



“The logic of the Peace Corps is that someday we are going to bring it home to America.”

— President John F. Kennedy

Peace Corps Third Goal Presentation Planning Checklist

1. Find a Community Group, Classroom, or Organization to Host You

It's up to you to find a venue to speak. You can contact your local RPCV group by searching online. Similarly, youth, faith-based, retirement, and special interest groups and clubs, as well as professional associations in your area can be found online. For more outreach suggestions, click [here](#).

2. Discuss Your Presentation With Your Host

Speak with your host before the event. Together, tailor your presentation to the age, needs, and interests of your audience. Find out what the group knows about your country or region of service. Discuss any audiovisual needs you may have. Determine the size of the audience and an appropriate length for the presentation.

3. Promote Your Presentation

Offer to brief the group, school, or organization prior to your presentation. With your host, complete a [press release](#), and send it to your local newspaper three weeks before your presentation. Consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

4. Prepare Your Presentation

Establish the main points you want to cover. Think about what kinds of questions your audience might have about your country of service and your interest in becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer. Remember, audiences are interested in subjects related to their own experiences. Students want to know about kids their own age. A local business group may want to know about workplace issues, information technology, the environment, and other related issues. You may want to prepare handouts to distribute to the audience. Use the materials in your Third Goal Activity Kit and on the Peace Corps website to help develop your presentation. Determine the items you will bring to enhance your presentation. Practice your talk alone or in front of a group of friends.

5. Give Your Talk

Your opening remarks should describe your presentation roadmap and explain your background. Interact with your audience and invite members to participate. To enhance the content of your presentation, use statistics, quotations, and visual aids while including a few funny stories and personal anecdotes. Incorporate demonstrations of local customs. Be aware of the length of your presentation. Finish with a question-and-answer session. Be sure to thank your host and the audience for hosting you.

6. Follow Up

After the presentation, contact your host for feedback and follow up on any promises you made during the speech—such as answers to any questions you could not answer, but offered to look up later. Display your books, maps, and artifacts in an exhibit case at the school or organization's venue. Mail copies of newspaper articles about your presentation to the Third Goal specialist or simply tell us how you engaged in the Third Goal.

Preparing Your Presentation

When you returned from your Peace Corps service, you probably brought home many stories, photographs, artifacts, and memories. Engage your audience by taking an interactive approach to your presentation. Use your mementos, ask questions, and conduct activities that bring your talk to life.

If you're not sure where to begin, try narrowing your focus. Address the special interests of the audience while talking about a subject you love. Begin with an overview of the Peace Corps and your host country, and then focus on one aspect of your service. Some ideas to get you started follow. Remember to have fun and be creative.

Music

Present the traditional music from your country of service. What role do musicians play in that society? Where and when do they perform? Contrast the country's traditional and contemporary music. Describe the instruments. Bring some instruments along to play and let the audience play them, too.

Family

Talk about the host families you lived with as a Volunteer. How many people were in the family? What holidays or special occasions did the family celebrate? How? Describe the home. Talk about the responsibilities of each family member within the household. What did family members do for fun? How did the family handle an emergency or other crisis? Show photographs of the house and the family; bring textiles or knickknacks that may have been displayed in the home; read letters that the family has sent you.

Literature

Present examples of folktales, proverbs, and oral histories from your host country. How do they reflect different elements and themes of the society? Ask your audience for examples of similar tales from their backgrounds, and draw parallels between the examples. Read selections of past and contemporary literature from your host country.

Cultural Activities

In classroom presentations, help students begin to understand the perspectives of other cultures. The short Peace Corps publication *Building Bridges* offers lesson plans in cross-cultural understanding and gives schoolchildren an opportunity to understand more about how culture can affect behavior and attitudes. Download the free PDF version from the Coverdell World Wise Schools website [here](#).

Tell your story.