
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: ANTOINE

WSA 09 – HENNEPIN/CARVER COUNTIES – HENNEPIN COUNTY (TREE TRUST)

ANTOINE (LANDSCAPE CREW) [no photo]

Antoine completed his fourth and final year with Tree Trust this summer. He is 21 years old and just finished school this past June at the Osseo Secondary Transition Center. He heard about Tree Trust through a friend and decided to apply because he was interested in working with a Youth Conservation Corps crew. Antoine was fortunate to have been selected to participate through the program's lottery process for four years in a row.

Although Antoine struggles with a learning disability, he says he's always had a strong work ethic and each year he sets goals for himself, such as winning the Governor's Award. His work ethic and goal-setting has also translated into his life outside of Tree Trust. Antoine has now had several jobs beyond his work with Tree Trust, including working in a furniture warehouse and volunteering at an assisted living home. He hopes to be the first in his family to attend college and has been interested in Minneapolis Community and Technical College and National American University with hopes of becoming either a mechanic or an engineer.

Through his experience with Tree Trust, Antoine has learned "that every site and every crew leader is different. It's not the same every year." He's also learned that he doesn't mind working on a team but enjoys getting tasks done on his own.

Although he's sad about 2012 being the last year he's eligible to work on a Tree Trust summer crew, he says "Tree Trust has helped me in a lot of ways. I've built several sites and I've learned how to keep my cool." He also credits the crew leaders as always being there because "you will get helped by a crew leader if you ask for help."

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