

## Employee Profile



### Jake Whitten

Is that your son!? I think that was the most common question asked to Rob and I this summer. Jake Whitten, age 14 1/2 and a freshman in high school has changed a lot in the last year. Plain Hardware customers are still trying to adjust, just as we, his parents are...

Jake started working at Plain Hardware at the tender age of 3. He began his Plain Hardware career testing toy durability and employee patience. He was really good at it and was quickly promoted to newsletter labeler and jelly belly taste tester. Sadler, the store dog has proven to be a much more focused employee when it comes to tasting anything, so unfortunately for Jake, he has lost the taste testing job to the dog.

Jake took a few years off during his "working at Plain Hardware is boring" phase. Fortunately, for us, Jake developed a computer game habit and bought a car (a way cool, 1974 Chevy Nova) and is now in need of some serious cash. Suddenly, working at the store seems much more attractive! When I asked him what he likes about working at Plain Hardware he was very articulate. "Its Fun. Uhhhh, ummm, it just is. The people who come in are fun and the employees are fun and it's just fun."

Anyway, Jake works weekends during the summer months and on occasional Sundays during the school year. He was blessed with a high tolerance for pain, so he enjoys being an endurance athlete. He is the top runner on the high school cross country team, skis for the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club Junior Nordic (Cross Country) Ski Team, runs track and is on the Leavenworth Swim Team during the summer. He also has played recreational soccer since he was five and plans to play for the Cascade High School soccer team in the spring.

Jake also enjoys downhill skiing, triathlon racing and playing the online computer game World of Warcraft. Since he still owes his parents a lot of money, I am sure you will continue to see him working the cash register for years to come. If you can't figure out which employee he is, look for long hair, baggy pants, braces, blue eyes and a friendly smile.