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# What is Green Iowa AmeriCorps?

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## Mission Statement

To empower Iowa's communities and school districts to make more environmental, conservation-minded decisions and improvements by engaging our AmeriCorps members in direct service work, environmental education, professional development opportunities, and volunteer engagement.

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## Who We Are

Green Iowa AmeriCorps is a state-wide community service program operating out of the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Energy and Environmental Education. Our program was originally founded in 2009 to address sustainable usage of energy resources in several Iowan communities as they struggled to rebuild from a series of devastating floods in 2008. Since then, Green Iowa AmeriCorps has been an active community partner and has expanded to many communities across the state. Members serve in one of three branches of our program: Energy & Community, Sustainable Schools, and Land & Water Stewards.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps vision is to mobilize AmeriCorps members to engage communities in environmental stewardship, neighborhood revitalization, and boots-on-the-ground resources for energy efficiency services.

Members are placed with one of our partnered host sites in communities across Iowa to further the mission work of both Green Iowa AmeriCorps and the host organization. Members help to provide practical solutions to community needs focusing on things like energy efficiency education and home audits, volunteer engagement, environmental stewardship, community de/construction projects, and much more! Our members receive a wide variety of training based on coordinator positions and host site and each member has opportunities for individualized professional development through the completion of a Professional Development Project (PDP) during their service term.

Green Iowa AmeriCorps and all national service programs in the state of Iowa are overseen by Volunteer Iowa. Volunteer Iowa is part of a network of state service commissions throughout the United States that exist to foster a bi-partisan, state-level commitment to advancing service initiatives as well as developing, communicating, and promoting a statewide vision and ethic of service.

AmeriCorps, formerly known as a division of the Corporation for National and Community Service, is a federal program created by former President William J. Clinton in 1993. It is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

# Energy and Community

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The Energy & Community branch of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program is committed to helping Iowans become more energy efficient through residential weatherization, energy education, and community outreach services. Energy & Community uses a team-based approach to provide residential weatherization services as well as energy education and energy-related community outreach efforts. As of 2016, all labor and materials are free to any individuals who qualify for a home weatherization after testing for too much air infiltration during a Home Energy Audit.

## Host Sites:

- Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE)
  - Location: University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls
- City of Dubuque Sustainability Offices & Green Dubuque
  - Location: Dubuque
- City of Iowa City's Sustainability Offices
  - Location: Iowa City
- Greater DSM Habitat for Humanity
  - Location: Des Moines
- Matthew 25
  - Location: Cedar Rapids
- Winneshiek Energy District
  - Location: Decorah



# Energy and Community

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## Team Coordinator Roles

Team coordinator roles are designed to provide members with an opportunity for leadership and make the most effective use of member skill sets. Team coordinator roles may fluctuate based on site specific initiatives or the needs of the team. The coordinate role you are assigned will not define your service term and will not limit your ability to perform other activities of our program.

All members will have the opportunity to perform audits, weatherizations, outreach, education and any other personal and professional development opportunities available as part of your service. We want you to grow in your role and as a person within the scope of our program and the incredible serve you will be performing.

## Team/Logisitics Coordinator

### Helpful Skills:

- Organized
- Strong customer service skills
- Experienced with Microsoft Excel, Word
- Knowledgeable of Google applications including Google Calendar, Google Documents, and Google Sheets, and Gmail
- Comfortable with scheduling and contacts clients via phone

### Duties:

- Manage office (files, organization)
- Schedule daily assignments
- Schedule all weatherizations & audits
- Ensure fair work rotation (crew leaders, etc.)
- Ensure calendar balance (not too many of one thing dominating the schedule)
- Maintain record-keeping calendars (attendance, education, outreach, weatherization)
- Follow up and close all weatherizations
- Manage weatherization log
- Send weatherization reports to clients
- Quarterly performance reports (consolidate logs)
- Maintain team email account
- Serve as primary contact for all sites
- Document events and create instructions for position for incoming coordinator

Continues...

## **Energy Audit Coordinator (2 per team)**

### **Helpful Skills:**

- Comfortable speaking to homeowners & explaining services
- Excellent problem solving abilities
- Reliable and punctual
- Organized

### **Duties:**

- Perform all pre & post weatherization blower door tests
- Train to become an energy auditor, take a certification test upon completion
- Complete additional trainings related to role; builder training, OSHA, etc.
- Weatherization quality assurance
- Serve as a construction & weatherization resource on site
- Take inventory of tools & materials
- Purchase tools & materials, communicate purchases with site supervisor/host site
- Organize & maintain storage room
- Clean/maintain tools
- Communicate equipment needs to site supervisor/host site
- Document events and create instructions for position for incoming coordinator
- Provide necessary audit and weatherization information to Team Coordinator

## **Education Coordinator**

### **Helpful Skills:**

- Public speaking skills & confidence
- Experience working with both children & adults
- Ability to create education curriculum/plan educational events from start to finish
- PowerPoint
- Comfortable speaking in front of groups

### **Duties:**

- Identify community partners to perform education programs
- Schedule education presentations & workshops
- Develop education presentations & workshops for a various audiences
- Develop educational activities
- Facilitate presentations & workshops
- Utilize learning lab resources
- Instruct members how to facilitate presentations & workshops
- Outfit tables for fairs, etcWork with outreach and marketing coordinator to magnify impact of events
- Maintain Education Log
- Document events and create instructions for position for incoming coordinator
- Plan 5 educational events/presentations a month

Continues...

# Outreach Coordinator

## Helpful Skills:

- Organized
- Outgoing
- Comfortable public speaking or presenting in front of diverse audiences
- Familiar with social media platforms
- Strong verbal & written communication skills
- Networking skills

## Duties:

- Identify existing community events, and find a way to get involved (Earth week, AmeriCorps week, etc.)
- Plan events for national days of service
- Plan at least 2 outreach events each month
- Maintain correspondence with local organizations
- Coordinate canvassing and table events for new projects
- Organize outreach events in partnership with host site activities/project specifics
- Document events and create instructions for position for incoming coordinator
- Maintain Outreach Log
- Develop a marketing scheme & identify target audiences
- Recruit audit/weatherization candidates
- Recruit AmeriCorps members
- Promote events
- Write press releases
- Distribute flyers & press releases
- Maintain social media accounts
- Maintain site presence on website
- Work with team members and marketing coordinators for monthly newsletter
- Coordinate canvassing and tabling efforts
- Assist with local recruitment for volunteers and incoming members
- Document events and create instructions for position for incoming coordinator

# Center for Energy & Environmental Education



Center for Energy & Environmental Education  
[www.ceee.uni.edu](http://www.ceee.uni.edu)

**Location:** University of Northern Iowa campus, Cedar Falls, IA

**Contact:** Shawn Fluckey

E&C Program Manager and E&C Team Site Supervisor  
sfluckey@uni.edu, (319)-273-7233

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Univeristy of Northern Iowa, CEEE](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2010

## **Mission Statement**

UNI's CEEE helps children and adults make sense of complex environmental- and energy-related issues while finding ways for the community to participate in positive, solution-oriented responses. A long-term goal is to increase awareness of simple but effective actions every person can take to reduce energy usage and lower utility bills. Green Iowa members work with CEEE staff and local community partners to increase this awareness of energy efficiency among state residents.

## **Community Needs:**

The Cedar Falls/Waterloo area has both old housing stock and a lack of affordable housing. Old housing stock was never built with today's energy efficiency codes and standards in mind, and the lack of affordable options for area residents means that some people are stuck in homes that are not very energy efficient. Moreover, the City of Waterloo remains a fairly segregated area. The east side of the city is predominantly black, and it is in this area that the housing stock is in most need of critical home repairs. Since being established, the E&C CEEE site has performed and continues to perform a lot of energy audits and weatherizations in this area of the city.

Furthermore, the east side of Waterloo contains noticeable food deserts, which are areas with limited access to affordable, fresh produce. This lack of available, affordable, fresh, and nutritious food options affects black and low-income residents of Waterloo the most, resulting in obesity and other

health-related problems. Because of this, the E&C CEEE site focuses a lot of efforts on maintaining local community gardens, as well as school gardens. Produce grown at community gardens is made freely available to local residents or donated to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. School gardens are used as an educational tool, to instill in the minds of younger children how to grow and eat healthier foods.

Originally created in the summer of 2020 and further refined in the spring of 2021, the E&C CEEE site partners with the LWS CEEE site on a program called A Garden in Every Lot (GEL). GEL is run by the UNI Local Food Program, as well as AmeriCorps VISTA members serving out of the CEEE.

Continues...

# Center for Energy & Environmental Education

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## Community Needs (cont'd):

GEL is run by the UNI Local Food Program, as well as AmeriCorps VISTA members serving out of the CEEE. GEL provides a free vegetable garden for local homeowners who do not already have such a garden. The LWS CEEE site performs assessments and then installs the gardens in the yards of homeowners, while the E&C CEEE site provides the necessary ongoing educational aspect of how to maintain the gardens for homeowners.

The E&C CEEE site is also involved in Climate Action Planning work in communities such as Cedar Falls, Waterloo, Decorah, and other cities. Some cities, like Cedar Falls and Decorah, have been working on Climate Action Plans for years, while others, like Waterloo, are just getting started. Wherever a particular community is in terms of developing a Climate Action Plan, the E&C CEEE site assists with collecting the raw data, processing and analyzing it, and finally suggests to communities ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make their communities more resilient to climate change.

Lastly, several other E&C host sites have restrictions on which homeowners qualify for assistance. The Des Moines E&C site only serves residents living in three counties (Dallas, Polk, and Jasper) and the total assessed value of the property, which includes the home and the land on which the home sits, cannot exceed \$183,000. The Iowa City E&C site only serves the residents of Iowa City. These types of restrictions often result in certain Iowans who would otherwise qualify for the services of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program being unable to be served by the sites located closest to them. The E&C CEEE site has no such restrictions; all Iowans qualify regardless of where in the state they are located.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

The types of projects full-time (FT) members should expect to work on include, but are not limited to: energy saver kits, energy audits and weatherizations, educational programs involving both grade-school children and adults, invasive species removal, school and community gardens, local food issues, and climate action planning work. Other programs available within the CEEE include the UNI Local Food Program and Greens to Go. These programs address farming issues and food insecurity issues throughout the state. In the past, members have worked with these programs in some capacity. Full time members are required to volunteer with the local Habitat for Humanity once a week. Members usually volunteer on a construction site, where they can learn about everything building-related: framing, insulation, hanging drywall, shingles and roofing, cabinets, siding, windows, flooring, and doors. When working on a construction site, members should expect to work in less than ideal conditions, the main ones being rain, snow, and cold. In addition to working on a construction site, members have volunteered at the Habitat ReStore.



# City of Dubuque's Sustainability Office & Green Dubuque

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**Location:** Dubuque, IA

**Contact:** Gina Bell  
Sustainable Community Coordinator  
gbell@cityofdubuque.org, 563-690-6038

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[City's Sustainability Goals](#)

[Green Dubuque \(co-partnership\)](#)

[Sustainable Dubuque](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2010

## **Mission Statement**

Dubuque city government's mission is to deliver excellent municipal services that support urban living; contribute to an equitable, sustainable city; plan for the community's future; and facilitate access to critical human services.

## **Community Needs:**

The City of Dubuque has very old housing stock. In our 50% by 2030 Community Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, we have identified that we must reduce our Building and Energy emissions by 50% to meet our goal. We also know we are vulnerable to climate risks that include heat stress, housing and air quality. The work GIA does in the City addresses all three of these community wide vulnerabilities for our most vulnerable population. Often, families that live in old housing stock, which are not energy efficient, are also those that can least afford high-cost utility bills. These same families may lack the ability to pay for energy efficiency improvements or access renewable energy options. GIA has and will continue to address this exact issue!

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Full time services members provide the bulk of the work related to direct service energy efficiency work and partnership building. Members are expected to conduct home energy audits and retrofits for homes in the City of Dubuque. They will work to build partnerships and relationships on behalf of the city with hard to reach populations to help increase the amount of home energy audits, to decrease energy burdens for vulnerable populations. Members will also work on education events related to energy burden and rights as a rate payer as well as energy efficiency as it is related to GHG emission reduction. They will also be responsible for holding community outreach events that will serve as both community building events and educational events.

# City of Iowa City: Climate Action & Outreach Division



*Creating a more livable, equitable & resilient tomorrow*

**Location:** Iowa City, IA

**Contact:** Sarah Gardner  
Climate Engagement Specialist  
sarah-gardner@iowa-city.org, 319-887-6162

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Climate Action and Outreach](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2015

## **Mission Statement**

The Climate Action and Outreach Division is charged with implementing Iowa City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP), which outlines a path to reduce carbon emissions 45% by 2030 and achieved net-zero emissions by 2050.

