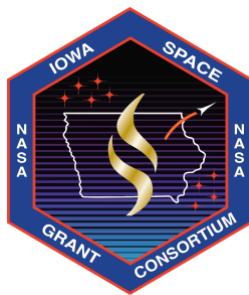


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Iowa Space Grant Consortium Undergraduate STEM Ambassador Program- Request for Applications

Released: 4/30/26– Deadline: **6/22/26**

Overview: The Iowa Space Grant Consortium (ISGC) is seeking enthusiastic undergraduate students to apply for the **STEM Ambassador Program** for the 2026–2027 Academic Year. This program supports students who will serve as STEM Ambassadors, representing ISGC’s Academic and Informal Affiliate institutions across Iowa. Ambassadors will promote NASA’s mission and engage the public in STEM education through outreach and community engagement activities.

Eligibility, Amount of Award, and Duration: All students of ISGC [Core Institutions](#) and [Academic Affiliates](#) are eligible to apply: Des Moines Area Community College ([DMACC](#)), [Drake](#), [Iowa](#), [ISU](#), [Loras College](#), [Morningside University](#), [Simpson College](#), and [UNI](#).

- Open to ALL MAJORS
- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be a current undergraduate student enrolled full-time at one of [ISGC’s Core or Academic Affiliates](#)
- Graduation date no earlier than May 2027
- Applicants must have graduated from high school prior to August 2026
- Interest in STEM education, outreach, and public engagement
- Availability to participate in required training and events throughout the academic year
- Ability to pass background check and completion of Youth Risk Management Training
- Good academic standing (minimum 3.0/4.0 GPA)

Selection: Up to 11 undergraduate students will be selected to serve as ISGC STEM Ambassadors. Selected applicants will need to provide an unofficial transcript upon graduation and agree to participate in a NASA longitudinal tracking process that surveys student progress and eventual employment outcome to help assess the effectiveness of our program and STEM retention efforts. Awardees will be required to attend the ISGC Spring Research Symposium in April 2027 (date TBD).

Ambassador Responsibilities: Ambassadors must serve from August through May as an ISGC STEM Ambassador. Each ambassador must participate in **a minimum of 2 outreach events per semester:** two (2) during the Fall 2026 semester and two (2) during the Spring 2027 semester.

Additionally, ambassadors are expected to attend at least two (2) ISGC training sessions, workshops, or networking sessions. Participation is mandatory for check-in meetings, as outlined in the program schedule below. Eligibility for travel support to a NASA center is contingent upon meeting Ambassador responsibilities. Travel will not be booked until Fall requirements are fulfilled. Transportation to and from outreach events and training sessions are the responsibility of the student.

Benefits:

- A \$500 stipend –issued in the Spring semester after verification of fall requirements have been met
- Group trip to NASA Center sponsored by ISGC. Equivalent of \$1,500 (Travel Airfare/Ground Transportation to Center, Hotel, Center Entrance Fee)
- Professional development in science communication and outreach (potential for Micro-credential ISU - Canvas Course 8-weeks, Fall 2026)
- Exclusive access to NASA internship resources and ISGC networking opportunities
- Support from ISGC and its statewide partner institutions
- Option for renewal

Program Schedule

Month	Required Activity
August 29 th (In-Person @ ISU)	Orientation & Training; NASA Internship Information Session
November (Virtual)	Check-in Meeting; Workforce Development Workshop
February (Virtual)	Mid-Year Check-in; NASA Travel Planning Session; Preparing for SRS
April (In-Person)	Closing Session; Presentation at ISGC Student Research Symposium
May (In-Person)	Travel to a NASA Center (pending eligibility and availability)

Application Submission Procedure:

- Submit applications via this link: [Application Form](#) by **June 22, 2026**.
- As part of the application, you will be asked to upload your most recent unofficial transcript (unprotected and unsecured PDF) and resume.
- A mentor must submit a [recommendation letter](#). Forward this request to your mentor by email with the following URL for online submission:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b305a55ae32342fd840f5b624b4e379a>

Preliminary announcement date for awards is early August 2026, contingent upon availability of NASA funding.

Questions should be addressed to the ISGC administrative team:

- Assistant Director for Education and Outreach, Rachel Shannon, rshannon@iastate.edu
- Director, Dr. Sara Nelson, sdnelson@iastate.edu
- Program Specialist II, Hailey Waller, hewaller@iastate.edu