

**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!

## **AJ Pesacov**

### ***Where did you grow up?***

I grew up in Poughkeepsie, NY. After going to college at SUNY Plattsburgh and living in Lake Placid for a few years, I moved to Brooklyn where I currently live.

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

Mostly I volunteer as a Trailhead Ambassador but hope to volunteer more often as a Bike Patrol this year.

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

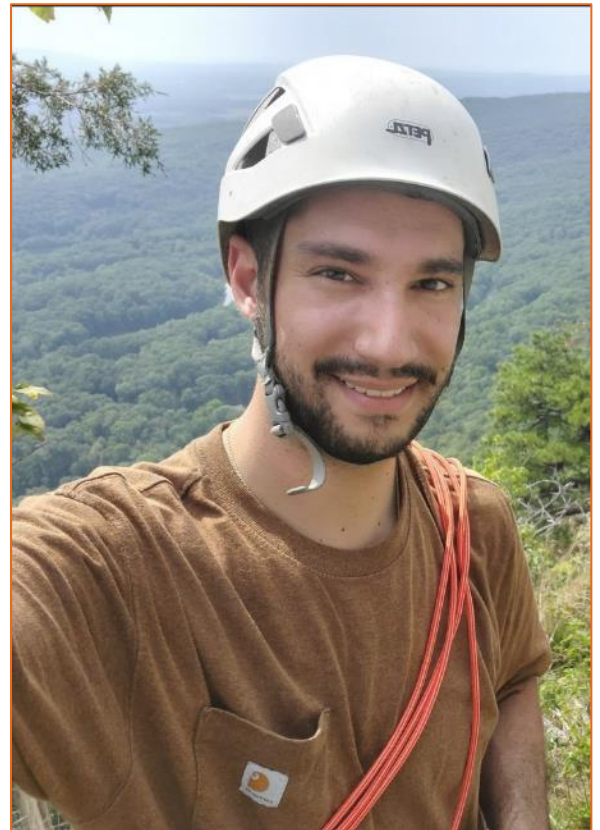
After moving to Brooklyn in 2017, I wanted to stay involved in an activity that would develop my outdoor recreation skills, so I started rock climbing in the gym. I soon found myself at the Preserve every weekend. I wanted to get more involved in the community and found volunteering at the Mohonk Preserve to be an amazing way to meet new people and interact with visitors to the area. Helping visitors have an awesome day out is what it's all about!

### ***What is a volunteer accomplishment you are really proud of?***

I just love helping visitors plan a perfect day out on the Preserve. Chatting it up about conditions and favorite trails is so fun. Everybody needs more fresh air and movement in their lives.

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

On my first bike ride around the Preserve, I rode up Laurel Ledge Road. It felt super steep to me, but the views were incredible. I've been hooked ever since.



*AJ Pesacov climbing at the Preserve  
Photo by AJ Pesacov*