

# Green Iowa AmeriCorps

Written By: Nathan Reams

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**“However, in order to feel a greater connection to and ownership of one’s community, a student must know that they themselves are active members of their community.”**

**Carmen Finken**

Disaster response. Energy audits. Food insecurities. No matter the job at hand, the Green Iowa AmeriCorps is here to help. Green Iowa AmeriCorps is a federally funded, statewide National Service program. They are based out of the University of Northern Iowa’s Center of Energy and Environmental Education building (CEEE). While they already do so much on their own, they also partner with other organizations throughout the state to make an even bigger impact. Among these different organizations include a wide variety from non-profits, city governments, K12 schools and so much more!

Green Iowa has been in the Cedar Valley and Iowa since the 2008 flood. They received funding for disaster response and started their work in both Cedar Falls and Cedar Rapids because they were so heavily impacted by the disaster. After the flood response they started their work with homeowners in response to rising utility costs. Since then, they have spread into several other counties and garnered over 100 active AmeriCorps members.

Presently they are now helping with home energy efficiency audits and low-impact weatherizations, as well as environmental outreach and education. River and highway clean up. Tree Planting. Garden installations. Environmental education. Home building and restoration. The list of things that Green Iowa members do and contribute to the local community and to the state goes on and on. Not only do they work with larger groups and organizations, they also do meaningful one on one work in the community. All of this adds up to a large impact on the local community which means it’s a large impact on UNI.

Speaking of UNI. With their base of operation right on campus, it makes collaboration with Green Iowa a great opportunity for UNI students or recent UNI graduates. Along with all of the great work one would complete with Green Iowa, there are endless perks and opportunities that come with it. In addition to being paid monthly, you are given a chance to earn a scholarship to help with student loans or tuition. This means you’d be able to make a difference in the community and get paid for your efforts as well. Helping take away the barrier of money that some face when looking for opportunities to make a difference.

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