## **Community Needs:**

Energy use in buildings is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Iowa City, accounting for 79% of total emissions as of the most recent annual greenhouse gas inventory (2019). At the same time, according to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data, Iowa City has a total of 2,815 owner-occupied households and 8,390 rental households with a housing cost burden greater than 30% of their income. These households, which are often energy burdened as well, require assistance to implement energy efficiency measures that can help bring household expenses down. Iowa City's goals in hosting a GIA team are twofold: provide critical support to residents who can least afford high energy costs and at the same time, reduce emissions resulting from home energy use.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

The AmeriCorps team is hosted by the Climate Action and Outreach Division to conduct home energy audits and environmental outreach and education programming. Opportunities for the AmeriCorps team to collaborate on environmental education projects serving both urban and rural residents are occasionally available through relationships with the Sustainability Working Group of Johnson County. Full time members will concentrate on energy-related programming such as conducting home energy audits and delivering home energy kits to income-qualified households. They will assist with Neighborhood Energy Blitzes, which is a targeted door-to-door outreach effort coordinated by the Climate Action and Outreach Division, to provide educational material and energy saving devices to individual households. Members will also assist with Earth Week, an annual educational event in April that includes demonstrations (such as blower door test), information booths (as conditions allow), and interactive projects for the public.

# Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity



**Location:** Des Moines, IA

**Contact:** Les Stohs

Director of Construction Services

Istohs@gdmhabitat.org, 515-471-8686 x125

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2014

## Mission Statement

Seeking to put God's love into action, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

## Community Needs:

The purchase and maintenance of a home is the foundation for health, financial security, and economic stability. Affordability affects a family's health by having less money for food, doctor's visits, prescriptions, and other necessities. Through critical home repair projects, the GDM Habitat Rock the Block® Program allows homeowners to be self-sufficient, safe, and proud, connected members of their neighborhood and community, and make the choice to stay safely in their homes. Projects often result in savings on a homeowner's energy bills, help maintain homeowner's insurance, create a safer home environment for aging families, and improve the overall look of the home. Partnering with Green Iowa AmeriCorps for the last six years has allowed GDM Habitat to serve additional low-income families in our geographic service area. The Green Iowa AmeriCorps members bring a fresh perspective to the organization through educational programming, direct service, and energy efficient practices.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

GDM Habitat's mission is focused on serving low-income families through addressing affordable homeownership through new homeownership opportunities, critical home repair, and financial education. A component of our new construction and repair programs focuses on environmental sustainability and energy efficiency, keeping utility costs low for families whose budgets may already be strained. GIA members will assist low-income residents with needed repair, maintenance, weatherization, safety, accessibility, and beautification of homes. They will complete interior or exterior work to an existing home based on a comprehensive energy audit and a resulting defined scope of work. Improvements will focus on energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and comfort. Members are also responsible for keeping local metrics updates to monitor completions and successes, and making local connections in the neighborhoods we serve, through the attendance of GDM Habitat outreach events. Members will participate in the upcoming Insulated Concrete Forms house, and play a major role in contributing to and building a house as an opportunity to showcase green energy building, etc.

# Matthew 25

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**Location:** Cedar Rapids, IA

**Contact:** Philip Hamilton  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Philip@hub25.org, 319-200-2787

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[Matthew 25](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2013

## Mission Statement

Empower people to transform neighborhoods.

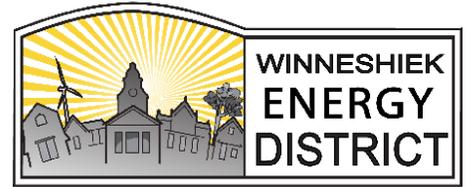
## Community Needs:

Matthew 25 works to support and revitalize core neighborhoods in Cedar Rapids. GIA Members help positively impact community needs including; food insecurity, youth education, post-disaster recovery, home restoration, and assisting with high energy costs.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

Members will work to expand food access through the creation of a grocery store and food pantry, increasing the size of the urban farm and creation of educational programs with local schools. They will work to support low-income families with derecho repairs. In the long-term, members will work in a coordinated fashion to help develop sustainability within Cedar Rapids, Linn County, and Matthew 25.

# Winneshiek Energy District



**Location:** Decorah, IA

**Contact:** Heidi Eger  
Communications Specialist  
heidi@energydistrict.org, 612-600-3641

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Winneshiek Energy District](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2010

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Winneshiek Energy District is to lead, implement, and accelerate the locally-owned, inclusive, clean energy transition in Winneshiek County. Our key strategies together build an unstoppable flywheel of momentum and include energy planning, market transformation, public engagement, policy advocacy, and readiness. As the founding Energy District, our mission also includes the demonstration of the energy district model viability and the growth of an energy district network throughout Iowa and beyond.

## **Community Needs:**

Over 10 years, teams have helped over 1,000 homes save money and carbon. The team's work directly aligns with WED's mission of reducing carbon emissions through energy efficiency. Our GIA teams work with a 6 county area for their audit services. 90% of the homes they serve qualify for free services by being low to moderate income, or with members who are elders, veterans, or disabled.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

GIA Members will serve homes within the 6 county area through in-home energy audits or Bright Box (our simplified version of the Energy Savers Kit). Members will also work to check off each skill practice area in our team handbook, meet GIA program goals, and engage in a wide mix of clean energy topic areas.

# Land and Water Stewards

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The Land & Water Stewards branch of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program is committed to restoring, improving and preserving Iowa's natural landscapes and resources through education, outreach and boots-on-the-ground initiatives. The AmeriCorps members are focused on conserving and restoring Iowa's lost ecosystems, increasing flood mitigation practices and education, and improving water quality for all Iowans.

## Host Sites:

- Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE)
  - Location: University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls
- Dubuque County Conservation
  - Location: Dubuque
- Lakeside Laboratories
  - Location: Okoboji
- Linn County
  - Location: Cedar Rapids
- Practical Farmers of Iowa
  - Location: Ames
- Tallgrass Prairie Center
  - Location: Cedar Falls
- Trees Forever
  - Location: Cedar Rapids/ Des Moines
- Whiterock Conservancy
  - Location: Coon Rapids
- William Penn University & Mahaska Partnership
  - Location: Oskaloosa



# Center for Energy & Environmental Education



Center for Energy & Environmental Education  
[www.ceee.uni.edu](http://www.ceee.uni.edu)

**Location:** University of Northern Iowa campus, Cedar Falls, IA

**Contact:** Leah Baethke

LWS Program Manager and CEEE LWS Site Supervisor  
[lbaethke@uni.edu](mailto:lbaethke@uni.edu), (319)-430-4913

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[University of Northern Iowa, CEEE](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2017

## **Mission Statement**

The Center for Energy & Environmental Education (CEEE) creates opportunities for UNI students, faculty and staff to work with community leaders to arrive at evidence-based, solution-oriented responses to the problems they wish to address. We offer technical assistance, educational programs, and leadership in energy conservation and renewable energy, environmental conservation and community-based agriculture. The CEEE serves Iowa cities, counties, school districts, teachers, farmers, businesses, elected officials, state agencies, community leaders, and citizen organizations.

## **Community Needs:**

CEEE Land & Water Steward members will work with local community partners to plan and assist with water quality education and outreach events involving local community organizations, schools and citizens to encourage water stewardship in the Cedar Valley. Members will work with the Dry Run Creek Watershed Coordinator and the City of Cedar Falls Stormwater Specialist to identify and implement ways to improve water quality in the Cedar Valley.

Members also spend time planning education and outreach events to help with land management projects including, but not limited to, invasive species and brush removal, prairie burns, trail maintenance, work with our Local Food Program, outreach efforts with Good Neighbor Iowa, tree planting and giveaways, and trash clean up events.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Full-time members serving at the CEEE will fill one of the following roles: Education Coordinator, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Water Quality Outreach Coordinator and Land Stewardship Outreach Coordinator. You can read more about each of these specific roles below. Members will work on most projects collaboratively at this site so the assigned coordinator role will not define a members service term or limit a members ability to gain experience or perform other activities in the program.

GIA members work with CEEE staff and local community leaders to provide solutions to environmental issues. Members help plan and carry out projects in collaboration with the other programs hosted out of the CEEE, including the Environmental Health program, Local Food program and Climate Action Committee. LWS members at the CEEE also have one required weekly workday with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity, who provide funding for our members at the CEEE. During these required work days members usually volunteer on a construction site, where they can learn about everything building-related: framing, insulation, hanging drywall, shingles and roofing, cabinets, siding, windows, flooring, and doors.

# Center for Energy & Environmental Education



Center for Energy & Environmental Education  
www.ceee.uni.edu

## Position Descriptions:

Note: All LWS members at the CEEE will operate as a team, helping each other plan and coordinate events, working on community projects together, and collaborating with other organizations as a team. Members will work on many projects collaboratively so the assigned coordinator role will not define a members service term or limit a members ability to gain experience or perform other activities in the program.

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### Position 1: Education Coordinator

#### Description:

The Education Coordinator is responsible for developing programs and presentations designed to educate and encourage methods of proper land and water stewardship management, mitigation and restoration in the Cedar Valley. This member will work in partnership with local community organizations to help spread awareness about various environmental concerns affecting Iowa and the Cedar Valley, including how to mitigate and prevent these issues in the future.

Activities could include: water quality monitoring workshops, work with the Good Neighbor Iowa program, speaking to classes and community groups about water quality and land stewardship, organizing lunch and learn events with local organizations, creating educational workshops and events around sustainability and local food in partnership with the CEEE's Local Food program etc.

#### Duties:

- Identify community partners to partner with and perform educational programs
- Create and execute 1-2 educational events per week
- Schedule education presentations and workshops
- Develop education presentations and workshops for a variety of audiences
- Develop educational activities, lesson plans and materials as needed
- Facilitate presentations and workshops
- Work with team members and community organizations to magnify impact of events
- Maintain the Education Log
- Document events and create instructions for future education events

#### Helpful Skills:

- Ability to function independently and as a part of a team
- Public speaking skills and confidence
- Experience working with both adults and children
- Ability to create education curriculum and plan educational events
- Experience with powerpoint

#### Additional Responsibilities:

- Professional Development Project
- Weekly required workdays with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Assisting team members with their duties and responsibilities

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# Center for Energy & Environmental Education

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Center for Energy & Environmental Education  
[www.ceee.uni.edu](http://www.ceee.uni.edu)

## Position Descriptions:

### Position 2: Marketing and Communications Coordinator

#### Description:

The Marketing and Communications Coordinator is responsible for promoting, highlighting, and marketing events and programming at the CEEE as well as larger program events throughout the state. This member also assists with marketing and promoting recruitment efforts throughout their service term as well as promoting the Green Iowa AmeriCorps brand.

#### Duties:

- Create content for Green Iowa's various social media accounts including (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn etc.) and posting weekly updates
- Write and edit blog posts on a weekly basis for the Green Iowa AmeriCorps website
- Help create flyers, press releases, brochures and other promotional materials for recruitment and event purposes
- Assist with Green Iowa AmeriCorps recruitment efforts throughout the state by marketing available positions and creating recruitment materials
- Network with community resources and contacts to amplify the range and impact of community events and opportunities in the Cedar Valley
- Publish quarterly Green Iowa AmeriCorps newsletters
- Assist with CEEE marketing efforts as needed for all programs operating out of the CEEE
- Taking photos at various events to use on social media and in other marketing materials
- Assist team members with event planning and coordination to meet performance measures

#### Helpful Skills:

- Ability to function independently and as a part of a team
- Public speaking skills and confidence
- Strong communication and organizational skills. Proficiency in writing general correspondence and other documents required as part of duties listed above.
- Experience with website design, Canva, Adobe Illustrator and InDesign (all helpful but not required)

#### Additional Responsibilities:

- Professional Development Project
- Weekly required workdays with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Assisting team members with their duties and responsibilities

Continues...

# Center for Energy & Environmental Education



Center for Energy & Environmental Education  
[www.ceee.uni.edu](http://www.ceee.uni.edu)

## Position Descriptions:

### Position 3: Water Quality Outreach Coordinator

#### Description:

The Water Quality Outreach Coordinator is responsible for creating outreach events related to Water Quality and identifying existing community projects that members and the local community can get involved with. This member will work with Josh Balk, the Dry Run Creek Watershed Coordinator, and Maria Perez, the City of Cedar Falls Stormwater Specialist, and others to plan and coordinate events to get the community involved in improving water quality in the Cedar Valley. Volunteer recruitment and coordination will also be a large portion of this members responsibilities. Activities could include: coordinating Snapshot water quality events, planting a rain garden, recruiting volunteers for river clean up events etc.

#### Duties:

- Plan and Identify existing community events and ways members can get involved (Earth week, AmeriCorps week etc.)
- Organize, plan and execute 1-2 outreach events per week pertaining to water quality/conservation
- Plan events for National Days of Service
- Plan tabling and canvassing events to recruit volunteers
- Promote events on social media, through volunteer networks and partner organizations
- Maintain Outreach Log
- Document events and create instructions for future outreach events

#### Helpful Skills:

- Ability to function independently and as a part of a team
- Outgoing and Friendly
- Comfortable public speaking and presenting in front of diverse audiences
- Networking skills
- Experience working with both adults and children

#### Additional Responsibilities:

- Professional Development Project
- Weekly required workdays with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Assisting team members with their duties and responsibilities

Continues...

