

Youth Development



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

More than half of the population of most developing nations is under 25 years of age, yet these youth often face extreme challenges of poverty, family disintegration, lack of education, and other social ills that lead to marginalized lives and limited futures. The Peace Corps is helping to fill in the gaps for these youth, and are calling on people experienced in working with youth to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Life Skills for Youth at Risk is a Life's Work.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your workplace, classroom, and leadership experiences. Work in unforgettable locations where your knowledge and resourcefulness are in great demand. Forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering youth to overcome adversity and lead positive and productive lives in their families and communities. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and yours to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while making you stand out here at home.

Experience as a Peace Corps Volunteer working with at-risk youth is valued by numerous organizations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Save the Children, CARE International, Teach for America, and many private companies, NGOs, and public organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Youth Development Volunteer, your role will be to work directly with at-risk youth and families, while helping communities, schools, and agencies develop programs to support them. You might work in an orphanage, school, NGO, or local youth center. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Conduct community assessments to determine needs and identify resources
- Increase the self-esteem and employable skills of youth by teaching leadership skills, income generation activities, basic business concepts, health, and independent living skills
- Share best practices, workshops, fundraising, and collaboration models
- Lead teacher workshops to enhance their skills with youth beyond classroom academics
- Design educational materials that develop literacy
- Establish a variety of programs to engage youth in constructive free-time activities
- Encourage peer-to-peer mentoring and volunteerism
- Engage parents and other involved adults in youth activities and program development
- Develop workshops and programs to tackle a variety of issues, from HIV/AIDS and substance abuse awareness to environmental education, vocational training, and healthy lifestyles
- Serve as a mentor, teacher, counselor, coach, and advisor



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for a Youth Development assignment, you will need at a minimum:

- Associate degree and one year of full-time counseling experience with at-risk youth or
- Five years of relevant full-time work experience or
- Bachelor's degree in any discipline with six consecutive months full-time relevant experience

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. Based on the areas identified by our host countries, there is a pressing need to provide disadvantaged youth with skills, education, emotional support, and caring so they can rebound and thrive. Whether you work in a rural area, a small town, or a large city, you will have the opportunity to put your experience and ideas into practice and, in the process, be a catalyst for change and set the groundwork for a truly sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

Qualified applicants will have at least six months of full-time work experience with at-risk youth programs, teaching, or counseling. Other qualifying experience includes full-time work in one or more of the following categories: youth, conflict resolution or mediation skills, HIV/AIDS counseling or awareness training, coaching or working with physically or mentally disabled youth, or with national and community service programs.

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient to a successful volunteer experience. Become more competitive by taking at least a year of French or two years of Spanish at the university level. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exams to consider you for placement.

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Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

"Recognizing the high rate of teenage pregnancy, I formed an after-school girls group where they could openly discuss self-esteem, good communication, and personal values. Topics were combined with crafts, cooking classes, and field trips. With their newly acquired skills and self-respect, these students are now better equipped to stand up to peer-pressure and avoid risky behavior."

— Kristen Cummings, Volunteer in Peru