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Middlebury College Among Peace Corps' Top Volunteer-Producing Colleges & Universities in 2014

Middlebury returns to the national rankings after four-year absence

NEW YORK, N.Y., Feb. 11, 2014 – The Peace Corps today released the 2014 rankings of the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities across the country. Middlebury College ranked No. 14 this year among small schools, with 12 undergraduate alumni currently volunteering worldwide. Middlebury last ranked as a Peace Corps' Top College in 2010.

Middlebury alumni are currently serving as volunteers in Botswana, China, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and Uganda. They work in areas including agriculture, education, environment and health.

“The same passion that launched the Peace Corps more than 50 years ago fuels progress in developing countries today thanks to the leadership and creativity that college graduates bring to their Peace Corps service,” Peace Corps Acting Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet said. “The unique Peace Corps experience helps recent graduates cultivate highly sought-after skills that will launch their careers in today’s global economy.”

Since the first days of the Peace Corps, 481 Middlebury alumni from have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers.

“I am working as a sustainable agriculture extension agent and speak the local language, Wolof,” said Rosalind Vara, a Middlebury alumna who is currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal. “I work with farmers to increase their field crop yields, improve soil fertility and reduce chemical inputs. Much of my experience revolves around simply being here and living with my family as they live: drinking tea under mango trees waiting for the heat to subside, lying outside at night with my host mother looking at the stars and joking with the children.”

Middlebury alumna Maggie Bale credits her two older brothers, both returned Peace Corps volunteers, for her motivation to serve. “I came to Botswana as a health volunteer, but my work has predominantly been in a primary school assisting with improving education for almost 200 children. Remembering what I had learned from my interdisciplinary experiences at Middlebury, I have been able to turn this into one of the best learning experiences I’ve had in my life.”

Middlebury was one of two Vermont schools ranked as a Peace Corps' 2014 Top College, with the University of Vermont claiming the national No. 5 spot among medium schools.

In 2013, Vermont ranked No. 1 in the nation for the highest per capita number of Peace Corps volunteers, with 49 currently-serving Peace Corps volunteers calling the Green Mountain State home. In addition, the Burlington-South Burlington metro area ranked No. 2 per capita nationally for volunteer-production, with 23 area residents serving overseas.

Service in the Peace Corps is a life-defining, hands-on leadership experience that offers volunteers the opportunity to travel to the farthest corners of the world and make a lasting difference in the lives of others. Peace Corps volunteers live and work at the community level and promote a better understanding between Americans and the people they serve, while at the same time becoming global citizens.

When they return home, volunteers bring knowledge and experiences that give them a competitive edge for 21st century jobs and advanced educational opportunities. They give back to their own communities and enrich the lives of those around them, helping to strengthen international ties and increase our country's global competitiveness.

The Peace Corps has eight regional recruitment offices across the United States that work closely with prospective volunteers to ensure that all Americans who want to serve have the opportunity to do so. The Northeast regional recruitment office serves Middlebury, and Peace Corps recruiters are based throughout the region. Find the recruitment office near you by visiting the Peace Corps website [here](#).

The Peace Corps ranks the top volunteer-producing colleges and universities annually according to the size of the student body. Below find the top five colleges and universities in each category and the number of alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers.

Large Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

More than 15,000 undergraduates

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison	90
2. University of Washington	85
2. University of Florida	85
4. The Ohio State University	83
5. University of Michigan	81

Medium Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

Between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates

1. Western Washington University	65
2. University of Virginia	44
3. American University	43
4. The George Washington University	41
5. Cornell University	29
5. The University of Vermont	29

Small Colleges & Universities – Total Volunteers:

Less than 5,000 undergraduates

1. Gonzaga University	22
2. SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	17
3. Carleton College	16
3. Macalester College	16
3. Pacific Lutheran University	16

Graduate Schools – Total Volunteers:

1. University of Denver	23
2. University of Washington	20
2. Tulane University	20
4. University of Florida	17
5. University of Pittsburgh	13
5. University of Minnesota Twin Cities	13
5. University of South Florida	13
5. The University of Texas at Austin	13

Historical, Since 1961 – Total Volunteers:

1. University of California, Berkeley	3,576
2. University of Wisconsin-Madison	3,112
3. University of Washington	2,840
4. University of Michigan	2,556
5. University of Colorado Boulder	2,385

**Rankings are calculated based on fiscal year 2013 data as of September 30, 2013, as self-reported by Peace Corps volunteers.*

Find the complete 2014 rankings of the top 25 schools in each undergraduate category [here](#). To view the Peace Corps' 2014 Top Colleges infographic, visit

<http://files.peacecorps.gov/images/news/releases/TC2014Infographic.pdf>.

A list of the 2013 Top Colleges and Universities can be found [here](#).

About the Peace Corps: *As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps volunteers work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic development, agriculture, environment and youth development. When they return home, volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences – and a global outlook – back to the United States that enriches the lives of those around them. President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 to foster a better understanding among Americans and people of other countries. Since then, more than 215,000 Americans of all ages have served in 139 countries worldwide. Visit www.peacecorps.gov to learn more.*

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