# Center for Energy & Environmental Education

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Center for Energy & Environmental Education  
[www.ceee.uni.edu](http://www.ceee.uni.edu)

## Position Descriptions:

### Position 4: Land Stewardship Outreach Coordinator

#### Description:

The Land Stewardship Outreach Coordinator is responsible for creating outreach events related to Land Stewardship and identifying existing community projects that members and the local community can get involved with. This member will work with local state parks, the CEEE's Local Food Program and Good Neighbor Iowa program, The City of Cedar Falls and Waterloo and others to plan and coordinate events to get the community involved in land stewardship projects in the Cedar Valley. Volunteer recruitment and coordination will also be a large portion of this member's responsibilities. Activities could include: coordinating invasive species removal events, planning tree planting events, gardening, recruiting volunteers for events, trash clean up events etc.

#### Duties:

- Plan and Identify existing community events and ways members can get involved (Earth week, AmeriCorps week etc.)
- Organize, plan and execute 1-2 outreach events per week pertaining to proper land management and restoration practices
- Plan events for National Days of Service
- Site assessment and garden installation for A Garden in Every Lot
- Plan tabling and canvassing events to recruit volunteers
- Promote events on social media, through volunteer networks and partner organizations
- Maintain Outreach Log
- Document events and create instructions for future outreach events

#### Helpful Skills:

- Ability to function independently and as a part of a team
- Outgoing and Friendly
- Comfortable public speaking and presenting in front of diverse audiences
- Networking skills
- Experience working with both adults and children

#### Additional Responsibilities:

- Professional Development Project
- Weekly required workdays with the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Assisting team members with their duties and responsibilities

# Dubuque County Conservation Board

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**Location:** Swiss Valley Nature Center, Peosta, IA

**Contact:** Taylor Schaefers  
Naturalist  
Taylor.Schaefers@dubuquecounty.us

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[Dubuque Co. Conservation Board](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2021

## Mission Statement

The mission of Dubuque County Conservation is to create a network of high-quality parks, habitats, trails, and waters supported by communities passionate about nature. The vision is to engage the community's stewardship and enjoyment of its natural resources.

## Community Needs:

The Dubuque County Conservation Board manages nearly 3,000 acres of land. In the past decade Dubuque County has acquired nearly 1,000 acres of land. With the newly acquired land comes demands of trail maintenance, water quality improvements, habitat restoration and more. Two of the focus areas of Dubuque County Conservation Board is to create quality community stewards by promoting protection of our natural resources and to create communities passionate about nature. Members will help provide an equitable environmental education experience for all students across Dubuque County.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

Members will expand natural resource management to the newly acquired Dubuque County Conservation properties. Natural resource management will include water quality improvement projects, trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and more. Work with staff from the local Dubuque Universities to expand their water quality research to include Dubuque County Conservation areas. They will assist the Dubuque universities with analyzing the water quality data to help with land management decisions in the county conservation areas. Also, to engage and train volunteers to help expand water quality research stations across the county. Members will work with local schools and city governments to convert turf grass to pollinator friendly habitat. Tasks can also include invasive species/vegetation removal, utilizing tools such as chainsaws, hand tools and chemical/prescribed fires, updating/creating forest management plans, assisting in trail design, establishment of prairies, and community education and engagement efforts.

# Dubuque County Conservation Board

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## **Position Description:**

**Position:** Land & Water Stewardship

## **Eligibility:**

- Ability to serve approximately 40 hours per week from the beginning of September 2021 with anticipated service schedule weekdays from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. Occasional nights and weekends are required for host site needs. No service on holidays. Vacation time, sick time and holidays are not counted towards the hours needed to complete the term. Start and end dates are flexible.
- Prefer bachelor's degree or be working towards a degree in any of the following areas: Biology, Environmental Science, Ecology, Interpretation, Animal Ecology, Forestry or any other related field.
- Be at least 17 years of age by the time of enrollment which begins in September 2021.
- Be a United States citizen or have a permanent resident visa.
- Have served no more than three terms of service in national service programs. Note: If a person has earned the equivalent of two full time education awards, he/she is still eligible to serve up to four terms but is not eligible for another education award.

## **Essential Job Duties**

- Planting, seeding, cutting, trimming, pesticide application, burning, removal of hazardous trees, mowing, control of noxious weeds and invasive species, etc.
- Assists with implementing management plans for Dubuque County Conservation areas.
  - Including timber management plans, timber sales, crop leases, food plot plants, wetland development, water quality improvement projects, and prairie restorations
- Provides information and conducts public relations activities through presentations and articles to educate and inform public on natural resources, habitat improvement, and water quality projects.
  - Including working to create a team of natural resource stewards
- Lead volunteer groups throughout county parks, and recreation areas to perform stewardship and service projects including trail work, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, etc.
- Design informational kiosks and brochures, produce quarterly newsletters, and engage community members via print materials, online presence, and social media outlets

## **Training and Experience Required**

- Valid drivers license required
- Ability to obtain a pesticide applicator license
- Ability to obtain S130/ S190 controlled wildfire training
- Ability to obtain CPR & First Aid certification

## **Physical Demands and Work Environments**

- Physical Demands: Ability to lift and carry heavy objects sometimes up to 100 pounds and conduct movements such as but not limited to balancing, twisting, climbing, kneeling, walking, pulling, pushing, lifting, etc.
- Work Environment: Work is conducted primarily outdoors so the employee is exposed to weather conditions prevalent at that time. Sometimes the employee may be exposed to moving machinery, dust, fumes, gases, and moderate to loud noises.

# Lakeside Laboratories

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**Location:** Okoboji, IA

**Contact:** Mary Skopec  
Executive Director  
mary-skopec@uiowa.edu, 712-337-3669

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[Iowa Lakeside Lab Website](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2017

## Mission Statement

Education, Outreach and Research related to biology/environmental protection.

## Community Needs:

GIA members with Iowa Lakeside Lab work with the local community to provide expertise and assistance with environmental projects. Members will provide technical assistance for prairie restoration/wetland restoration and environmental education.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

Members help the organization carry out projects, including collecting samples and analyzing data. They will help extend our research into the community and support our education programs of native shores/vegetation. GIA members will gain leadership in selecting and implementing projects, and increase program awareness within the IGL community. Additionally, members will enhance their skill sets and increase diversity in the workforce in natural sciences.

# Lakeside Laboratories

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## Position Descriptions:

### Position Description:

Green Iowa AmeriCorps members implement Land and Water Stewardship projects in cooperation with Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. Candidates will conduct ecological restoration projects (prairie and wetland restoration), remove invasive species on Lakeside's campus and elsewhere in the Iowa Great Lakes. Candidates will assist with environmental monitoring projects including, but not limited to, water quality monitoring, terrestrial or aquatic species monitoring and assessment of recreation activities on the Iowa Great Lakes. Members will assist with K-12 environmental education programs and adult citizen science initiatives.

### Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental science, sustainability, biology, or closely related fields is preferred.
- Field-based experience with collection of environmental samples, processing of samples, or other ecological restoration work is strongly preferred.
- Computer proficiency (word processing, spreadsheets) is required.
- Ability to travel in northwest Iowa for fieldwork; ability to work in harsh field conditions or inclement weather is required.

### General Information:

- Position requires some evening and weekend work.
- Housing may be available (please inquire with the host supervisor)
- Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is owned by the Iowa Board of Regents and operated by the University of Iowa. All applicable policies of these entities apply to these positions.

# Linn County

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**Location:** Cedar Rapids, IA

**Contact:** Tamara Marcus  
Sustainability Coordinator  
tamara.marcus@linncounty.org, 540-455-8613

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Linn County Website](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2021

## **Mission Statement**

The Sustainability Department at Linn County is a new department. Our goal is to provide young environmental leaders with the opportunity to gain relevant professional experience in professions that serve the environment and the community by supporting healthy land and water ecosystems.

## **Community Needs:**

One of the major needs within our community is the need for a consistent public engagement around our climate action planning process and the AmeriCorps team will help with our engagement plan. We have created a Sustainability Council composed of a member from select departments (Public Health, Conservation, Facilities, Planning and Development, and Policy Administration) and our AmeriCorps members should feel supported and would have the opportunity to regularly engage with these departments, and would be encouraged to do so. The future vision of our Sustainability department is to have any new full-time staff work closely between departments. For example, we are in the process of creating a Food Systems Coordinator position which would be a joint position between our Planning and Development department and Sustainability. I believe this collaborative approach will ensure that our Sustainability department is embedded within our current structure at Linn County, helping to demonstrate the value of an equitable and sustainable lens when applied to our traditional understanding of County services and operations.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Members will work within various departments focusing on different issues of conservation across Linn County. This includes working with local schools and universities to create a community focused water and soil monitoring program, building a more sustainable local food system, and working on a greenhouse gas inventory. These projects will be conducted within the county and in partnership with local organizations and non-profits in order to engage and educate the public.

# Practical Farmers of Iowa



**Location:** Ames, IA

**Contact:** Maggie Norton  
Farmer Outreach Coordinator  
maggie\_n@practicalfarmers.org, 515-232-5661

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Practical Farmers of Iowa Website](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2019

## **Mission Statement**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities. Our vision is an Iowa with healthy soil, healthy food, clean air, clean water, resilient farms and vibrant communities.

## **Community Needs:**

Practical Farmers of Iowa is a farmer-led nonprofit organization. Programming and content is driven by the expressed needs of our members, primarily Iowa farmers. We strive to provide farmers with resources to make informed decisions, stir their curiosities, and build community. Every year, PFI organizes a selection of our "bread-and-butter" events like the annual conference, field day season, farminar series, Cooperators' Meeting and beginning farmer events. Additionally, PFI publishes a quarterly magazine, research reports, videos, blogs and other media. The main program areas are beginning farmers, conservation, cover crops, farm transfer, farmer-led research, field crops, horticulture, landowners, livestock, local foods, policy and small grains. It takes a monumental effort to brainstorm new ideas, connect with farmers, manage logistics and track progress on our programming and content efforts. Green Iowa AmeriCorps member contributions help the PFI team create better, more meaningful experiences, content and programs for farmers.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Members will be matched to projects and tasks based on their interests, opportunity for skill development and organizational need. Throughout their term, we hope that members will improve upon existing skills, learn others and broaden their understanding of Iowa's agriculture and food system. Service hours with PFI advance the organization's mission to build a more resilient agricultural landscape, socially and biophysically. Applicants will have numerous chances to interact with members and farmers, assist with event planning, create original content (articles, videos, design, etc.), visit farm sites across Iowa and provide direct support to various PFI teams: Communications and Marketing, Cooperators' Program, Education and Engagement, Membership, Next Generation and Strategic Initiatives. These teams support a variety of program areas like horticulture, livestock, field crops, conservation, local foods, land transfer and more! Applicants should also expect to build on current written and oral communication skills; interpersonal skills; data management and analysis and time management abilities.

**Position Description:** Over the course of a term, AmeriCorps members can expect to interact with a range of PFI members, visit farm operations and learn about sustainable agriculture systems in Iowa. Applicants will also improve on their written and oral communication skills, interpersonal skills, data management and analysis and time management.

## **Position 1:** Communications and Marketing

- Supports media production processes including preparing equipment for video shoots, assisting on video shoots and taking photo/video as needed.
- Write blogs, magazine articles, social media posts or other content
- Support the winter farminar online web series (e.g., organize speaker details, draft press releases, coordinate tech test, etc.)
- Create graphs, figures, and other data visualizations to support farmer speakers.
- Help maintain the Farmer Outreach base, a platform used to track member interactions with the media and speaking opportunities at non-PFI events.
- Perform minor web edits and additions on the PFI website

## **Position 2:** Cooperator's Program

- Contact on-farm researchers to coordinate data submission and organize and prepare datasets for analysis.
- Outline on-farm research results and write research reports for publication on the PFI website.
- Support planning and logistics for the annual Cooperator's Meeting along with follow-up communications regarding trial idea development.

## **Position 3:** Strategic Initiatives

- Contact cost-share program participants for operation data, facilitate completion of related surveys and e-introduce new program participants to welcoming committee members.
- Assist in tracking of cost-share participants for reporting purposes
- Attend supply chain meetings to learn more about the programs and take meeting notes.

## **Position 4:** Program and Membership

- Provide general support for PFI events (online and in-person). General responsibilities may include contacting speakers, reporting attendance, organizing supplies, assisting with online breakout rooms, distributing evaluations and taking photos.
- Updating member-related databases with information related to contact and address details, enterprise details, participation in PFI programming or leadership roles or general notes that improve staff knowledge of PFI's constituents.

## Position Description (cont'd):

PFI is looking for applicants who are:

- Organized
- Detail-oriented
- Accountable
- Self-directed
- Flexible and adaptable
- Open-minded
- Willing to learn
- Good at verbal and written communication
- Proficient with Microsoft Office suite and Google Workspace
- Interested in sustainable agriculture systems in Iowa
- Interested in learning how to communicate farmer's experiences to broad audiences

# Tallgrass Prairie Center



**Location:** University of Northern Iowa campus, Cedar Falls, IA

**Contact:** Laura Jackson  
Plant Materials Program Manager  
laura.l.jackson@uni.edu

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Tallgrass Prairie Center](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2019

## **Mission Statement**

Empower people to value and restore resilient, diverse tallgrass prairie.

