



MEET THE GREEN IOWA AMERICORPS TEAM!

2021 Land & Water Stewards at Trees Forever

MEET GINA!

Position: Marketing & Communications Support

Hometown: Barnegat, NJ
(long ways from home!)

Favorite tree: Sassafras

They have 3 different leaf types, one looks like a ghost! And if you break a leaf open it smells like fruit loops!

Why I Chose to Serve:

I wanted to spend the year after college serving with AmeriCorps. Green Iowa was the perfect fit because I can pursue my passion for the environment and volunteering, share it with others, and work towards making a difference in local communities. Working with Trees Forever has allowed me to broaden my outreach skills through social media & event planning, while educating the public on why trees matter! If you're looking to make a difference, help the environment or gain professional skills, apply to serve!



MEET WESLEY!

Position: Des Moines
Growing Futures
Support Coordinator

Hometown: Altoona, IA

Favorite tree: Ginkgo

I love Ginkgo trees because of their unique fan-shaped leaves and their beautiful yellow autumn color. You just have to look past their stinky fruit!

Why I Chose to Serve:

I chose to serve because AmeriCorps lets me gain experience, help the environment, and improve my community. I am going to attend Iowa State University in the fall of 2021 to study Forestry, so working with Trees Forever is the perfect way for me to get started in the forestry field!



MEET EMILY!

Position: Education and Outreach Coordinator

Hometown: Sioux City, IA

Favorite tree: Coast Redwood

Not only is it a beautiful tree, it's the world's largest tree and the oldest recorded one is about 2200 years old!

Why I Chose to Serve:

I learned about GIA while job searching following my graduation from Iowa State. I learned that as a GIA member, I would have the freedom to use my skills and interests to help serve the community as well as gain more professional experience in the field, and knew it would be a good fit for me! I have a passion for teaching others about the environment, being outdoors, and connecting with members of the community. I am excited to work with Trees Forever to create a positive impact following the derecho that devastated the area and get the public excited about planting trees.



MEET ANDREW!

Position: Iowa Tree Planting, Volunteer Engagement & Woodland Support Coordinator

Hometown: Park Ridge, IL

Favorite Tree: Quaking Aspen

These trees are unique as they typically reproduce asexually, sending out new stems from a single interconnected root system. While a single aspen tree might live for only 150 years, a clonal colony could continue to live on for thousands. The oldest and heaviest organism in the world is a quaking aspen grove dubbed “Pando” thought to be over 80,000 years old!

Why I Chose to Serve:

I’ve always enjoyed volunteering in my community so serving with AmeriCorps was a great way to continue to give back. Green Iowa’s focus on environmental stewardship offered a fantastic opportunity to build professional experiences in conservation into my geography degree. So far it’s been exciting to see my hopes in helping communities turned into a reality through contacting communities about our seedling program and planting with local city members around Des Moines.



MEET OLIVIA!

Position: Growing Futures Support Coordinator

Hometown: Wentzville, MO

Favorite tree: Tamarack

These trees are the only conifer with deciduous leaves, so they turn yellow in the fall. The little cones on these trees are also quite lovely, as they look like little roses in the spring.

Why I Chose to Serve:

I have a desire to care for, and create, greener communities for our common home.

So, I chose to serve because I wanted to serve in an opportunity that not only offered hands on learning experiences, but also granted me the opportunity to serve as a steward for the people and the environment!

