

# AJA IRONS

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Horticultural Designer, *Watson's Greenhouse and Nursery***

Puyallup, WA | March 2023 – Current

- Elevated the store's appeal by meticulously selecting and nurturing diverse plants
- Provided excellent communication and issue-resolution skills in sales interactions
- Boosted customer satisfaction by providing expert plant care advice, creating a supportive shopping experience
- Designed custom floral arrangements, expanding the store's product range

### **AmeriCorps Crew Member, *American Conservation Experience***

Hurricane, UT | July 2022 – February 2023

- Partnered with the National Parks Service on vital conservation projects
- Supported local ecosystems via hazardous and invasive species removal, erosion mitigation efforts, and habitat reconstruction
- Gathered and recorded environmental data, supporting strategic conservation planning
- Applied problem-solving skills to address environmental challenges
- Played a key role in maintaining and restoring hiking trails to ensure visitor safety and sustainability
- Significantly contributed to long-term conservation decision-making

### **Community Program Intern, *Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association***

Bellingham, WA | February 2022 – June 2022

- Gained an understanding of watershed ecology, aquatic ecosystems, riparian zones, native plants, and human activity to teach large groups
- Led engaging field trips with local schools on riparian zones and the importance of salmon as a keystone species
- Educated students and volunteers on the history and stewardship of the Coast Salish Tribes
- Collected and tested water quality and ecological samples, contributing to national ecological database
- Fostered relationships with Whatcom Land Trust and private landowners, promoting future engagement.
- Managed 20+ volunteers in weekly community work parties (i.e. invasive plant removal and native tree planting), contributing to the restoration of 5+ acres of native habitat

## SKILLS

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Plant Identification ♦ Public Speaking ♦ Habitat Restoration Techniques ♦ Watershed Ecology Knowledge  
Environmental Education ♦ Critical Thinking ♦ Project Coordination ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Adaptability

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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*Citizen Climate Lobby*—Planned and implemented special events. Met with state legislators and officials to discuss climate initiatives. Participated in a monthly book club and discussed articles on climate change and renewable energy.

## EDUCATION

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Western Washington University | Bellingham, WA June 2018  
Bachelor of Arts: Major- Music, Minor- Education and Social Justice