## **Community Needs:**

GIA members help to increase our capacity to reach key audiences and tell our story, thereby increasing public awareness of prairies and their significance, as well as providing partners and stakeholders with key information they need in restoring ecosystem functions. Members also help increase our ability to manage and monitor natural areas and leverage community volunteers to participate in land management activities.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Members work in direct service by implementing conservation and in outreach and education on conservation issues. They will help increase our impact on local natural areas management through volunteer coordination, increasing the reach of our educational materials through connections to Sustainable Schools and other partners, and develop fresh content to distribute to stakeholders. Ultimately, members will work to get more people to value, plant and maintain prairies, build a network of connections and improve our public visibility and ability to reach broad audiences.

# Tallgrass Prairie Center



## Position Description:

**Position:** Communications Associate

**Description:** This position is for individuals who are passionate about the environment and want to apply and/or expand their skills in mass communication, marketing and networking.

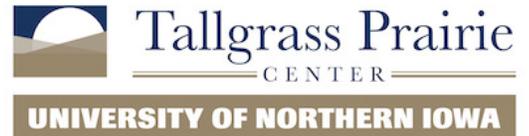
## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Iowa Roadside Management – approx. 50% of time
  - Travel to county roadside offices in Iowa
  - Write case studies about successful programs
  - Manage the roadside program part of the TPC website
  - Manage social media outlets (Facebook and Instagram)
  - Capture media (photo and video) to be used in outreach
  - Help to establish a presence at conferences by staffing display tables; some overnight travel to conferences or workshops within Iowa (up to 10-15 nights total over the length of the position)
  - Assist with organizing and distribution of native seed at the annual county seed pick up
  - Assist with organizing the annual roadside conference
  - Assist with workshops that may be held to build community support for county roadside programs
  - Attend staff meetings
- Other TPC Programs and Projects – approx. 50%
  - Orientation to TPC
    - Study TPC website and publications to learn about TPC programs, projects, partners, and history
    - Attend staff meetings
    - Assist staff with documenting events, center and program activities, and impacts
  - Digital Media
    - Improve and update website
    - Write editorial articles and capture visual media (videos and photos) of TPC programs, projects, and events
  - Education and Outreach
    - Assist in development and implementation of educational and community engagement activities at Irvine Prairie
    - Develop and assist with educational activities for the roots project in schools or nature centers
    - Promote TPC at events, visitor tours, and conferences
    - Create an interactive and child-appropriate activity to take to conferences and STEM- related events
  - Plant Materials Program tasks
    - Assist with organizing Native Seed Stakeholder meetings
    - Synthesize results of post-meeting evaluation surveys
    - Assist with newsletter and/or other stakeholder communications for the Plant Materials program
    - Assist with graphic design of printed and electronic materials for Plant Materials Program (i.e., seed tags, table display)
    - Draft social media posts about Plant Materials Program activities and events
  - General TPC and Prairie on Farms Activities
    - Help to establish a presence at conferences by staffing display tables for the TPC and the Prairie on Farms program
    - Assist with Prairie on Farms events and projects
    - Assistance with TPC events
    - Additional related duties as they arise or assigned by Supervisor or TPC Director

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# Tallgrass Prairie Center

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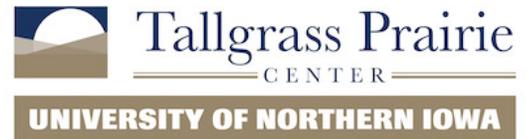
## Position Description (cont'd):

**Position:** Communications Associate

- Required skills and attributes
  - Interest in ecosystem restoration
  - Strong writing skills
  - Strong marketing skills
  - Small-team collaboration skills
  - Strong interpersonal communication skills
  - Attention to detail
  - Strong record-keeping and reporting skills
  - Organized
  - Self-motivated
  - Punctual
  - Accountable
- Preferred skills and attributes
  - Passion for helping environmental causes
  - Experience with Iowa plant identification or conservation fieldwork
  - Comfortable interacting with a variety of people from different backgrounds and age groups
  - Comfort working independently in rural and office environments
  - Experience with social media platforms (Instagram and Facebook)
  - Experience with manipulating video
  - Experience with digital photography
  - Knowledge of Microsoft, Adobe, and G - Suite apps, including Google Calendars, Google Documents

Continues...

# Tallgrass Prairie Center



## Position Description:

**Position:** Volunteer Coordinator for Natural Areas Management

**Description:** This position is for individuals who are passionate about the environment and are interested in natural areas management

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Orientation to TPC and associated UNI and community-based natural areas
  - Study TPC website and publications to learn about TPC programs, projects, partners, and history
  - Participate in staff meetings and Biology Preserves Committee meetings
  - Visit and become familiar with campus preserves, Irvine Prairie and community natural areas; their plant communities, history, management plans and principal stakeholders
  - Pursue relevant training on prescribed fire, herbicide application, chainsaw use, and natural areas management, and become proficient in the use of all safety equipment and procedures
- Natural Areas Management
  - Build a network of volunteers for restoration and management tasks
  - Work with the relevant stakeholders for each natural area, to assess and prioritize stewardship needs
  - Coordinate stewardship work events, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, for monitoring and control of woody and invasive species, and other actions to improve the diversity and resilience of TPC, campus and community natural areas
  - Maintain the safety of volunteers through appropriate training, equipment and consistent adherence to safety procedures
  - Manage inventory, and coordinate the repair and replacement of equipment for vegetation and fire management
  - Cultivate positive relationships with community partners to achieve common goals in the protection of nearby natural areas of natural or cultural significance
  - Keep records of management activities and evaluate outcomes, for adaptive management purposes.
- Education and Outreach
  - Develop and implement educational and community engagement activities
  - Improve and update printed and electronic materials, and work to make natural areas visible on Google Maps, the UNI campus map, and other commonly-used spatial resources.
  - Assist the Director with stakeholder communications through social media, website and other means
  - Take and curate photos of natural areas in all seasons, for use in education and outreach
  - Communicate regularly with volunteers and support continuity and institutional memory from year to year
  - Assist with TPC events

Continues...

# Tallgrass Prairie Center



## Position Description (continued):

**Position:** Volunteer Coordinator for Natural Areas Management

- Required skills and attributes
  - Interest in ecosystem restoration and natural areas management
  - Ability to walk two miles over level terrain carrying a 25 lb pack
  - Able to obtain an Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicator License (Category 6). (for control of invasive species) and S-130, S-180, S-190 certification for prescribed fire
  - Strong organizational skills
  - Small-team collaboration skills
  - Strong interpersonal communication skills
  - Attention to detail
  - Safety-oriented
  - Strong record-keeping and reporting skills
  - Organized
  - Self-motivated
  - Punctual
  - Accountable
  
- Preferred skills and attributes
  - Passion for helping environmental causes
  - Plant identification skills
  - Experience with fieldwork such as invasive species control and prescribed fire
  - Comfortable interacting with a variety of people from different backgrounds and age groups
  - Comfort working independently in rural and office environments
  - Experience with event planning and use of social media
  - Knowledge of Microsoft, Adobe, and G - Suite apps, including Google Calendars, Google Documents

# Trees Forever

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**Location:** Cedar Rapids and Des Moines

**Contact:** Leslie Berckes  
Director of Programs  
lberckes@treesforever.org, 515-681-2295

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[Trees Forever](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2020

## Mission Statement

To plant and care for trees and the environment by empowering people, building community, and promoting stewardship.

## Community Needs:

Trees Forever works statewide to plant and care for trees and involve people in that work. Trees Forever works with towns of all sizes and rural landowners. The GIA members serve different capacities for the organization including:

- One member will work with small towns to encourage them to plant seedlings and to plant more native plants in general.
- In Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, our two largest urban communities, the GIA member will work with the local city government, volunteers, and more to plant more trees. This includes helping manage Trees Forever's Growing Futures program.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

In Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, the GIA member provides additional capacity for the Trees Forever Growing Futures teen employment and tree care program. This work involves helping the organization meet its tree planting targets each year and mentoring/guiding the teen employees and volunteers who help make the work happen. In most years, Trees Forever also looks for a GIA member to market and promote the work we do – with the member working closely with the marketing and development team on things such as the newsletter, website, fliers, webinars, and more. Finally, a GIA member would work with our Growing Futures team in Des Moines as well as helping us with work across the state to promote tree seedlings, community tree plantings, and more.

# Trees Forever



## Position Description:

**Positions 1 and 2:** Trees Forever Growing Futures Support

**Location:** One person in Des Moines, one person in Cedar Rapids

**Description:** Work alongside the Des Moines or Cedar Rapids Program Coordinator to support Trees Forever's Growing Futures program – a teen employment and tree care program – and other area tree-related work. The AmeriCorps member will work collaboratively to train and employ teens and young adults, manage TreeKeeper and other volunteers to plant and care for trees, and provide education on the benefit of trees to the local community. Growing Futures offers teens an opportunity to gain job skills and enhance the urban forest. The program provides hands-on assistance with tree care, tree planting, and outreach programs. Growing Futures programming includes career exploration and long-term employment skills training as well as outdoor education.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Teen Employee Support
  - Develop yearly program delivery timeline with key dates to achieve program goals.
  - Participate in spring, summer, and fall teen recruitment, interviews, and hiring days.
  - Coordinate and establish youth professional development activities.
- Volunteer support
  - Assist in the coordination of volunteers, community groups, and city staff.
  - Provide local volunteer coordination, development, and recognition including the TreeKeepers volunteer engagement program.
- Tree Planting and Tree Care work
  - Organize and coordinate tree planting and care work events.
  - Provide care and maintenance of tree planting projects.
  - Recommend and/or review site designs and plans.
  - Assist with woodland management workdays.
  - Plan efficient and effective program delivery models (i.e. efficient routes for planting and watering trees, analysis of tree data and areas to target tree planting and care, etc.).
  - Help think through the prioritization of neighborhoods for tree planting efforts using existing data.
- Other Tasks
  - Complete reporting requirements including monthly and annual program summaries. Report weekly on work schedule and accomplishments.
  - Seek out and participate in educational events to expand personal tree knowledge.
  - Work with existing partners and community organizations as well as seek new relationships that could lead to program improvements.
  - Assist with Trees Forever's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals. Reach out to partner groups to facilitate a broader coalition of people interested in the environment and tree work.
  - Participate in Trees Forever activities as prioritized and directed.

## The ideal candidate will possess the following skills:

- Friendliness, ability to function as part of a team.
- Technological skills including Microsoft Office Suite with GIS proficiency helpful.
- Strong communication and organizational skills. Proficiency in writing general correspondence and other documents required as part of duties listed above.
- Interpersonal skills necessary to build effective relationships with staff members, partners, and volunteers.
- Proven passion for service, the environment, sustainability and youth and volunteer empowerment.
- Ability to lift up to 40 lbs.
- Able to drive a 15-passenger van and/or pickup truck with trailer attached
- Have a current driver's license.

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# Trees Forever

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## **Position Description:**

**Position 3:** Marketing and Communications Support

**Location:** Cedar Rapids

**Description:** Work alongside Trees Forever's Marketing and Communication Manager to promote, highlight, and market events, programming, and the Trees Forever brand.

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Assist with and lead social media content development, posting, and various social media campaigns.
- With the Marketing and Communication Manager, create and publish a monthly e-newsletter. Write blog posts or work with Trees Forever staff and area partners to create blog post content.
- Provide assistance to Trees Forever staff during field days.
- Coordinate and assist with event planning for Trees Forever's signature events – Our Woodland Legacy, Annual Celebration, Legacy Reception – as well as smaller events held throughout the year.
- Create several "signature" Trees Forever PowerPoint presentations that can be used to tell the Trees Forever story and promote the use of trees and native plants.
- As needed, help create fliers, press releases, and other promotional materials.
- Participate in Trees Forever activities as prioritized and directed

## **The ideal candidate will possess the following skills:**

- Friendliness, ability to function as part of a team.
- Technological skills including Microsoft Office Suite. Design experience with the Adobe creative suite is a plus.
- Strong communication and organizational skills. Proficiency in writing general correspondence and other documents required as part of duties listed above.
- Interpersonal skills necessary to build effective relationships with staff members, partners, and volunteers.
- Proven passion for service, the environment, sustainability and youth and volunteer empowerment.
- Able to drive/have a current driver's license

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# Trees Forever

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## Position Description:

**Position 4:** Trees Forever Des Moines and Iowa Tree Planting, Volunteer, and Woodland Support

**Location:** Des Moines

**Description:** Working with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps team, Trees Forever staff, and Des Moines city staff to support the planting of more trees, provide education about the benefit of trees, and support community volunteers.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Support Trees Forever's and the City of Des Moines' seedling giveaway programs. Help promote the opportunity, help manage logistics of giveaway program, attend planting events, etc.
- Organize and lead invasive species removal events with partners in Des Moines and around the state. Could include some time on private lands helping landowners assess their needs for invasive species removal.
- Work with small towns to promote the benefits of native roadside plantings and encourage communities to implement roadside management plans.
- Present to volunteer and community groups on the benefits of trees and native plants.
- Assist with Trees Forever's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals. Reach out to partner groups to facilitate a broader coalition of people interested in the environment and tree work.
- Participate in Trees Forever activities as prioritized and directed.

