



For program information about the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary celebration, please contact:

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See more
50th anniversary
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THE PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY OVERVIEW

In 2011, the agency will be marking its 50th anniversary—50 years of promoting peace and friendship around the world. We intend to use this historic milestone as a platform to connect with millions of individuals who may or may not know very much about us, and reconnect with our long-time supporters—returned Peace Corps Volunteers, their families, friends, and our many partners who have worked closely with us over the years.

Our 50th Anniversary Objective

Beginning in October of 2010, and continuing through the end of 2011, a wide variety of events and activities are planned that directly support our 50th anniversary objective:

Utilize the 50th anniversary as a platform to support the agency's mission and legacy by honoring our past, demonstrating our effectiveness, and inspiring the next generation of volunteers through education and engagement.

By emphasizing **education** and **engagement** we strive to raise the profile of the agency, thus helping with recruitment efforts—all of which supports the three goals of the Peace Corps:

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

Preview

Some of the upcoming events and activities include:

October 12, 2010—Director Aaron S. Williams will be joined by three previous Peace Corps Directors for a panel discussion titled “50 years of the Peace Corps: Answering President Kennedy’s Call to Service” at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, Institute of Politics.

October 13–16, 2010—Director Aaron S. Williams, along with other Peace Corps notables, will join the University of Michigan to commemorate then-Senator John F. Kennedy’s 1960 campaign speech, which led to the agency’s creation.

January 2011—A commemorative poster created exclusively for the Peace Corps’ 50th anniversary by a prominent American artist will be released as part of the kick-off of our anniversary year.

March 2011—“Peace Corps Month” will mark President Kennedy’s 1961 signing of the Executive Order that created the agency. Efforts will include coordinated community outreach and service activities across the world in cooperation with regional recruiting offices, posts and global partners.

June 30–July 11, 2011—The Peace Corps will be a featured program at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The program will explore and celebrate the ways in which Volunteers understand communities they serve through local cultural traditions and how they collaborate with these communities to accomplish their work. Exhibits and demonstrations will include performances, food demonstrations, discussion panels, crafts, a reunion area, and a family learning section. Other programs on the country of Colombia and Rhythm and Blues music. Admission is free and the event annually draws over one million visitors.

Summer/Fall 2011—The Peace Corps will honor the departure of the first group of Volunteers to Ghana and Tanganyika (later called Tanzania) and passage of the historic Congressional authorization of Peace Corps in September 1961.

Throughout 2011—Leading educational and cultural institutions across the U.S. are marking the Peace Corps’ 50th anniversary with a diverse group of activities including academic symposia, lecture series, panel discussions, and award ceremonies. Events include an open house at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum in Boston; award ceremony at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Ga., symposium at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a conference at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, to name a few. In addition, the Peace Corps will collaborate extensively with the National Peace Corps Association and other returned Peace Corps Volunteer organizations in order to ensure the greatest outreach to and communications with the extended Peace Corps community.