

## Peace Corps Recruitment Offices

### Northeast Region

CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ,  
NY, PA, RI, VT

201 Varick Street  
Suite 1025  
New York, NY 10014

212.352.5440  
nyinfo@peacecorps.gov

### Mid-Atlantic Region

DC, DE, MD, NC, VA,  
WV

Attn: Recruitment Office  
1111 20th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20526

202.692.1040  
dcinfo@peacecorps.gov

### Southeast Region

AL, FL, GA, MS, PR,  
SC, TN, USVI

60 Forsyth Street  
Suite 3M40  
Atlanta, GA 30303

404.562.3456  
atlinfo@peacecorps.gov

### Southwest Region

AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, NE,  
NM, OK, TX, UT, WY

1100 Commerce Street  
Suite 427  
Dallas, TX 75242

214.253.5400  
dallas@peacecorps.gov

### West Coast Region

AK, CA, HI, ID, MT,  
NV, OR, WA

2361 Rosecrans Avenue  
Suite 155  
El Segundo, CA 90245

310.356.1100  
lainfo@peacecorps.gov

1301 Clay Street  
Suite 620N  
Oakland, CA 94612

510.452.8444  
sfinfo@peacecorps.gov

1601 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 605  
Seattle, WA 98101

206.553.5490  
seattle@peacecorps.gov

### Midwest Region

IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN,  
MO, ND, OH, SD, WI

55 W. Monroe Street  
Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60603

312.353.4990  
chicago@peacecorps.gov

### Peace Corps Response & Global Health Service Partnership

Attn: Peace Corps  
Response  
1111 20th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20526

202.692.2250  
pcresponse@peacecorps.gov  
ghsp@peacecorps.gov

*For more information,  
talk to a Peace Corps  
recruiter at  
**855.855.1961, opt. 3,  
and visit [peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)***

Live, learn, and work  
with a community overseas.

# Be a Volunteer.



*Make a difference. Be a Volunteer.  
Apply today: [peacecorps.gov/apply](http://peacecorps.gov/apply)*



MEDIA LIBRARY: [medialibrary.peacecorps.gov](http://medialibrary.peacecorps.gov)  
BLOG: [passport.peacecorps.gov](http://passport.peacecorps.gov)



[peacecorps.gov](http://peacecorps.gov)

*The Peace Corps is a life-defining leadership opportunity and a great way to launch a career.*



## Peace Corps Today

### Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer is an experience like no other.

Peace Corps Volunteers want to make a difference, and they do. Their service improves the lives of people in communities around the world, informs the global perspectives of Americans, and is a life-defining experience for Volunteers themselves.

Today's Peace Corps Volunteers are America's grassroots ambassadors around the world. They serve in more than 60 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. By providing technical assistance to countries that request it, the Peace Corps shares America's most precious resources: its people and their skills.

In return, Volunteers receive practical benefits, learn new languages, gain leadership and international development experience, and work with their host communities as partners and friends.

*See current Volunteer opportunities at [peacecorps.gov/openings](https://peacecorps.gov/openings)*



# Peace Corps Overview

The Peace Corps is in more than 60 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific.

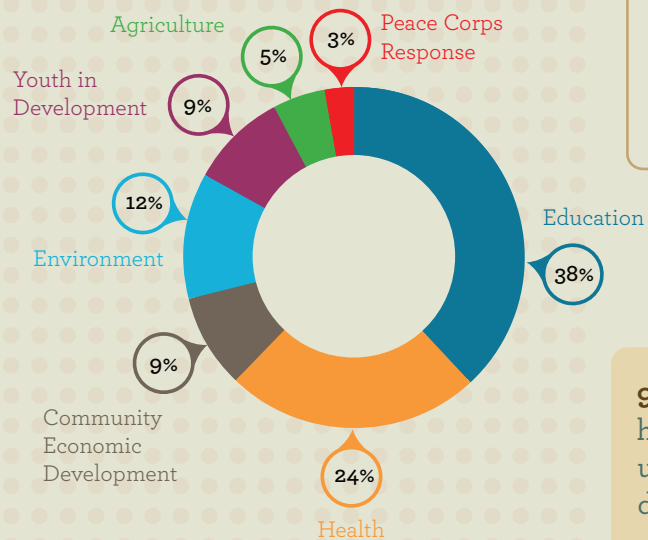


Since 1961, the Peace Corps has remained true to its service mission.

More than 6,800 Volunteers and trainees are in the field annually.



## Volunteers work in



NEARLY  
**220,000**  
Americans have served

94% of Volunteers have at least an undergraduate degree.