## The ideal candidate will possess the following skills:

- Friendliness, ability to function as part of a team.
- Technological skills including Microsoft Office Suite.
- Strong communication and organizational skills. Proficiency in writing general correspondence and other documents required as part of duties listed above.
- Interpersonal skills necessary to build effective relationships with staff members, partners, and volunteers.
- Proven passion for service, the environment, sustainability and youth and volunteer empowerment.
- Ability to lift up to 40 lbs.
- Able to drive a 15-passenger van and/or pickup truck with trailer attached
- Have a current driver's license. Reliable transportation and willingness to drive to communities across Iowa.

# Whiterock Conservancy



**Location:** Coon Rapids, IA

**Contact:** Barbra Jotzke-Torrier  
Communication/Development Director  
barbra@whiterockconservancy.org, 712-790-8221 x3

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Whiterock Conservancy](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2021

## **Mission Statement**

Whiterock Conservancy, a 5,500 acre private land trust in the Middle Raccoon River Valley, works to achieve a sustainable, resilient rural landscape, and transforms people's connection with agriculture and nature.

## **Community Needs:**

Whiterock Conservancy has the potential to reach more people with increased environmental education. Over the last five years, the number of visitors to Whiterock Conservancy has more than doubled, and more visitors are coming multiple times each year. Whiterock has improved educational interpretive signage on the property and continues to provide opportunities for individuals to explore the land. However, additional strategic staff is needed in order to expand the self-guided and group learning opportunities Whiterock is able to offer.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

The GIA team would help fill two critical roles which have been identified by Whiterock's board, staff and guests. Those roles fall broadly into volunteer coordinator and experiential learning communication coordinator. The volunteer coordinator fulfills two important needs—accomplishing more work on the property with the assistance of volunteers and providing those volunteers with more education and training opportunities during their volunteer hours. The experiential learning communication coordinator will develop opportunities for self-guided and group experiential learning on the property, promote those opportunities and engage with visitors.

# Whiterock Conservancy

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## Position Description:

**Position:** Full Time Experiential Learning and Communications Coordinator

**Description:** Expand Whiterock Conservancy's ability to provide and promote experiential learning while visiting in person and virtually. Work alongside Marketing and Communication staff to promote, highlight, and market events, programming, and the Whiterock Conservancy brand.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Plan with staff assistance and manage experiential learning opportunities at Whiterock – both visitor self-directed options and group events (if practical)
- Assist with and lead social media content development, posting, and various social media campaigns.
- Assist with and lead development of virtual learning digital video library
- Write blog posts and work with staff and area partners to create blog post content.
- Provide assistance to staff during event days.
- Coordinate and assist with event planning for events held throughout the year.
- Create several "signature" PowerPoint presentations that can be used to tell the Whiterock Conservancy story.
- As needed, help create fliers, press releases, and other promotional materials.
- Participate in Whiterock Conservancy activities as prioritized and directed

## The ideal candidate will possess the following skills:

- Friendliness, ability to function as part of a team.
- Technological skills including Microsoft Office Suite. Design experience with the Adobe creative suite is a plus.
- Strong communication and organizational skills. Proficiency in writing general correspondence and other documents required as part of duties listed above.
- Interpersonal skills necessary to build effective relationships with staff members, partners, and volunteers.
- Proven passion for service, the environment, sustainability and youth and volunteer empowerment.
- Able to drive/have a current driver's license.

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# Whiterock Conservancy

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## Position Description:

**Position:** Full Time Volunteer Coordinator

**Description:** Engage individual and group volunteers to assist in conservation, trail maintenance and other organizational needs. Support volunteers in making significant contributions while having a meaningful learning experience.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Recruit groups and individuals to volunteer for one time volunteer events, special projects and regular, ongoing support.
- Learn conservation, recreation and experiential learning projects at Whiterock. Lead groups to accomplish needed work on these priorities.
- Organize and lead invasive species removal events, trail work days, river clean up events, and other project based gatherings.
- Create volunteer recognition opportunities. Write social media, blog and newsletter articles to highlight the importance of volunteers at Whiterock.
- Work with scout troops who wish to volunteer.
- Present to volunteer and community groups on the benefits of conservation and opportunities at Whiterock Conservancy.
- Participate in Whiterock Conservancy activities as prioritized and directed.
- Work in concert with Experiential Learning/Events Coordinator role to manage volunteers for outside events.

## The ideal candidate will possess the following skills:

- Friendliness, ability to function as part of a team.
- Technological skills including Microsoft Office Suite.
- Strong communication and organizational skills. Proficiency in writing general correspondence and other documents required as part of duties listed above.
- Interpersonal skills necessary to build effective relationships with staff members, partners, and volunteers.
- Proven passion for service, the environment, sustainability and youth and volunteer empowerment.
- Knowledge of Midwest flora or willingness to learn, specifically invasive species identification.
- Ability to lift up to 40 lbs. Experience or willingness to learn operating hand tools, equipment, and machines; walk steep hills and several miles in a day; and work in adverse weather conditions. Chainsaw training a plus.
- Able to drive a 15-passenger van and/or pickup truck with trailer attached
- Have a current driver's license.

# William Penn University & Mahaska Partnership



**Location:** Oskaloosa, IA

**Contact:** Debbie E. Stevens  
Coordinator of Career Services  
stevensde@wmpenn.edu, 641-673-2173

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[William Penn University](http://www.wmpenn.edu)

**Established with GIA:** 2019

## Mission Statement

William Penn University provides the opportunity for an educational experience with a focus on leadership, technology, and the Quaker principles of simplicity, peace-making, integrity, community, and equality.

## Community Needs:

Our GIA teams have been valuable in data collection, educational resource development (handouts, videos, activities for youth, workshops for adults – Rain Barrels), developing plans for, and doing the labor for new conservation features like Pollinator Gardens, Rain Gardens, invasive species management, improving area around a pond, natural prairie management, agricultural inventories, assisting Field Day and other event staff, and more.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

Providing education pathways to students interested in conservation and Land & Water Stewardship; developing educational activities and handouts for children, youth and adult populations related to land stewardship and water quality initiatives taking place in our County, City, and University; assisting each other in these educational offerings with resources, facilities, and staff. Members will be connected to direct service and volunteer opportunities with partners, conservation and environmental agencies, non-profit organizations such as United Way, community events, and our area school districts. Members will be included in appropriate professional development training (such as water quality testing, collecting GPS data, mapping), leadership meetings such as County Conservation Commissioners' meetings, Conservation Board connections, relevant grant development discussions; introductions to conservation experts such as Urban Conservationists, Pollinator Experts, Agriculture partners, University Professors and Leadership, etc. Members will work to continue water quality measures and expanding watershed testing through grant opportunities. They will create educational workshops and demonstrations about conservation such as rain barrels, bio-swales, rain gardens, etc. Members will develop a 'liaison' relationship with our WPU Ecology Club, Mahaska County Master Gardeners, area organizations, school districts, and environmental educators to provide more access to learning opportunities and build a base of volunteers.

# William Penn University & Mahaska Partnership

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## Position Description:

### Duties and Responsibilities:

- Water quality monitoring extended downriver of the Mahaska County Soil and Water Conservation District in collaboration with conservation and watershed coordinators in the Ottumwa and Mt. Pleasant area (South Skunk River and Cedar Creek).
- Work as part of Partnership Coordinator Team to:
  - Develop informational/educational handouts, videos, newsletters, programming
  - Provide educational outreach to ag producers, and urban and county residents of all ages
  - Update Mahaska Partnership Social Media and Website
  - Organize and help host Field Days and other events (face-to-face and virtual) to share best agricultural practices
- Assist with activities and duties related to the Partnership's Land & Water Stewardship workplan
- Attend monthly Commissioner and other relevant meetings
- Create maps for producers using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF), identify gaps in the data to extend the modeling (knowledge of GIS helpful but not required)
- Driving required

### Helpful Skills:

- Organized | Detail-oriented | Strong verbal & written communication | Self-directed | Accountable
- Knowledge of or willing to learn about water quality/storm water issues, native prairie, resource management, and land stewardship activities
  - Strong event/project-based planning skills and networking skills
  - Experienced with Microsoft Excel, Word
  - Knowledge about GIS, Google applications including Google Calendars, Google Documents, and Social Media and website maintenance
  - Comfortable managing volunteers and working with diverse audiences

# Sustainable Schools

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The Sustainable Schools branch of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps program serves as a resource and catalyst for Iowa school districts to build a more energized and sustainable future. Sustainable Schools members serve as Sustainability Coordinators to different school districts throughout Iowa. The AmeriCorps members work to reduce district-wide energy costs and assist teachers and staff in implementing environmental project-based learning initiatives. School districts will be able to leverage these AmeriCorps members to save energy costs, as well as engage their students in more outdoor learning opportunities and lessons surrounding environmental sustainability.

## Host Sites:

- Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission
  - Location: Waterloo
- Cedar Falls CSD
  - Location: Cedar Falls
- Clear Creek Amana CSD
  - Location: Tiffin
- Dubuque Solid Waste Agency
  - Location: Dubuque
- Metro Waste Authority
  - Location: Des Moines
- Northeast Iowa Community College
  - Location: Calmar
- Renewable Energy & Conservation Committee
  - Location: Burlington



# Black Hawk County Solid Waste Agency



**Location:** Waterloo, IA

**Contact:** John Foster  
Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Administrator  
jfooster@wastetrac.org, 319-234-8115

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Black Hawk County Solid Waste Agency](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2020

## **Mission Statement**

Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission is dedicated to providing safe and effective methods in the management of solid waste in Black Hawk County, Iowa while protecting our natural resources.

## **Community Needs:**

Time is the largest need when we are considering the Commission's school outreach programs. Many teachers may be interested in teaching sustainable curriculum or encourage projects at their schools, yet making the time to do such or making the connects for these items are pushed to the back as daily tasks take precedence.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

AmeriCorps members will help create classroom environmental and sustainability programs and projects such as vermiculture programs, pollinator projects, assess schools, and assist in school garden initiatives. Members will assist the Commission in solid waste education to students for them to gain an understanding of their solid waste decisions on the ecosystem, not just from a financial/convenience perspective. They will work with school buildings to foster and support champions in those schools for environmental improvements identified from a need's assessment. They will assist schools in developing sustainability plans addressing solid waste and other forms of waste to reduce their overall environmental footprint. Members will support community members through education and communication of sustainability plans that address environmental issues within the community, including litter and illegal dumping.

# Black Hawk County Solid Waste Agency

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## **Position Description:**

**Position:** Green Iowa AmeriCorps Sustainable Schools Member

**Description:** This individual will be expected to work directly with public and private schools located within Black Hawk county in support of environmental education curriculum, assisting with incorporating sustainable practices and behaviors, assisting with reduction of waste generation and green house gas emissions through facility management, participate in outreach events focused on solid waste reduction activities and education, and other duties as needed under the supervision of the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Administrator.

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Collaborate with school, community and business leaders with related projects - Work to make the individual school buildings more energy-efficient through maintenance upgrades and/or behavioral tactics.
- Collaborate with school's Maintenance and Operations staff to implement energy-efficient strategies and determine funding opportunities and present return on investment and environmental impacts.
- Develop district-wide "Green Teams" that will engage in energy-efficient and solid waste reduction practices.
- Collaborate with team member to develop long-term district-wide sustainability goals.

## **Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:**

- Ability to collaborate with faculty, staff, students, colleagues and general public - Ability to engage in hands-on leadership opportunities
- Ability to network within communities
- Excellent problem-solving abilities
- Safety-minded
- Reliable and punctual
- Effective communicator
- Self-directed and proactive
- Knowledge of basic solid waste management and sustainability practices
- Ability to pass a background check for contact with minors

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# Black Hawk County Solid Waste Agency

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## **Position Description:**

**Position:** Green Iowa AmeriCorps Sustainable Schools Education and Outreach Coordinator

**Description:** This individual will be expected to work directly with public and private schools located within Black Hawk county in support of environmental education curriculum, assisting with incorporating sustainable practices and behaviors, assisting with reduction of waste generation and green house gas emissions through facility management, participate in outreach events focused on solid waste reduction activities and education, and other duties as needed under the supervision of the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Administrator.

