Did You Know…

Reiman Gardens has volunteer roles for gardeners—and people who never touch a plant?

Reiman Gardens depends on volunteers to support horticulture, education, entomology, events, guest services, office projects, and much more. In 2025, 343 active onsite volunteers donated 21,567 hours, while nearly 2,000 additional people participated through one-time or group service projects.

Autumn is the most important time for volunteer participation. In late September/early October, **1,000+ pumpkins need to be stenciled, gutted, carved, and placed** in the Gardens for the annual Spirits in the Gardens event. Volunteers are also needed to **staff each night of Spirits in the Gardens in October and Winter Wonderscape in November and December**. In addition, **50,000+ spring bulbs must be planted** and all the **sets and lights for Winter Wonderscape take hundreds of hours to install**. Most of these activities are great for both individuals or groups to attend!

Not every role requires a regular weekly commitment. Community members can register individually or with friends, family members, or coworkers without completing the full ongoing-volunteer orientation. Groups may also request a customized service project.

For people who prefer behind-the-scenes or flexible work, opportunities may include filing, scanning, mailing, spreadsheets, event preparation, or take-home craft projects. Regular onsite volunteers receive first access to opportunities through the volunteer management system, free admission on volunteer days, and a gift-shop discount.

Volunteering at Reiman Gardens can provide practical experience, social connection, time outdoors, or simply a pleasant change from an office routine. Spring is an ideal time to explore the options because both gardening and event needs increase as the outdoor season begins.

To learn more or discuss a group project, visit the volunteer page or email rgvolunteers@iastate.edu.

Learn more: Explore Reiman Gardens volunteer roles or check out autumn volunteer opportunities