunteer your time and talents at Mohonk Preserve?

When I was dating my now-husband Pete, he introduced me to a lot of the trails all over the Preserve, and Mohonk became one of our favorite places to go together. Pete was already a Backcountry Patrol volunteer, and as I got to know the trails and love them too, joining him in volunteering seemed like a no-brainer.

What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?

Mostly I just love it when we're out there and able to reach out to other people on the trails who are less familiar with them, and ask about directions, trail conditions, and optimal routes. It's rewarding to be able to help people have a great experience on the Preserve.

Where is your favorite place/trail on the Preserve and why is it your favorite?

I have a lot of favorites! But I love the Millbrook Ridge trail – it's the first hike Pete and I ever did together.



*Shannon and Pete Hinkey hiking on the Preserve with their new baby, Ashton.
Photo by Pete Hinkey*