

Volunteer Iowa Update - April 2025

Having trouble viewing? [View this as a webpage](#)



Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony

Governor Kim Reynolds and Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer will induct the 2025 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame members and present the Excellence in Mentoring awards in a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol building scheduled for 1:00pm on Thursday, April 24.

Being selected for the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame is the most prestigious state-level honor volunteers can receive as recognition of extraordinary donations of volunteer service to their communities. The Excellence in Mentoring Awards gives Iowa MENTOR certified programs the opportunity to recognize outstanding long-time youth mentors.



Visit [the Volunteer Iowa website](#) for more information about the 2025 Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame inductees and Excellence in Mentoring Award recipients.

Follow [Volunteer Iowa on Facebook](#) for further announcements regarding the ceremony.



Governor's Volunteer Awards

Volunteer Iowa is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Governor's Volunteer Awards; entry deadline is April 30.

The Governor's Volunteer Awards program, established in 1982, provides an easy way for organizations to honor their volunteers with a prestigious, state-level recognition award. Three award categories are available: Individual, Group, and Length of Service.

Award recipient information can be submitted using one of the following methods:

- All organizations (including state government agencies) submit information, and the handling fee (\$15 per nomination) directly through Volunteer Iowa in an [online nomination form](#). Organizations will be able to submit the handling fee online.
- State agencies will submit nominations through the same online form. Invoicing will be handled separately. (Staff of state government agencies must submit nominations through their agency's coordinator.)

Nominations are accepted from: city governments, community colleges, county governments, federal government units operating in Iowa, Iowa MENTOR certified programs, K-12 schools (public and parochial), national service programs operating in Iowa (AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors), nonprofit and charitable organizations, private colleges and universities, non-state government organizations.

To learn more, please visit [volunteeriowa.org](#).

Give Back Iowa Challenge

The 11th Annual Give Back Iowa Challenge has begun! The Give Back Iowa Challenge is an eight-week statewide challenge, which serves as a competitive way to encourage organizations and businesses alike to participate in community volunteering. The Challenge runs from April 1st through May 31st. Your business or organization can still [register your organization](#) to participate. Then all you need to do is track the hours of your employees, record those hours on our system, and celebrate your employees and their dedication to volunteerism!

There are a variety of ways to help out in your community. There are many volunteer opportunities statewide, including youth mentoring, college and career mentoring, assisting food banks and food pantries with packaging and distribution, skills-based opportunities, and more. Volunteer opportunities in your area can be found on our statewide volunteer opportunities portal [Get Connected](#).

Visit the [Give Back Iowa Challenge website](#) to learn more about this year's challenge. Please contact Betsy Shelton at betsy.shelton@volunteeriowa.org with questions.

AmeriCorps Week

Volunteer Iowa celebrated AmeriCorps Week (March 9-15) by highlighting the incredible work of our AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs statewide. Visit [Volunteer Iowa's Facebook page](#) to learn how AmeriCorps serves Iowa communities.



Volunteerism in the News

- [Green Iowa Americorps provides environmental education and sustainable community initiatives](#)
- [Boosting Land Restoration at the Nature Center](#)
- [See food packaged at Field to Family in Iowa City](#)
- [Show Your Care: Volunteers work on restoration efforts at Indian Creek Nature Center](#)
- [Want to stay healthier and fulfilled later in life? Try volunteering](#)

Current Volunteer Iowa Opportunities

Volunteer with us! Find volunteer opportunities with Volunteer Iowa here: [Volunteer Iowa | Volunteer Iowa \(galaxydigital.com\)](#)

Other Iowa AmeriCorps programs supported by Volunteer Iowa are also recruiting now. Find a listing of Iowa AmeriCorps programs at [Join AmeriCorps | Volunteer Iowa](#).

Important Dates

- April: [Global Volunteer Month](#)
- April 1: [Give Back Iowa Challenge](#) begins
- April 20-26: [National Volunteer Week](#)
- April 24: Volunteer Iowa Awards Ceremony
- April 25-27: [Global Youth Service Day](#)
- April 30: 2025 [Governor's Volunteer Awards](#) nominations close
- May: [Older Americans Month](#)
- May: [National Mental Health Awareness Month](#)
- May 4-10: [Public Service Recognition Week](#)
- May 11: Mother's Day
- May 16: [National Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day](#)

- May 26: Memorial Day
- May 28: [National Senior Health and Fitness Day](#)

Looking for a way to give back? Visit [Get Connected](#) today to find volunteer opportunities. Organizations can [post volunteer opportunities](#) on Get Connected as well at no cost.

This email was sent to you by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. <https://hhs.iowa.gov/>