

JJ NICOLE KELLS

Digital Creative and Species Advocate

Passionate about flexible communication, photography, design, writing, and encouraging a just human coexistence with animals and the natural world. Interested in using creative and communicative skills to contribute to organizations that foster animal/environmental welfare and community connection.



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jjnicole.com

EDUCATION

2024-Present

University of Edinburgh

International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law Postgraduate Program

2007-2012

Butler University

Psychology and Spanish BA with Honors

2019-2022

DePaul University

Digital Communication and Media Arts MA with Distinction

WORK EXPERIENCE

Communications Manager

Swedish American Museum, November 2023 - Present

Design and edit digital and print marketing, newsletters, and fundraising campaigns. Manage website content. Maintain member and subscriber records. Compile and distribute press releases. Hire and supervise communications interns.

Program Logistics Specialist

SeriousFun Children's Network, June-August 2021

Served as lead communication point and supply organizer at a camp for children with medical conditions. Planned and facilitated inclusive activities for children and adults. Aided in equestrian therapy programming.

Server, Server Assistant, Manager, Host

Various dining establishments between May 2012-August 2024

Spoke with guests about special diet options. Trained new employees. Managed waitlists and seating. Fulfilled dine-in and takeout orders in award-winning and high-traffic restaurants.

Pet Care Provider

Self-Employed, September 2018-Present

Engage in creative play, exercise, and bedtime routines. Monitor pet demeanor and health. Communicate consistently with pet parents through text and visual updates.

Flight Attendant

United Airlines, June 2015-September 2018

Oversaw guest safety and comfort. Carried out emergency prevention procedures. Ensuring inflight animals remained safe and hydrated. Served as lead flight attendant, overseeing inflight staff.

SKILLS

- Photography
- Web management
- Digital Design
- Social Media Marketing
- Community engagement
- Beginner Spanish and German

RECENT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Advocate, Fundraiser, Caretaker

Tiny Hooves Animal Sanctuary, The Humane League, Mercy for Animals, Chicago Roo Crew, August 2008-Present

Animal rescues and transfers. Fundraising, event planning and coordination. Caretaking, socialization, habitat maintenance.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration Worker, Field Trip Co-Leader, Park Advisory Council Member, Webmaster

Chicago Park District & Forest Preserves of Cook County, January 2022-Present

Remove invasive plants and trash. Restore native plants. Restore trails. Co-lead educational events. Manage natural area website.

Family Pal

SeriousFun Children's Network, September-October 2021 & August 2022

Participated in activities with campers and family members. Planned and facilitated breakout sessions. Led reflection discussions.

PUBLICATIONS

Chicago Reader chicagoreader.com/city-life/always-be-birding

The Vegan Society vegansociety.com/news/blog/ten-tips-travelling-internationally-vegan

*Interviewee: *Block Club Chicago* blockclubchicago.org/2025/03/03/west-ridge-nature-park-celebrating-a-decade-of-being-natural-oasis-in-the-city