If it weren't for our sponsors, Project AWARE would not be possible. Thank You!

It's fun … rewarding … educational … hard work … this river cleanup is your gateway to volunteerism!

Six years ago, a small but determined cadre of volunteers embarked on a fledgling river cleanup event called Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition). With an ideological mission – to improve the Maquoketa River by removing unsightly trash – these volunteers on the 1st Annual Project AWARE did more than just clean a river … they started a movement. Since that time, thousands of people have volunteered for Project AWARE, trading in luxurious vacations to far-off destinations for mud, sweat, sand, and adventure right here in Iowa.

Even though it can be dirty, smelly, and exhausting, Project AWARE is one of the most meaningful and rewarding efforts Iowans can ever experience. River cleanup is hard work; but it’s not just the kind of work that comes from muscling trash out of the river; it’s also the kind that comes from your heart. This was especially true in the summer of 2008 when floodwaters and tornadoes ripped through the Midwest.

Originally scheduled for June, the floods of 2008 forced the postponement of Project AWARE. However, many cleanup volunteers who had already planned to spend a week in June on a volunteer vacation still made the pilgrimage to the flood-impacted areas to help prepare for and clean up after the devastation. And when Project AWARE was rescheduled in August, many returned to the Winnebago, Shell Rock, and Cedar rivers and helped remove a record-breaking 47 tons of debris.

This band of adventurous volunteers embarked on an expedition – they worked hard, got dirty, & helped rescue something that floodwaters could not wash away…hope.
Project AWARE 2009  •  Cedar River  •  June 20-27

In May of 2007, the city of Cedar Rapids and Linn County declared 2008 as “The Year of the River.” Barely one year after this declaration, the Cedar River rose to unprecedented heights and devastated nearly everything that stood in its path. In June of 2009, hundreds of volunteers on the 7th Annual Project AWARE will converge on the Cedar River and work to clean it up from Center Point to Muscatine, a distance of nearly 80 miles.

For more information and to register, visit our website: www.iowaprojectaware.com