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Collaborate with faculty and staff to implement energy and environmental education lessons for students before, during, and after school
- Work with Instructional Coaches to develop lessons meeting the curriculum goals of the Next Generation Science Standards
- Engage community members to assist with student-led project-based learning initiatives (i.e. installing rain barrels, school gardens, etc.)
- Assist with professional development opportunities for faculty and staff regarding energy efficiency, waste management, and environmental education
- Collaborate with team member to develop long-term district-wide sustainability goals

## **Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:**

- Self-directed & proactive
- Experienced with Microsoft Excel, Word and Google applications including Google Calendars, Google Documents
- Excellent verbal and communication skills
- Strong interest in building personal and public knowledge in environmental and energy related topics
- Public speaking skills and confidence
- Experience working with both children and adults
- Strong planning, organizational, and creativity skills
- Ability to network within communities
- Interest in energy and environmental issues

# Cedar Falls City School District



**Location:** Cedar Falls, IA

**Contact:** Eric Rosburg  
Associate Principal  
eric.rosburg@cfschools.org, 319-553-2699

**Additional Host Site Information:**

[Cedar Falls School District](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2018

## Mission Statement

Increase awareness in the Cedar Falls School District related to sustainability and model behavior consistent with best practice.

## Community Needs:

Education of students, creating composting projects, assistance in building the new high school building, sustainability efforts within the school district, and green cleaning.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

AmeriCorps members will be models for responsible sustainability efforts, and teach students practical ways that they can take action in and around the community through composting, recycling, gardening, etc. They will help engage students in learning about responsible environmental practices and get them talking about these practices and environmental issues that they learn at school with their families and in school with organizations and clubs. They will develop district policies that are responsible towards the environment and create action plans for each school that are consistent with our district's overarching sustainability goals. They will run energy and efficiency audits along with assisting in the development of the new high school.

# Clear Creek Amana School District

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**Location:** Tiffin, IA

**Contact:**

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Clear Creek Amana School District](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2018

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Clear Creek Amana Community School District is to prepare students to be productive, responsible, community members by providing an environment that inspires quality life-long learning.

## **Community Needs:**

Green Iowa AmeriCorps members will help us to continue to improve on sustainability as a district. They also bring educational opportunities to our students that they would not otherwise benefit from.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Green Iowa AmeriCorps members will help the district pursue projects such as, the outdoor learning area. They will develop educational plans and programs utilizing the outdoor classroom. They will also continue to expand on the district wide composting and recycling program. Members will work to implement a sustainability plan, develop more school gardens across the district and work to establish environmental literacy within the CCA curriculum.

# Dubuque Metro Area Solid Waste Agency & Holy Family Catholic Schools



**Location:** Dubuque, IA

**Contact:** Bev Wagner  
DMASWA Education & Communication Coordinator  
beverly.wagner@loras.edu, 563-588-7933

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[DMASWA](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2017

## **Mission Statement**

DMASWA: In order to control current and future economic and environmental liability, the mission of the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency is to provide environmentally sound, financially stable, fiscally responsible, community recognized, solid waste management services that include appropriate waste reduction, resource conservation, education, customer service, and disposal activities. Holy Family Catholic Schools: Forming disciples of Jesus Christ through Catholic Educational Excellence.

## **Community Needs:**

Both DMASWA and Holy Family Catholic Schools work to empower the youth that we serve by developing educational programs that promote resource conservation and appreciation for the interconnectedness of all living beings. Educators have limited time to prepare and deliver additional information to their students beyond the mandatory subjects. GIA Sustainable School members could assist the DMASWA Educator to do this for all schools in Dubuque County—both public and private.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

AmeriCorps members will assist in building relationships with community partners to identify needs in the community and serve as leaders in summer programming. Members will provide education programs to various schools and community partners and work to include programming in rural and underserved communities. These programs will focus on resource conservation and climate action. They will help The City of Dubuque with its effort to engage community partners in sustainability efforts and creating their own climate action plans.

# Metro Waste Authority



**Location:** Des Moines, IA

**Contact:** Sarah Borzo  
Education & Outreach Coordinator  
sbo@mwatoday.com, 515-323-6507

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Metro Waste Authority](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2021

## **Mission Statement**

To provide education and options for safe, responsible waste management.

## **Community Needs:**

As our agency grows and our reach expands, it would be extremely beneficial to have more people engaged in the work of planning and delivering engaging, impactful education and outreach. Members would assist in on-site opportunities at different locations, as well as contribute valuable insights, strategies, and knowledge in designing the curriculum to be delivered. Hosting a GIA team would enable us to reach more people in a shorter time.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Members will engage in environmental education and outreach in Polk County school districts. Members will work to develop and deliver impactful education about waste diversion through developing related curriculum at the new material recovery facility learning center. They will create, maintain and effectively utilize a new education space that provides an immersive and impactful learning environment for all ages. They will also work with teachers to provide professional development opportunities that empower them to be effective environmental educators using outdoor learning.

# Metro Waste Authority



## Position Description:

**Position:** Operations Coordinator

**Description:** The Operations Coordinator will foster and support sustainability efforts at the various sites owned and operated by Metro Waste Authority by working with staff on efforts related to environmental sustainability. The Operations Coordinator is uniquely positioned to be boots-on-the-ground at various sites to focus on opportunities for improving sustainable practices and policies. With 8 unique sites and many exciting environmental initiatives, Metro Waste Authority can collaborate with AmeriCorps members to create an experience that allows for growth, learning, experience, and leadership around areas of interest and passion. The Operations Coordinator will work closely with the Education/Outreach Coordinator to promote and enact goals identified by Metro Waste Authority. A cell phone stipend and clothing allowance will be included.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

Take an active role in site operations at various sites, including:

- Material Recovery Facility
  - Monitor and make suggestions about stormwater runoff and drainage mitigation.
- Environmental Learning Center
  - Monitor grounds and make suggestions for and assist with environmental interventions like controlled burns.
  - Make suggestions for improvements to main building and other buildings on the grounds.
- Metro Park East Landfill
  - Study erosion patterns and assist in developing erosion mitigation strategies.
  - Assist with water quality testing and data analysis.
  - Monitor gas wells and analyze data.
  - Work with landfill personnel and engineers to plan for and prepare a new landfill cell for operation.
  - Work with the demanufacturing team to improve the appliance demanufacturing process.

## Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:

- Inclination for innovative problem solving
- Strong interest in environmental education and sustainability
- Basic knowledge of current environmental issues
- Strong collaboration skills
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational and critical thinking skills
- Willingness to spend large amounts of time outdoors

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# Metro Waste Authority

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## Position Description:

**Position:** Education/Outreach Coordinator

**Description:** The Education/Outreach Coordinator will work with the Metro Waste Authority team to educate and inform the community about safe, responsible, sustainable waste practices and environmental stewardship in a fun and engaging way. The Education/Outreach Coordinator will provide education and outreach to the community through presentations, tours, virtual content, classroom visits, and interactive lesson delivery. The person in this role is uniquely positioned to help bridge the gap between agency and industry experts and the community we serve. They will work closely with the Operations Coordinator to promote and enact goals identified by Metro Waste Authority. A cell phone stipend and clothing allowance will be included.

## Duties and Responsibilities:

- Education and Outreach
  - Assist instructors who are focused on environmental education in class projects and/or lessons.
  - Collaborate with staff and k-12 teachers to implement outdoor environmental education programs.
  - Prepare and deliver interactive presentations for k-12 students, community members, and staff about environmental stewardship and safe, responsible, and sustainable waste management.
  - Lead tours of Metro Park East, the largest landfill in Iowa.
  - Help to increase community commitments to sustainability efforts.
  - Provide resources for students and staff who have questions about environmental topics or questions.
  - Collaborate with a team to create and deliver curriculum pertaining to recycling / diversion at a brand new, state-of-the-art material recovery facility.
  - Collaborate with a team to adapt and improve educational offerings around environmental stewardship at Metro Waste Authority's Environmental Learning Center, optimizing the educational value of lab equipment and 500 acres of prairie, oak savanna, creek, and wetlands.
  - Collaborate with a team to improve landfill tour protocols.
  - Collaborate with a team to design messaging about safe, responsible, and sustainable waste management and environmental stewardship.
- Partnerships
  - Build relationships with k-12 school districts and member communities

## Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:

- Inclination for innovative problem solving
- Enthusiasm for working with groups of people
- Ability to speak publicly to large groups of children and adults
- Strong interest in environmental education and sustainability
- Basic knowledge of current environmental issues
- Strong collaboration skills
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational and critical thinking skills
- Willingness to spend large amounts of time outdoors

# Northeast Iowa Community College

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**Location:** Calmar, IA

**Contact:** Flannery Cerbin-Bohach  
Wellness & Life Stage Program Manager  
cerbin-bohach@nicc.edu, 1-844-642-2338 x1208

**Additional Host Site Information:**  
[Northeast Iowa Community College](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2020

## Mission Statement

“Northeast Iowa Community College provides in-demand education and training focused on improving lives, driving business success and advancing community vitality.”

## Community Needs:

Northeast Iowa Community College has a core value of “using resources in a responsible, impactful, and sustainable manner.” Hosting members will help us gain momentum and strengthen our commitment to sustainability efforts! Green Iowa AmeriCorps members will bring a passion for sustainability, environmental education, and service to Northeast Iowa Community College. Green Iowa AmeriCorps members will be a living example of what a “career” in sustainability looks like for students (and staff!) who might not realize there’s a new wave of green jobs.

A critical need in our community is the need for more environmental education, outreach and role modeling of sustainable living. Members will immediately fill that gap and help promote sustainability, as well as being role models. They will help promote conservation-minded decisions and sustainability practices, such as recycling, composting and energy conservation, at NICC and with our K-12 partners. Their educational outreach will help inspire and encourage staff and students to adopt environmentally conscious behaviors at home.

## Member Roles & Responsibilities:

Members will work to continue building their relationship with the campus community, promote more environmental education and institutionalize sustainability projects into our existing K-12 outreach. They will work alongside the site supervisor to make connections and brainstorm ways to advance the sustainability goals at the College and K-12 school districts. Members will revise and update the College’s Sustainability Plan and implement various recycling, composting and sustainability programs.

# Northeast Iowa Community College



**NORTHEAST IOWA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **Position Description:**

**Position:** Sustainability Operations Coordinator

### **Description:**

The Sustainability Operations Coordinator will foster and support sustainability efforts at Northeast Iowa Community College, by working with students, faculty, and staff on efforts related to recycling, waste reduction, food procurement, the built environment, and energy usage. The Sustainability Operations Coordinator is uniquely positioned to be boots-on-the-ground bridging the gap between campus Operations and a culture that supports sustainable practices and policies.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Campus Operations
  - Coordinate with Sustainability Education Coordinator to promote and enact the goals for sustainability as identified by the College
- Recycling
  - Communicate and promote best practices for recycling.
  - Research and promote the purchase of reusable and/or sustainable practices and products.
  - Conduct audits to determine best practices for recycling and waste bin placement.
  - Explore feasibility of implementing a compost program for biodegradable waste.
- Print Management
  - Assist in the development of print management plan for staff and students
  - Help create printing practices that discourage unnecessary printing.
- Food Procurement
  - Explore flexibility in budget and contracts to source more fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Cleaning Supplies
  - Identify current practices and opportunities to improve green cleaning supplies and materials when feasible.
  - Explore more green practices for ice removal and turf maintenance.
- Renewable Energy
  - Explore grant and partnership opportunities that promote renewable energy.
- Fleet Vehicles & Transportation
  - Create a system for easy campus carpool options.
- Natural Spaces
  - Explore capacity for more natural landscaping on Calmar campus near the Wilder Building and triangle spaces near light posts.
  - Explore the feasibility of green park spaces near the Dairy Center.
- Water & Erosion Control
  - Research ways of reducing the impact of water runoff from the Calmar IT building.
- Seek/Build relationships with k-12 school districts for future partnerships.
- Advance the project goals related to IEDA Climate Action Planning.

### **Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:**

- Strong interest in environment education and sustainability
- Basic knowledge of current environmental issues
- Ability to collaborate with faculty, staff and students
- Excellent verbal and communication skills
- Experience with Google applications and Microsoft Word
- Strong organizational and critical thinking skills
- Experience working with diverse populations

Continues...

# Northeast Iowa Community College



**NORTHEAST IOWA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## **Position Description:**

**Position:** Sustainability Education Coordinator

### **Description:**

The Sustainability Education Coordinator will foster and support sustainability efforts at Northeast Iowa Community College, by working with students, faculty, and staff on efforts related to recycling, waste reduction, food procurement, the built environment, and energy usage. The Sustainability Education Coordinator will provide education and outreach to the campus community through presentations and marketing to increase faculty, staff and student commitments to sustainability efforts. The Sustainability Education Coordinator is uniquely positioned to be boots-on-the-ground bridging the gap between campus Operations and a culture that supports sustainable practices and policies.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Coordinate with Sustainability Operations Coordinator at Northeast Iowa Community College to promote and enact the goals for sustainability as identified by the college.
- Education & Outreach
  - Assist instructors who are focused on environmental education in class projects and/or lessons.
  - Collaborate with faculty and staff to implement outdoor environmental education programs.
  - Prepare and make interactive presentations for students, faculty and staff about sustainability efforts.
  - Help to increase faculty, staff and student commitments to sustainability efforts.
  - Provide resources for current students and staff who have questions about environmental topics or questions.
- Marketing
  - Be a spokesperson for the environmental and economical benefits of recycling, composting, waste reduction, and energy conservation.
  - Coordinate with staff to develop unified campus materials that promote recycling and waste reduction practices (e.g. signs for recycling bins, reminders to turn off light switches, and reminders to use reusable dishware)
  - Develop creative projects to promote and highlight sustainability efforts (e.g. all college green award, campus challenges)
- Partnerships
  - Seek/build relationships with k-12 school districts for future partnerships
  - Identify potential funding sources and financial incentives for implementing projects & report to the Sustainability Committee.

