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Swearing in Ceremony set for Iowa AmeriCorps members
U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Projects to begin
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The first Iowa members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) AmeriCorps program will be officially sworn in September 12 in Kansas City as part of ceremonies nationwide inaugurating President Clinton's national service initiative.

"We are swearing in the first of 26 AmeriCorps members we expect to have on board by October 1," said Jim Ayen, director of AmeriCorps for the USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Iowa. USDA received a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to place 1200 members nationwide in service projects.

The Iowa AmeriCorps members will receive \$12,000 in living expenses and an educational voucher of \$4,725 for a year of service. Their work will be targeted at flood recovery, economic development and environmental protection projects.

In Iowa, a ceremony will be held on October 23 at the Iowa State Center's Brunier Gallery in Ames to induct the bulk of the new members.

The Iowa SCS AmeriCorps members will work in one of five teams, based in Storm Lake, Waterloo, Oakland, Indianola, and Williamsburg. Specific conservation tasks that the AmeriCorps members will carry out include helping restore wetlands, accelerating the number of waste management systems installed on Iowa farms, and boosting rural development activity in Iowa.

"AmeriCorps is a unique new type of federal program that is locally driven and focused on achieving concrete results," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. The USDA/AmeriCorps program "will develop creative approaches to decrease hunger and improve nutrition, enhance the economies and quality of life of rural communities, and clean up our environment and protect our public lands."
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