



Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (MD, VA)

Monx is the name, everything is the game. From an early age anything that could be a competition was, be it an actual competition or something as simple as walking up a trail. Growing up with four siblings in the sports town of Knoxville, Tennessee at the foothills of Smokey Mountain National Park, competing and time outdoors went hand in hand. Sometime during those cannonball contests at Abrams Falls, sibling races up the exhausting, yet awe-inspiring Chimney Tops, or Karaoke sing offs while waiting in traffic in the Cade's Cove loop an appreciation of nature, and particularly parks, was instilled in him. Though undecided and confused for most of his college career, he elected to study Environmental Science and Communication at Saint Louis University.

SLU fostered and amplified the spirit to serve that had already been thriving for years within him with innumerable opportunities to engage with the community through volunteer work. He married his passions for social justice, environmentalism, and education by tutoring science and math at a local school and eventually going on to teach a gardening class. "Make their day better for having interacted with you," is a motto that transcends all facets of his life and helps him leave a legacy of community. His enthusiasm for this next year continues to climb, though I'm not sure if it's because he really likes the position or if he has somehow turned this into a contest.