**The Peace Corps Mission**  
To promote world peace and friendship by

- Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
- Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served
- Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans

**There is no upper age limit**  
Volunteers range in age from **20-79**

To be eligible for service, you must be at least **18 YEARS OLD** and a **U.S. CITIZEN**.

6% Married 94% Single

**25% Minorities**

Volunteers work where their skills match the needs of host countries.



The Peace Corps is an independent U.S. government agency.

The length of service is

**2**  
years

Unlike many other international volunteer programs, there is no fee to participate in the Peace Corps.



Apply 6-9 months to a year in advance of your desired date of departure.

Volunteers live in the communities they serve, from small rural villages to large urban cities.



Find informational meetings in your area, interact with recruiters through virtual webcasts, or watch recruitment presentations at [peacecorps.gov/events](http://peacecorps.gov/events)

Data as of September 30, 2014.

# The Volunteer Experience

## Period of Commitment

Peace Corps Volunteers serve for two years, plus pre-service training.

## Peace Corps Training

The Peace Corps provides the training Volunteers need to carry out their assignments. Online training starts before departing the United States. Once Volunteers arrive in their host country, the Peace Corps provides two to three months of training that covers language skills, technical job preparation, cultural awareness, and health and safety support. During this period, most Volunteers live with host families to fully immerse themselves in the culture. Additional training is provided throughout the two-year duration of service.

## Work Schedule

Some Volunteers work 9 a.m.-5 p.m., while some may have a more flexible schedule. The length and structure of a Volunteer's workday depends on the particular assignment, and there are opportunities to develop additional projects in conjunction with the local community.



## Living Conditions

The Peace Corps covers the cost of housing and other necessities. Volunteers live in both rural and urban communities. Housing accommodations vary greatly, from a simple hut to an urban apartment, but all must meet the Peace Corps' standards for safety and suitability. Some Volunteers share housing with a local family or a co-worker in their assigned communities, while others live by themselves.

All sites undergo a thorough evaluation and selection process that considers safety and security; access to medical care, banking, postal, and other essential services; access to communication, transportation, and local markets; availability of adequate housing and living arrangements; and agreements with host country authorities and communities.

## Communication While Abroad

Most Volunteers are able to maintain contact with friends, family, and fellow Volunteers by text message, email, social media, phone, and mail. Access to these modes of communication can vary greatly from site to site: Some have very limited technology while others have considerable access. More than 91 percent of Volunteers have a cellphone. In all cases, the Peace Corps has systems in place to contact each Volunteer if there is a family or in-country emergency.



### Peace Corps Support Abroad

In each country where Volunteers serve, there is a Peace Corps office and staff, managed by a country director. Members of the staff include medical personnel, program managers, a safety and security coordinator, and trainers. The in-country medical unit, staffed by one or more credentialed medical officers, provides Volunteers primary care as needed and medical officers visit Volunteers at their sites periodically over the course of their service. Volunteers are also trained in basic medical skills and given the supplies they need to stay healthy. If a health problem occurs that cannot be treated locally, the Peace Corps will arrange for medical treatment for the Volunteer at an appropriate facility in a nearby country or the United States without cost to the Volunteer.

### Family Emergencies

Peace Corps allows a leave period and pays for the Volunteers' travel home if a death occurs in the Volunteer's immediate family. Immediate family is defined as a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or grandchild related to the Volunteer by blood, marriage, or adoption. This includes step-relatives (e.g., stepmother) but not inlaws (e.g., mother-in-law).



### Volunteer Safety and Security

The health, security, and safety of Volunteers is the Peace Corps' highest priority. The agency devotes significant resources to providing Volunteers with the training, support, and information they need to stay healthy and safe.

However, because Volunteers live and work in communities across the globe, often in remote locations, health and safety risks are inherent. The Peace Corps takes an integrated approach to safety and security, training Volunteers on their new environment and giving them the necessary tools to effectively handle the challenges they will face. Peace Corps staff and Volunteers work together to maximize Volunteers' well-being and enable them to carry out their mission effectively.

At each post, the Peace Corps has a country-specific emergency action plan to address events such as natural disasters or civil unrest. The plan ensures Volunteers can be contacted and supported in case of an emergency. Volunteers receive training on who to contact, what to do, and where to go, as well as the agency's plan of action. In a crisis, the Peace Corps coordinates with the U.S. embassy in the host country to share information, develop strategies, and coordinate communications.

*Visit [peacecorps.gov/safety](https://peacecorps.gov/safety) to learn more.*

# Graduate School Benefits

## Financial Assistance for Graduate School Programs

Returned Volunteers are offered reduced tuition, assistantships, and stipends at more than 90 participating campuses in a variety of subject areas through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program. Fellows combine graduate study with substantive, degree-related internships that help meet the needs of underserved U.S. communities. A list of participating schools and fields of study can be found at [peacecorps.gov/fellows](http://peacecorps.gov/fellows).

