



## **Proposed Peace Corps 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Collection at the National Museum of American History**

To recognize 50 years of service and achievement the Peace Corps is assembling artifacts of historical significance which will be submitted to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History for possible inclusion in their Political History Collection.

We are seeking items for consideration by the museum's curatorial staff and asking for help from returned Volunteers, former staff, and all of Peace Corps friends. Some possible items for the collection include:

- **Original\*** recruitment and training material, including posters, training manuals, welcome books, and language and cultural training materials (Copies will not be accepted)
- Items related to the experiences and day-to-day life of Volunteers such as equipment, clothing, personal belongings that are representative of your time in Peace Corps
- Objects that reflect the work and projects undertaken in the host country, whether it be building or educational projects
- Objects that represent the Peace Corps administration in the country posts or headquarters

### ***How to suggest items for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary collection:***

Please submit a list of the items that you would like to have considered no later than January 30, 2011. Please describe items as thoroughly as possible, providing the following information for each item:

- *Thorough* physical description of the item
- Why you believe that this item is significant
- Did the item have some association with one of the Peace Corps's founders (e.g. President Kennedy, Director Shriver, Director Vaughn)
- Period in which the item was used (e.g. 1961, early-1990s/first groups into Eastern Europe or Central Asia)
- List name of individual Volunteer, post, who used the item whenever possible
- How it was used and for what purpose

Please send your lists to [50thanniversary@peacecorps.gov](mailto:50thanniversary@peacecorps.gov) with the subject line ARTIFACTS/*your last name*. In addition, **please include your name and contact information**. We will review your lists and respond with questions or requests as needed.

**Guidelines:**

- Three-dimensional objects are preferred, although **original\*** paper materials are acceptable. Copies, video, and audio tapes will not be considered.
- All early items are especially desired such as: materials from the founding of the agency, items from first groups into countries, outfits or back packs worn by Volunteers in training, any early office signage, anything that is an obvious tool or object related to early Peace Corps.
- Recent items can be submitted if we believe they are significant. According to the museum specialist, if the museums curatorial staff judges them to be significant – then they are significant. (This does not, however, mean they will be accepted by the Smithsonian.)
- Items related to historical periods in American and world history in which Peace Corps was involved or influenced. These may include Peace Corps in post-colonial Africa, in the Vietnam era, during the Cold War, or post-Cold War periods.
- **Please keep in mind; many Volunteers have collections of items that are representative of the cultures in which they have served. Unless these items represent some aspect of Peace Corps history, they will not be considered for the collection.**

\*The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History collects original materials and is committed to their long-term preservation and usefulness. Photocopies, scans or reproductions of material will not be accepted. Those contributing their original documents can be assured that their care will be overseen by experts in the fields of preservation and conservation.