



Young Farmers at Stone Barns Center: Aydan Ellman

The first time I volunteered at Stone Barns, I came to work in shorts and sandals not knowing what I was going to be doing except feeding the animals. Now, I am 15 years old and in my 5th year working at Stone Barns.

In April of 2004, my mom, who was a volunteer at the greenhouse at the time, brought me to work with her one day. Although I wasn't so keen to weed, we did set up a morning on the following Saturday where I could volunteer with Craig Haney and the livestock crew. From then on, I volunteered every Saturday during the school year and multiple days a week during the summer. Now I am a member of the livestock staff.

My first November, I joined the crew for the annual Thanksgiving turkey harvest at a facility in the Catskills, three hours north of Pocantico. I slept all the way there and all the way back but the time in between was something I will remember my whole life. Whether I am harvesting turkeys or watching sows give birth, worming sheep or collecting honey, I learn more and more every day. Working with Craig and Padraic MacLeish and Julie Engel has given me a great and humbling appreciation for farming and I plan to pursue the education I am getting at Stone Barns in college.

Aydan Ellman lives with his parents and his brother, Lloyd, in Tarrytown and is a sophomore at Sleepy Hollow High School, where he is on the Varsity Wrestling and Baseball teams. When Aydan was eleven, he got his black belt in Tai Kwon Do. He worked at Stone Barns Center for four years as a volunteer, and since April of 2008 he has been a part-time member of the livestock staff.