## Combine Graduate School and Peace Corps

Pursuing graduate school and the Peace Corps is possible through the Master's International program, which allows you to begin studies on campus, go abroad for training and two years of service, then return to school to finish your degree. Master's International offers 100-plus programs in a wide range of disciplines at more than 90 campuses nationwide. As part of your Peace Corps service, you will work on projects related to your master's studies. A list of participating schools and fields of study can be found at [peacecorps.gov/masters](http://peacecorps.gov/masters).

# Benefits During Service

## Pay and Vacation Time

The Peace Corps provides Volunteers with a living stipend that enables them to live in a manner similar to the local people in their community, covering housing, food, and incidentals. Additionally, Volunteers receive two vacation days per month of service—a total of 48 days over two years. The Peace Corps also covers the cost of transportation to and from the country of service. Unlike other international volunteer programs, there is no fee to participate.

## Full Medical and Dental Coverage

The Peace Corps provides complete medical and dental care during service and covers all related expenses, including those incurred during the training period and while Volunteers are on vacation or any type of leave. If a health problem occurs that cannot be treated by the medical officer and in-country medical facilities, the Peace Corps, without cost to the Volunteer, will send the Volunteer to an appropriate facility in a nearby country or the U.S.

## Student Loan Assistance

School loan deferments exist for several federal programs, (i.e., Stafford, Perkins, direct, and consolidated loans). Volunteers with Perkins loans may be eligible for a 15-70 percent cancellation benefit. Volunteer service is also considered “qualifying employment” for the Department of Education’s Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Some private loans may also be deferred during Peace Corps service. Talk to your lending institution about how this benefit applies to your particular situation. For more information, visit [peacecorps.gov/loans](http://peacecorps.gov/loans).



## Benefits After Service

### Transition Funds

The Peace Corps recognizes that returning from abroad requires some adjustment, so when you complete your two years of service, it provides over \$8,000 (pre-tax) to help with the transition to life back home. This money is yours to use as you wish.

### Professional Skills

Fluency in foreign languages, international experience, and intercultural understanding are highly sought in today's global economy. Whether you are a recent college graduate or mid-career, the skills you learn through service can enhance your marketability and help you achieve long-term career goals.

### Transition and Job Search Services

The Peace Corps provides transition assistance related to jobs and education. The Peace Corps publishes online job announcements, graduate school information, and career-related articles and advice; sponsors career events throughout the year in Washington, D.C., and across the U.S.; and helps returned Volunteers translate their field experience for prospective employers and other professional contacts. Check out [peacecorps.gov/engage](http://peacecorps.gov/engage) to find out more.

### Employment Advantages in the Federal Government

Returned Volunteers receive one year of noncompetitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. This means that, at the hiring agency's discretion, if a Volunteer meets the minimum qualifications for a position, he or she can be hired without going through the standard competitive process. Please visit [peacecorps.gov/nce](http://peacecorps.gov/nce) for more information. Those who are employed by the federal government can receive credit toward retirement for their years of Peace Corps service.

*For more information on the benefits of service, visit [peacecorps.gov/benefits](http://peacecorps.gov/benefits)*



# What Volunteers Do

Volunteers are needed to fill a variety of openings throughout the world. The Peace Corps works with you to match your skills and background to an appropriate work area.



## Agriculture

Volunteers work with small-scale farmers to increase food security, adapt to climate change, and manage natural resources profitably and sustainably. They assist farmers from field to fork, promoting best practices in livestock management and fruit, vegetable, and cash crop production, as well as post-harvest with product development, storage, marketing, and sales.



## Community Economic Development

Volunteers work with municipalities, regional development banks, and nongovernmental organizations to strengthen infrastructure and encourage economic opportunities in communities. They frequently teach in classroom settings and work with entrepreneurs and business owners to develop and market their products. Some Volunteers also teach basic computer skills and help communities take advantage of technologies such as e-commerce, distance learning, and more.



## Education

Education is the Peace Corps' largest program area. Volunteers play an important role in creating links among schools, parents, and communities by working in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools as math, science, conversational English, and resource teachers or as early-grade reading and literacy teacher trainers. Volunteers also develop libraries and technology resource centers.

*Learn more about these work sectors at [peacecorps.gov/work](https://peacecorps.gov/work)*



## Environment

Volunteers help lead grassroots efforts in their communities to protect the environment and strengthen understanding of environmental issues. They teach environmental awareness in elementary and secondary schools and to youth groups and community organizations, empowering communities to make their own decisions about how to protect and conserve the local environment. Volunteers also address environmental degradation by promoting sustainable use of natural resources.



