

The Record

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

REQUIREMENTS: BUG SPRAY, SLEDGEHAMMERS AND MOXIE



State crews keep hiking trails clear and need your help

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Connor Moriarty's summer job involves using heavy stones to build a staircase in the middle of a forest.

Moriarty starts each day by drenching himself in bug spray, but sweat washes it off before noon. He wears his pants legs stuffed inside long white socks to defend against ticks. Each morning he is sore from pulling, pushing and splitting large rocks.

The pay is minimal. But he loves the job.

Moriarty, a 22-year-old Mahwah resident, is leader of a four-person crew making upgrades to hiking trails in Ramapo Valley County Reservation. He and his colleagues are among eight crews doing similar work through the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's Conservation Corps.

And though the summer is in full swing, the conference is still looking for more volunteers.

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PHOTOS BY MARKO GEORGIEV/NORTHJERSEY.COM

Top, NY/NJ Trail Conference volunteers Jeremy Johnson and Ryan Jackson work on building new steps at the Ramapo Valley County Reservation. Above, People cool off at natural pool atop a waterfall at the Ramapo Valley County Reservation.

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