### **Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:**

- Strong interest in environment education and sustainability
- Basic knowledge of current environmental issues
- Ability to collaborate with faculty, staff and students
- Experience with Google applications and Microsoft Word
- Excellent verbal and communication skills
- Self-directed and proactive
- Strong public speaking skills and confidence speaking in front of large groups
- Strong organizational and critical thinking skills
- Experience working with diverse populations
- Be a positive spokesperson for AmeriCorps, Northeast Iowa Community College

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# Northeast Iowa Community College

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## **Position Description:**

**Position:** Environmental Steward

## **Description:**

The Environmental Steward will collaborate with staff, students, the Green Iowa AmeriCorps Sustainability Education Coordinator, and the Green Iowa AmeriCorps Sustainability Outreach Coordinator to foster sustainability efforts at Northeast Iowa Community College and the surrounding communities.

## **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Education & Outreach
  - Help to develop and teach hands on environmental education for summer programming (e.g. Kids on Campus, Summer IVRS Camp)
  - Help to develop environmental focused lessons for summer campus at NICC Centers (e.g. Waukon, Oelwein, and Manchester)
  - Be a spokesperson for environmental education and sustainability efforts at campus events (e.g. Breakfast on the Farm)
  - Help to deepen partnerships with South Winneshiek Park and Recreation and Winneshiek County Conservation on themes of outdoor environmental education.

## **Essential Skills/Knowledge/Abilities:**

- Strong interest in environment education and sustainability
- Basic knowledge of current environmental issues
- Ability to work alongside the Sustainability Outreach Coordinator and Sustainability Education Coordinator
- Self-directed and proactive
- Strong public speaking skills and confidence speaking in front of large groups
- Strong organizational and critical thinking skills
- Experience working with diverse populations

# Renewable Energy & Conservation Committee

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**Location:** Burlington, IA

**Contact:** Justin Noronha  
Renewable Energy Committee Chair  
justin.noronha@us.abb.com, 847-409-1298

## **Additional Host Site Information:**

[Burlington Renewable Energy](#)  
[Burlington Boards, Commissions & Committees](#)  
[Renewable Energy Committee Facebook Page](#)

**Established with GIA:** 2021

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Burlington Renewable Energy and Conservation Advisory Committee is to promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources throughout the greater Burlington area.

## **Community Needs:**

RenEnConse Committee are volunteers and, while the list of projects completed and included herein is impressive, the Committee understands that in order to reach the next level of engagement and activity will require more hours than the volunteers have available.

## **Member Roles & Responsibilities:**

Green Iowa AmeriCorps members will help establish a community wide energy baseline consumption, collect measurable data that can be compared and contrasted to help create a community-wide sustainability plan. They will help develop and coordinate an outreach program for residential energy conservation through informational resources, energy audits and home improvements to reduce energy consumption. They will also create and coordinate a school education and outreach program, working with teachers to create curriculum and activities for schools. Members will also assist the Committee on various sustainable and energy conserving projects to implement into the community.

# Host Site Location Information

- Ames
- Burlington
- Calmar
- Cedar Falls
- Cedar Rapids
- Coon Rapids
- Decorah
- Des Moines
- Dubuque
- Iowa City
- Okoboji
- Oskaloosa
- Tiffin
- Waterloo

# Ames

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**City Description:** Ames is centrally located in the state and has over 65,000 residents including the students at Iowa State University. The city has two downtown areas, one near campus and another along historic Main Street. Amenities and public spaces are located across the city and are accessible by over 50 miles of bike trails and CyRide, a public transportation system run in partnership by the city, Iowa State University and ISU Student Government.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Being a college town, there are a range of housing options available to members relocating to Ames. Prospective members should explore the City of Ames' [Rent Smart Ames](#) website and [Rental Housing](#) links to get started. Rentals are also listed on Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace. PFI staff are happy to provide suggestions and insights as members seek out accommodations.

## **Things to do:**

There is plenty to do in and around Ames including visiting local restaurants, cafes or breweries; enjoying musical and theatrical performances; attending sporting events and playing in community leagues; as well as other outdoor recreation like hiking and biking. Find more on the Ames Visitors Bureau site, [here](#).

## **Additional Information:**

Ames is 30 miles north of Des Moines and located on or near major corridors like Highway 30, I-35 and I-80.

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

# Burlington

**City Description:** Burlington is a community of 25,663 citizens located on the Mississippi River in Southeast Iowa, and is a regional center for employment, shopping, education, healthcare and recreation. The community is beautifully situated on the bluffs of the river and has a rich heritage as a center of commerce and culture. Burlington was incorporated in 1836 and serves as the county seat of Des Moines County.

## Affordable Housing Options:

- Newbury Village Apartments (Burlington)
- Westland Manor Apartments (West Burlington)

## Things to do:

- Casino
- FunCity Arcade/GoKarts/Bowling/Waterpark
- Multiple Local Breweries (Bent River, Parkside)
- Axe Throwing/Shooting Range (Flint River Indoor Shooting, Big Hollow Outdoor Shooting)
- Movie Theaters (Westland 10 Theatre, Capitol Theater)
- Many Rivers/Lakes to Kayak or Fishing (Skunk River, Geode State Park, etc.)
- Multiple Large Parks for Walking, Frisbee Golf, etc. (Crapo Park, Dankwardt Park, Starr's Cave)
- Local Dining (The Som, Pookie's Thai Cuisine, The Buffalo, The Drake, Martinis)
- Historical 1900's Architecture (North Hill, Snake Alley)
- Minor League Baseball Stadium (Burlington Bees)
- Southeastern Astronomy Club and Witte Observatory

## Additional Information:

Small Town Feel, with big town features:

- No traffic
- Anywhere inside Burlington is no further than 10-minute drive (Walmart, Hyvee, Brewery, Parks, etc)

Big cities in every direction (weekend trips)

- St. Louis 3.5 hours drive South East (210 miles)
- Chicago is 4 hours drive North East (242 miles)
- Quad Cities (Davenport, Moline, etc) is 1.5 hours North (75 miles)
- Iowa City is 1.5 hours North West (80 miles)

## Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:

# Calmar

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**City Description:** Calmar has a population of about 1,000 and is the junction of the U.S. Route 52 and State highways 150 and 24. It's home to Northeast Iowa Community College and South Winneshiek High School.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

A local directory of housing is [here](#) and individuals often use the [classified ads on Decorah Now](#) to find affordable housing.

## **Things to do:**

Recreationists use the 20 mile paved bike trail north of town with stops in other small towns along the way. The landscape is dotted with rolling hills and farm fields. Lake Meyer is located 2.5 miles southwest of Calmar and a gem for hiking, fishing and kayaking. Just up the road, Decorah offers tubing and fishing on the Upper Iowa River, along with an expansive network of trails. Decorah is also home to world-renowned Seed Savers Exchange, Luther College, many restaurants and a bustling local foods scene.

## **Additional Information:**

Calmar is 15 minutes south of Decorah, IA, about 1 hour 15 minutes from Cedar Falls, IA and 1 ½ hours from Rochester, MN and La Crosse, WI.

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

# Cedar Falls

**City Description:** Cedar Falls is a college town of roughly 40,000 residents, although it rarely feels that way. It is a part of the Waterloo Metropolitan Area. Waterloo is located five miles to the east of Cedar Falls. Compared to Waterloo, Cedar Falls has a very low crime rate. We have observed that residents of Cedar Falls often leave the front doors of their homes unlocked at night and often leave their cars unlocked, even if they are parked in an alleyway.

## Affordable Housing Options:

Generally speaking, because Cedar Falls is a college town, the housing is more expensive when compared to cities of similar size but are not college towns. The housing stock is also generally older. Most college students live within a mile of where the campus is located. If you find a roommate or four, you can rent a home, instead of an apartment, and your monthly rent can be as low as \$350, which includes utilities. Most one-bedroom apartments go for between \$700 to \$850 per month, generally not including all utilities.

Speaking of utilities, Cedar Falls is one of the few cities in Iowa that has its own utility company: Cedar Falls Utilities (CFU). CFU provides internet, water, wastewater, natural gas, and electricity to all residents within city limits. This means you only get one bill for all of these services. Moreover, CFU has been recognized as having one of the best quality internet connections.

## Things to do:

In addition to the usual city parks, there are two main parks located in or near Cedar Falls: Hartman Nature Reserve and George Wyth State Park. There are miles of bike trails that connect Cedar Falls and Waterloo. Cedar Falls has its own water park, the Falls Aquatic Center. Waterloo has its Long Island Water Park, which is soon to have an amusement park built right next to it.

[https://cityofwaterlooiaowa.com/residents/discover\\_waterloo/attractions\\_and\\_events.php](https://cityofwaterlooiaowa.com/residents/discover_waterloo/attractions_and_events.php)

<https://www.cedarfallstourism.org/things-to-do/annual-events/>

## Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:

## Additional Information:

- Cedar Rapids is a one-hour drive to the south.
- Iowa City is an additional 30 minutes south of Cedar Rapids.
- Des Moines is a two-hour drive to the southwest.

**Groceries:** There is a Hy-Vee, which is the grocery store of Iowa. In addition to Hy-Vee, there are two Fareway Grocery stores, one located on the northwest side of the town and the other located southeast of UNI's campus. Walmart and Target are located more towards the south side of Cedar Falls. There are also smaller grocery stores, like Aldi's and Natural Grocers.

# Cedar Rapids

**City Description:** Cedar Rapids is a busy Midwestern city with a variety of outdoor events happening monthly. There are lively downtown shopping districts as well as conventional stores for everyday needs. Cedar Rapids truly embraces the 5th season and takes time to enjoy itself. Cedar Rapids is also home to many industries, working-class neighborhoods, and areas that can benefit greatly from work done by GIA members. This is an evolving city, small enough where one's impact can be felt and seen towards positive change and big enough to keep one busy and engaged.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Cedar Rapids is very affordable, especially if you have a roommate. Housing costs are comparable to many other mid-west states with 2-bedroom apartments ranging from \$600-\$900 a month. On an AmeriCorps stipend, living with a roommate will really help stretch your monthly stipend out. You can also inquire about low-income rental rates wherever you find to live. AmeriCorps members suggest living on the Northeast side, allowing you to be closer to restaurants and multiple grocery stores.

## **Things to do:**

Cedar Rapids has a vibrant outdoor culture, with trails, biking routes, Prairie woods, parks and riverfront. There are cool areas such as New Bohemian market and Czech Village where there is always something to do. There is live music, outdoor festivals and events, and a general friendly atmosphere to stroll around downtown and explore shops and restaurants.

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

Gina Errico: gina.errico73@gmail.com  
(LWS, Trees Forever)

Olivia Dove: odove43@gmail.com  
(LWS, Trees Forever)

Aster Young: asteryoung5@gmail.com  
(E/C Matthew 25)

## **Additional Information:**

- There are many affordable grocery stores and places to live on a modest income.
- Cedar Rapids a day's drive to larger cities (Chicago, Minneapolis/St.Paul, etc...) for weekend visits and explorations.

# Coon Rapids

**City Description:** City description: The Coon Rapids community of 1,270 people focuses on quality of life with an emphasis on natural resources and recreation. Safety, good schools and good neighbors make this a great place to live and raise a family. The community has four restaurants, a grocery store, hardware store, medical office, pharmacy and several boutique shopping options. With active community organizations and a school, there are many opportunities to get involved.

Learn more about the community at <https://www.coonrapidsiowa.com/>

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Whiterock is committed to working with members to find housing in the area. Whiterock has at least one house that will be available for lease at an affordable rate to member(s). If additional housing is required (members do not wish to share a house), Whiterock will review our housing supply to help identify a suitable solution.

## **Things to do:**

Whiterock Conservancy itself provides over 40 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding and paddling. In addition the property has 13 ponds to fish and 5,500 acres to explore. The Coon Rapids Community and Whiterock Conservancy hold arts, culture and recreational events throughout the year. The community has a golf course, swimming pool and park areas. Coon Rapids and Whiterock provide an amazing outdoor playground.

## **Additional Information:**

Within a 30 minute drive the communities of Carroll, Jefferson and Perry provide abundant options for shopping and eating. There is easy access to the major metro areas of Des Moines (1 hour), Council Bluffs/Omaha (1.5 hours) and Sioux City (2 hours).

