

## **Eastern Iowa Conservation Alliance (EICA) AmeriCorps Project**

Louisa County Conservation Board

Questions and Answers

### **What is it?**

A consortium of county conservation boards received a grant for an AmeriCorps team to serve in Eastern Iowa. Each of the members serves in a specific county but the team comes together for monthly group projects.

### **What is AmeriCorps?**

AmeriCorps is a community service project that gives enrollees real-life education and work experience. AmeriCorps is often referred to as the “domestic Peace Corps.” The EICA project focuses on environmental education and natural resource projects.

### **Is it a fulltime job?**

Louisa County has three fulltime (6-month) members. Fulltime members make a commitment to serve 900 hours in six months. Members volunteer an average of 35 hours/week though hours may be flexible.

### **What would I be doing?**

One member in Louisa County will primarily help with the environmental education (EE) program – preparing and presenting programs to schools and the general public. That member will also help organize a volunteer program for the conservation board.

The other fulltime members will work with natural resource and park management – planting roadsides, restoring prairies, maintaining trails, mowing parks and more.

### **When would I start?**

The fulltime EE members serve September – February and March - August. The fulltime natural resource members serve from March to August.

### **Is there a salary or any benefits?**

There is a “living allowance” of \$6,000 for the fulltime (6-month) members. The allowance is paid bi-weekly. Uniforms and training are also provided. Fulltime members receive an education award of \$2,362 after the completion of the 900 hours. In addition, child care and student loan deferral may be available for those who need them.

### **Is there anything else I should know?**

AmeriCorps is your chance to do something special, something unique, something exciting. It’s a great way to give to your community and learn teamwork, communication, responsibility and other essential skills that will help you for the rest of your life. You’ll gain the personal satisfaction of taking on a challenge and seeing results.

### **Who should I talk to?**

The contact person in Louisa County is:

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