



How to get involved in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The Peace Corps will be one of three featured programs at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which takes place June 30-July 4 and July 7-11 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This curated exhibition is one of the highlights of the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary commemorative activities. We are delighted to be part of an event that has been a summer tradition in our nation's capitol for 44 years.

Our program, *The Peace Corps: Fifty Years of Promoting World Peace and Friendship*, will bring together Peace Corps Volunteers—both past and present—and many of the people with whom they served. Some of the highlights will include:

- Demonstrations by craft cooperatives illustrating both local culture and the work of Volunteers in economic development and income generation;
- Performances by musical, dance, and theatrical groups that Peace Corps Volunteers have helped to support, advise, and partner with to educate their communities;
- Presentations of food and cooking traditions that have played an important role in the Peace Corps experience; and
- Hands-on educational activities showcasing the cultures and countries where Peace Corps Volunteers have served over the last five decades.

For more information on programming and schedules, please visit www.festival.si.edu.

There are many ways to enjoy this year's festival. Come visit—the festival is free and open every day from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kids Corps

The festival is seeking enthusiastic RPCVs for two activities in the family and children's activities area, called Kids Corps.

- Teach children about the language of your host country. We'd like returned Volunteers to teach a few basic words, such as greetings, numbers, parts of the body, members of your family, items where you live, or simple songs or rhymes. This will take place in an area that resembles a mini-classroom or Volunteer home. This requires a two-hour time commitment.
- Teach a simple children's game from your host country. The game should be appropriate for kids ages 6 to 12, and use relatively easy-to-find materials. We're looking for games that are unique to a country or region, like Shagai, the Mongolian ankle bone game. This requires a one-hour time commitment.

If you would be interested in volunteering for either of these activities, please send all of the following information to jkeller@peacecorps.gov by May 27, 2011:

- Name, email & phone number.
- Name of the game you'd like to teach, a brief description of the game, materials needed to play, and where it is played.
- Name of the language you'd like to teach, and what country it represents.
- The days and times you are available.

You will be contacted by members of the Folklife Festival staff with final scheduling confirmation. Depending on interest, preference may be given to languages other than Spanish or French.

RPCVillage

The RPCVillage, will feature volunteer reunions, conversation facilitators, an opportunity to record an oral history, a discussion stage, message boards, and a "wish tree" to send messages of good will to present and future Volunteers and messages of remembrance to friends we've lost.

Returned Volunteers and staff are invited to gather to share stories and memories in the RPCV reunion area. Each of the 139 countries in which Volunteers have served will have a specific time to gather (find your country of service meeting time), but RPCVs are encouraged to participate at any time during the festival.

RPCVs are also invited to bring an item of significance or treasured keepsake from their Peace Corps service to assist in telling their volunteer story on a small discussion stage. Think about an item representative of the work or projects undertaken in your country of service or symbolic to your day-to-day life in the Peace Corps and bring it with you at any time during the festival.

For more information about the RPCVillage, as well as Volunteer and staff reunions, visit www.festival.si.edu or contact Jason Bowers, program coordinator, at BowersJ@si.edu.

General volunteer opportunities

Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the festival for any number of important jobs around the site. If you'd like to be considered for general volunteer opportunities, please submit an application form to the Smithsonian. The form can be found at www.festival.si.edu/about/volunteers.aspx.