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

# Decorah

**City Description:** Decorah, Iowa is a beautiful small town located along the Upper Iowa River in the Driftless area of Northeast Iowa. Our town has all the necessities and a number of luxuries! There is a wonderful library, food co-op, a local grocery store, HyVee, and Walmart along with hardware stores, two thrift stores, and most of the other types of shopping one could need. Decorah also boasts a good number of restaurants and bars. We're also incredibly proud of the amazing outdoor recreation opportunities in and around our town. We have a beautiful paved bike/walk trail, along with numerous hiking trails and mountain biking trails.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

For members looking for housing options, feel free to contact the Winneshiek Energy District host site! Members typically find rooms in 2+ bedroom apartments around \$400/month.

Feel free to also check out: [decorahnow.com](http://decorahnow.com) for housing listings.

## **Things to do:**

Biking, hiking, canoeing, skiing, and other outdoor activities. Norwegian heritage museum, community classes, restaurants, farmers market, town festivals,

## **Additional Information:**

Decorah is an hour from La Crosse, WI, 1.5 hours from Cedar Falls, IA and Rochester, MN.

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

Mara Mergens: [maramergens@gmail.com](mailto:maramergens@gmail.com)  
(E&C, Winneshiek Energy District)

# Des Moines

**City Description:** Des Moines is the capital city in Iowa and is part of a large and vibrant metropolitan area of approximately 700,000 people. With an extensive network of paved and soft bike paths, Des Moines is a favorite amongst cyclists. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy our many parks, and we are excitedly awaiting the May 2021 opening of the Lauridsen Skatepark along the Principal Riverwalk. The skatepark will be one of the largest open parks in the nation. Des Moines is also a food and culture destination with many wonderful restaurants, farmers markets, museums, and festivals to enjoy. The gold-domed Iowa State Capitol building is among the 19th- and early-20th-century landmarks of the East Village area. The Des Moines Art Center is noted for its contemporary collections and Pappajohn Sculpture Park.

## Affordable Housing Options:

There are many local rental properties as well as apartments in and around the Des Moines metro area. With several colleges and universities close by, affordable housing options are readily available.

Links to a few housing options:

<https://www.apartments.com/stockbridge-apartments-des-moines-ia/1b8k6q6/>

<https://www.apartments.com/park-west-apartments-west-des-moines-ia/b113d59/>

<https://www.apartments.com/national-biscuit-flats-des-moines-ia/v2hnlze/>

<http://www.conlinproperties.com/residential/section42/>

<https://www.anawimhousing.org/>

<https://www.pchtf.org/canibeyourneighbor/>

## Things to do:

- Visit the [Lauridsen Skatepark](#)
- Shopping / dining in [East Village](#)
- Shopping / dining in [Valley Junction](#)
- Visit our [75 parks](#)
- Bike our [trails](#)
- Catch a minor league baseball game at [Principal Park](#)
- Enjoy the [Downtown Farmer's Market](#)
- Visit the [Des Moines Art Center](#)
- <https://www.catchdesmoines.com/>

## Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:

Andrew Lazara: [andrew.lazara@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.lazara@gmail.com)  
(LWS, Trees Forever)

Olivia George: [orgeorge777@gmail.com](mailto:orgeorge777@gmail.com)  
(E&C, Habitat for Humanity)

## Additional Information:

•The Des Moines metropolitan area includes cities like West Des Moines, Ankeny, Clive, Indianola, Norwalk, Urbandale, Johnston, and Waukee, among many others. Des Moines is at the crossroads of Interstate 80 and 35. Chicago is about a 5 hour drive while other cities such as Kansas City and the Twin Cities are around a 3 hour drive. You can easily get to Omaha or Iowa City in an a 2 hour drive.

# Dubuque

**City Description:** Dubuque offers a big life in a small city! It is the county seat of Dubuque County, Iowa, located along the Mississippi River. In 2020, the population of Dubuque was 57,882. The city lies at the junction of Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, a region locally known as the Tri-State Area. It serves as the main commercial, industrial, educational, and cultural center for the area. Geographically, it is part of the Driftless Area, a portion of North America that escaped all three phases of the Wisconsin Glaciation. Dubuque is a tourist destination featuring the city's unique architecture and river location. It is home to five institutions of higher education, making it a center for culture and learning. Dubuque has long been a center of manufacturing, but the economy grew rapidly and diversified to other areas in the first years of the 21st century. By 2005, the city led the state and the Midwest in job growth, ranking as the 22nd-fastest growing economy in the US. Alongside industry, the city has large health care, education, tourism, publishing, and financial service sectors.

## Affordable Housing Options:

Feel free to reach out to host sites for additional housing resources and check out these links:

<https://www.telegraphherald.com/classifieds/housing/rent/>

<http://www.accessdubuque.com/>

<https://dubuque.craigslist.org/search/apa>

## Things to do:

- National River Museum and Aquarium
- Thousands of acres of acres of public lands
- Over 100 miles of hiking trails
- Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
- Crystal Lake Caves
- Grand Harbor Indoor Waterpark
- Sundown Mountain Ski resort
- Wineries & Breweries
- Ax Throwing
- Mystique Ice Center
- Check out [www.traveldubuque.org](http://www.traveldubuque.org) for all the options! Lots of outdoor hiking, biking, skiing/ snowshoe options: Swiss Valley Nature Center, Mines of Spain/ EB Lyon Nature Center, Heritage Trail, Proving Grounds and more.

## Additional Information:

- 90 miles from Madison Wisconsin
- 85 miles from Iowa City Iowa
- 76 miles from Davenport Iowa
- 72 miles from Cedar Rapids Iowa
- Newcomers to Dubuque can find lots of information here and even sign up for a tour!

**Groceries:** Hy-Vee, Aldi, Walmart, Natural Grocers and Eagle Country Market. There are a few smaller, specialty grocery stores as well.

## Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:

# Iowa City

**City Description:** Home to the University of Iowa, Iowa City is the fifth-largest city in the state. A vibrant community with a thriving pedestrian area downtown, Iowa City has been recognized as the “greatest little city of for the arts” and designated a UNESCO city of literature. Local highlights include numerous cultural events throughout the year, the Old Capitol Building (now a museum), Rusty the Giant Sloth, Kinnick Stadium, extensive bike paths and diverse natural areas. Nearly 100% of Iowa City residents live within easy walking distance (a half mile or less) of a city park or other public greenspace.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Feel free to reach out to local host sites for resources and check out these links:

[River City Housing Collective](#)

[The Housing Fellowship](#)

[The Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition](#)

(see “Where can I find an affordable place to rent?” on the resources page)

[University of Iowa Housing, Sublets, and Roommates](#)

## **Things to do:**

Many great activities – including places to eat, catch a movie, see live music, watch a sporting event, take a hike, or meet up with friends – can be found on [ThinkIowaCity](#).

## **Additional Information:**

- Travelling within Iowa, Iowa City is 30 miles from Cedar Rapids, 50 miles from the Quad Cities/Mississippi River, 115 miles from Des Moines
- Travelling out of state, Iowa City is 150 miles to Madison, WI, 200 miles to Chicago, IL, 225 miles to St. Louis, MO, and 250 miles to Minneapolis

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

Diane Platte: [dplatte@gmail.com](mailto:dplatte@gmail.com)  
(E/C, Iowa City Climate Action and Outreach)

# Okoboji

**City Description:** Okoboji is nestled in the heart of the Iowa Great Lakes region.

A thriving tourist destination, the area is home to more than a dozen natural lakes, hundreds of wetlands, native and restored prairie and miles of shoreline. The towns of Arnolds Park, West Okoboji, Milford, Spirit Lake and Wahpeton have a small-town feel, while providing amenities typical of larger cities with an active arts community, summer concerts, biking trails and night-life options.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Housing is generally expensive in Okoboji, but GIA members can acquire housing at Iowa Lakeside Lab for a small fee (please inquire with the Director regarding pricing options).

## **Things to do:**

Visit Vacation Okoboji for a detailed list of fun activities in the area: <https://vacationokoboji.com/>

Options include a variety of outdoor activities including kayaking, sailing, fishing, swimming, hiking, biking or enjoying the many state and county parks. Cultural activities include the summer theatre, visiting the Pearson Lakes Art Center, summer concerts and the historic Arnolds Park amusement park.

## **Additional Information:**

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

Travis Scheirer: [travisscheirer@gmail.com](mailto:travisscheirer@gmail.com)  
(LWS, Iowa Lakeside Lab)

Alysia Berns: [alysiabriana11@gmail.com](mailto:alysiabriana11@gmail.com)  
(LWS, Iowa Lakeside Lab)

# Oskaloosa

**City Description:** Oskaloosa has a population of 11,511 people; Mahaska County has approximately 22,000 people. Restaurants and fast food places are numerous; Walmart, HyVee and Fareway provide groceries and other items; a recreation trail encircles the city; a beautiful city square and bandstand are a jewel in our downtown, with music and fairs during Spring, Summer, and Fall; William Penn University offers various theatre and sporting events; there is a movie theatre; downtown retail stores, county conservation parks and areas; city parks; a recreation complex; Lighted Christmas parade; and we are less than an hour away from Des Moines on interstate highways.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Housing in the Oskaloosa area is reasonable. Feel free to reach out to the William Penn University staff and they can introduce you to realtors/landlords if you need assistance finding housing.

## **Things to do:**

Community sports teams; bowling; Nelson Pioneer Farm (historic buildings and museum); camping and canoeing; three golf courses; summer Fridays After Five (sponsored by the Chamber and area employers with music and refreshments); Art on the Square, Sweetcorn Serenade, the Southern Iowa Fair, car races weekly in the summer.

## **Additional Information:**

Oskaloosa is just over an hour to Iowa City; an hour and a half to Cedar Rapids; 15 minutes to Pella for Tulip Time; and more!

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

# Tiffin

**City Description:** CCA is uniquely located to include a number of communities. The western and southern portions of the district of the district are primarily rural and include the communities of the Amana Colonies, Oxford, and Cosgrove. The eastern portion of the district includes Tiffin, along with portions of Coralville and North Liberty. This is a rapidly growing, suburban area.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

There are a variety of reasonably priced houses, apartments and condominiums for purchase/rent. Past GIA members serving at Clear Creek Amana have found housing nearby in the Coralville or Iowa City areas. For more information and housing resources feel free to contact the local host site organization or past GIA members.

## **Things to do:**

There are a variety of things to do in the CCA community. Outdoor opportunities about at local parks. There are extensive trails throughout the area for walking and biking. Our proximity to Iowa City and Cedar Rapids makes accessing the cultural, shopping, and social aspects of those larger areas easy.

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

Erica Dodge: e715dodge@gmail.com  
(SS, Clear Creek Amana)

## **Additional Information:**

- The Amana Colonies are approximately 20 miles NW of Tiffin. They offer restaurants, arts, and local shopping including a convenience store.
- Tiffin has a local Fareway grocery store, multiple convenience stores, healthcare, restaurants, and other amenities.
- Coralville is adjacent to Tiffin on the east side. Coralville offers all amenities.
- North Liberty is adjacent to Tiffin on the east side and the north side of Coralville. North Liberty offers all amenities.
- Iowa City is approximately 10 miles east of Tiffin.
- Cedar Rapids is approximately 20 miles north of Tiffin.
- The confluence of Interstate 80 and Interstate 380 makes access to the area simple

# Waterloo

**City Description:** Black Hawk County is located in the northeastern part Iowa. As of the 2010 census, the population was 131,090, making it Iowa's fourth-most populous county containing the Waterloo-Cedar Falls, IA Metropolitan Area. Waterloo is the major metro of the Cedar Valley Region of Northeast Iowa. As the Black Hawk County Seat, Waterloo is the hub for government, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, education, employment, and retail for the region. Diversity is Waterloo's key strength, its population of over 70,150 is made up of 17% African Americans with growing Latino, Congolese, and Burmese populations among others. Waterloo is addressing the issues of immigration, diversity and inclusion, and talent in proactive and intentional ways. Waterloo has a rich history of entrepreneurialism and strong start-up ecosystem.

## **Affordable Housing Options:**

Both Waterloo and Cedar Falls have a range of affordable housing ranging from the downtown areas, to residential neighbors within the major cities and in the smaller surrounding communities to those in surrounding UNI. Public transportation is available between Waterloo and Cedar Falls. For more resources on housing information, feel free to contact the local host sites.

## **Things to do:**

The City of Waterloo is dedicated to providing cultural attractions, parks and recreation to meet the unique and diverse needs of the community and enhance the quality of life. The City of

Waterloo provides services that contribute to a healthy community, a rich culture, and a beautiful place to live, work and play. The for a calendar of events and more information visit [ExperienceWaterloo.com](http://ExperienceWaterloo.com)

## **Past AmeriCorps Member Contacts:**

## **Additional Information:**

Waterloo is a short drive away from Cedar Falls. In Cedar Falls, you can visit the past by strolling through structures listed with the National Historic Registry, attend a lecture at the University of Northern Iowa or catch a traveling Broadway show at the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Browse the shops and boutiques on College Hill and downtown Cedar Falls, keep in shape by traveling the miles of bike trails, enjoy the Grout Museum's many exhibits, or catch an exciting minor league hockey match or baseball game. For more information on Cedar Falls visit <https://www.cedarfallstourism.org/things-to-do/>