## Health

Health Volunteers work within their communities to promote important topics such as nutrition, maternal and child health, basic hygiene, and water sanitation. Volunteers also work in HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs to train youth as peer educators, develop appropriate education strategies, provide support to children orphaned by the pandemic, and create programs that provide emotional and financial support to families and communities affected by the disease.



## Youth in Development

Volunteers work with youth in communities on projects that promote engagement and active citizenship, including gender awareness, employability, health and HIV/AIDS education, environmental awareness, sporting programs, and information technology.



## Secondary Projects

Secondary activities allow Volunteers to customize their service by working in sectors outside of their primary project. These projects are Volunteer-initiated and based on community needs and may utilize funding from Peace Corps partnerships and grant programs.



# Who Volunteers?

## Diversity in the Peace Corps

### A Variety of Backgrounds

One of the goals of the Peace Corps is to help the people of other countries gain a better understanding of Americans and our multicultural society. The agency actively recruits people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences and is committed to ensuring that Volunteers represent the diversity of America.

### Couples

The Peace Corps welcomes couples; however, the opportunities to place couples are more limited than those for individual applicants. Both you and your partner must apply at the same time and qualify for assignments in the same country. Due to legal restrictions in certain host countries, same-sex couples may have more limited placement opportunities.

### There is No Upper Age Limit for Volunteers

Older applicants have a wealth of life skills, professional experience, and tested maturity to offer the Peace Corps. Eight percent of current Volunteers are age 50 or older, and this segment is a valuable part of the Peace Corps. When deciding to apply to serve in the Peace Corps, many older Americans have questions about issues that may be relevant to this stage of life, such as insurance, Social Security, or maintaining home and financial affairs while living abroad. For more information, visit [peacecorps.gov/50plus](https://peacecorps.gov/50plus) or ask your recruiter.

### Those in Mid-career

The Peace Corps can enhance an existing career or launch a new one. International leadership experience can lead to many opportunities upon return to the United States. Many returned Volunteers begin new careers based on their work experience in the Peace Corps.

*“The first question you’re asked here is how old you are, so they can put you in a strict sequence of where you fall in the toasting and which piece of meat you’ll be given at feasts. We were ranked very highly because of our age. It’s very nice to be treated with such tremendous respect.”*

— Harvey and Patty Gagnon  
Volunteers in Kyrgyz Republic

*“Serving as an African-American in Latin America has been really important because I can set an example and increase self-esteem. I see my role here is to inspire young black Ecuadorians.”*

— Kadeon Thomas  
Volunteer in Ecuador

Visit [peacecorps.gov/who](https://peacecorps.gov/who) to learn more about diversity in the Peace Corps.



## Short-Term Opportunities

**Peace Corps Response** offers short-term, high-impact assignments for U.S. citizens who have at least 10 years of work experience or are returned Volunteers. Peace Corps Response Volunteers provide targeted assistance in specialized development assignments ranging from three to 12 months. Visit [peacecorps.gov/response](https://peacecorps.gov/response) for more information.

**The Global Health Service Partnership** is a Peace Corps Response program that aims to build health-care capacity in countries that face critical shortages of health-care providers. Through the partnership, the Peace Corps sends trained health professionals to serve as faculty in medical, nursing, and clinical officer training schools of partnering countries for one year. Visit [peacecorps.gov/globalhealth](https://peacecorps.gov/globalhealth) for more information.

## Core Expectations for Peace Corps Volunteers

*In working toward fulfilling the Peace Corps mission of promoting world peace and friendship, as a trainee and Volunteer, you are expected to do the following:*

1. Prepare your personal and professional life to make a commitment to serve abroad for a full term of 27 months
2. Commit to improving the quality of life of the people with whom you live and work and, in doing so, share your skills, adapt them, and learn new skills as needed
3. Serve where the Peace Corps asks you to go, under conditions of hardship if necessary, and with the flexibility needed for effective service
4. Recognize that your successful and sustainable development work is based on the local trust and confidence you build by living in, and respectfully integrating yourself into, your host community and culture
5. Recognize that you are responsible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your personal conduct and professional performance
6. Engage with host country partners in a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, and respect
7. Work within the rules and regulations of the Peace Corps and the local and national laws of the country where you serve
8. Exercise judgment and personal responsibility to protect your health, safety, and well-being and that of others
9. Recognize that you will be perceived, in your host country and community, as a representative of the people, cultures, values, and traditions of the United States of America
10. Represent responsibly the people, cultures, values, and traditions of your host country and community to people in the United States both during and following your service