

Hello, my name is Jon Goff, and I'd love to be considered for an At-Large position on the ALDHA board. I grew up in the backwoods of West Virginia, the heart and soul of Appalachia, on a small farm. My father taught me so much about being self-sufficient and respecting the land. That background has made the practice of LNT a natural thing in my adult life, especially the further involved I get in the backpacking world.

Another large influence in my life was 4H. I know you may think that only involves raising livestock for the county fair but it also provided an outlet to learn things such as leadership, parliamentary procedure, wilderness conservation/identification, and so much more. As a WV State 4H All Star, an award I was given in high school, I think that my 4H experience is a key reason why I would be able to help lead ALDHA into the future.

When I was younger, I lived to hike and camp. There aren't many trails in WV that I haven't hiked, from Dolly Sods to Cooper's Rock to Seneca Rocks. I've, also, explored parts of Southern California, Indiana, northern Georgia and now Florida. I thru hiked the entire Appalachian Trail in 2018 where I found my own loving trail family.

Since my thru hike, I think of everything the AT gave me and that I want to give back to it. Then I joined ALDHA and loved its mission from the start. It inspired me to run for this At-Large position and give back to the hiking community that way. I want to keep the Appalachian Trail and its community thriving for years to come, so that my daughter can gain the same things from it that I did. Thanks for your time and consideration