

Application Related Information

Application: Application Not Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202610_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Patrick Sutherin
Recommenders Institution: American Conservation
Experience
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to
review this recommendation.
Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommenders Title: Project Manager
Contact Name: Ajaleigh Irons

Recommendation Waiver
Choice:

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 12/27/2024 11:27 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000121441696

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

Other Information

Created Time: 12/18/2024 01:51 PM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 12/27/2024 11:27 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier



To whom it may concern,

Ajaleigh "Aja" Irons was one of the most consistent and hard-working crew members I have had the pleasure of working with at American Conservation Experience (ACE). When Aja was a volunteer with our program, I was a Crew Leader, meaning I spent all of my work hours in the field with crew members, and was field lead for many of Aja's workweeks, called "hitches" in our field. Throughout her term, Aja showed a level of thoughtfulness and attention to detail not often matched by other members of crews. Were she interested in upward mobility at ACE, I certainly believe she would have made a great candidate for leadership with our program.

At ACE, we occasionally have projects we call "monthlongs," where a crew works significant distances from our main housing and often stays nearby on their offdays. These are physically and emotionally challenging projects, as members often lack many amenities they're used to at the regular ACE housing and have to share space with more people than usual for more than three weeks. Aja and I worked together on one such monthlong at Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge. Our mission with Brown's Park was to treat invasive Cheat Grass in an area prioritized by the refuge, but a major challenge we faced was that neither the crew, nor our partner with the Refuge, were very familiar with Cheat Grass management. Though she was not formally part of the leadership and oversight of the project, Aja stepped up to the challenge, frequently asking questions about our methods and providing input and feedback about our execution. Aja is diligent and thoughtful, and she treated the work with respect even when it became tedious and exhausting. I believe that her efforts on that project directly contributed to its success.

As a person, Aja is open-minded, and always looking to grow. She was receptive to feedback when I provided it at Brown's Park, and showed tangible evidence that she took it to heart. She is compassionate toward those around her, and always got along with other crew members, even after we had spent almost three weeks seeing nothing but each other. Aja would also go out of her way to say hello to the office staff whenever she was there for hitch derig or other reasons. Aja always actively engages herself in whatever she is doing, and whenever I had her on my crew, I knew I could rely on her to get the job done and done well. With her dedication to her work and endeavors, her thoughtful attitude towards her efforts, her willingness to always grow and improve, and her passion for environmentalism and conservation, I believe that, regardless of the program or the title, Aja would make an excellent candidate for the program at Evergreen. She has the skills, knowledge, and compassion to excel in a field that is more important now than ever before.

Regards, and thank you for your time,
Patrick Sutherin
Project Manager
American Conservation Experience .