



Since 1961.

Did you know?
25 Peace Corps Fun Facts

1. **Oldest Peace Corps country** – The first group of Volunteers left for Ghana on August 28, 1961.
2. **Oldest Volunteer, in 2008 and historically** – For 2008, the oldest Volunteer is Ralph H. Bernstein, 84, who is now teaching science in Ghana. Historically, it was Arthur Goodfriend of Honolulu. Goodfriend was 87 when he completed his second Peace Corps tour. He served in the Philippines from 1977 to 1979, and in Hungary from 1991 to 1994.
3. **Youngest Volunteer, in 2008 and historically** – Historically, the youngest Volunteer was Jim Burkett, who was 17 years old at the time and received special permission from President Kennedy, Burkett then became a Peace Corps Fellow at the University of Texas-El Paso in his fifties.
4. **Country farthest north** – The past served country that is farthest north is Russia, where 729 Volunteers have served from 1992 to 2003. Presently, the country farthest north is Kazakhstan.
5. **Country farthest south** – The past served country that is farthest south is Argentina, where 38 volunteers served from 1992 to 1994. Presently, the farthest south is Paraguay, where nearly 3,000 Volunteers have served since 1967 and about 200 Volunteers are working today.
6. **Peace Corps country farthest away from the United States** – The country farthest away from the United States is Mauritius, which is 9,758 miles away from Miami, Florida.
7. **Peace Corps country nearest to the United States** – The Peace Corps country nearest to the United States is Mexico.
8. **Coldest Peace Corps country** (or the coldest it gets in a cold Peace Corps country) – The coldest Peace Corps country is Mongolia. Its capital, Ulaanbaatar, holds the record of the coldest capital on the planet.
9. **Hottest Peace Corps country** (or the hottest it gets in a Peace Corps country) – The hottest past Peace Corps country has been Libya, reaching 136.4 F, while the hottest current Peace Corps country is Mali, where it can reach 130.1F.
10. **Largest/smallest Peace Corps country by landmass/population** – The smallest Peace Corps country by landmass and population is Tuvalu, with 12,000 residents living on nine square miles. The largest Peace Corps country by landmass and population is China, with 1,306,313,800 residents living on 3,704,426 square miles.
11. **Peace Corps country at the lowest/ highest altitude** – The Peace Corps country at the lowest altitude is Jordan, at 418m below sea level. Nepal has the highest altitude, at 8,848m above sea level.
12. **Most recent Peace Corps country** – The most recent Peace Corps country is Cambodia, which received its first volunteers in 2006.

13. **Countries with the most Volunteers** – For 2008, Ukraine has the most volunteers, with 347 Volunteers currently serving or in training. Kenya has received the most Volunteers over time, with 4,810 cumulative.
14. **Country with the fewest Volunteers** – The fewest volunteers for 2008 are serving in Ethiopia, with 30 Volunteers currently serving or in training.
15. **Highest number of Volunteers serving at one time** – The highest number of Volunteers serving at one time was in 1967, with 15,556 Volunteers.
16. **Most/least common assignment for a Peace Corps Volunteer** – Secondary Education English Teaching is the most common assignment with 16.8 percent and 1,322 Volunteers in 2008; Forestry is the least common, with 0.3 percent and 23 Volunteers in 2008.
17. **Interesting animals that Peace Corps Volunteers may see in their host countries** – Giraffes, wild horses, elephants, zebras, birds, etc. In The Gambia, chimpanzees, wild golden cats, and gazelles; in Ecuador, opossum, giant anteaters, spider monkeys, and spectacled bears; in Ivory Coast, lions, pygmy hippos, and otters; in Nepal, elephants, Tibetan antelope, rhinos, red pandas, water buffalo, and snow leopards.
18. **Number of estimated languages spoken by Peace Corps Volunteers in the field** – According to the Congressional Budget Justification for 2008, there are 224 languages spoken by Volunteers.
19. **Foods eaten in certain Peace Corps countries** – In Costa Rica, common food staples are rice, beans, and tortillas. In Madagascar, there are plantains and banana fritters. In Niger, crispy fried locusts are a common recipe during locust season. Thai common ingredients include coconut milk, lime juice, lemon grass, fish sauce, and chili sauce. Most dishes are served stir-fry style and eaten with white rice. In Fiji, common ingredients are root vegetables like yam, cassava, and taro root; meats such as beef, pork, poultry, and seafood; and a variety of tropical fruit such as coconut milk, pineapple mango, guava, and bananas. In Azerbaijan, lamb and beef are served with vegetables like cabbage, beets, eggplant, and spinach and spiced with saffron, coriander, fennel, and dill.
20. **State that sends the most Volunteers, historically** (absolute number and per capita) – California has sent the most Volunteers historically, with 26,249 Volunteers since 1961, while Vermont has the highest per capita numbers of Volunteers in the field, with close to 10 Volunteers out of every 100,000 Vermont residents.
21. **University that sends the most Volunteers, historically** – Since 1961, the University of California, Berkeley has sent the most Volunteers, so far numbering 3,326. In 2006, the University of Washington sent the most Volunteers with 113.
22. **Number of Master's International students/Peace Corps Volunteers and Fellows** – Currently, there are 400 students participating in the Master's International program and 414 students participating in the Fellows program.
23. **Number of books published by Volunteers** – About 961 Volunteers have published books following their Peace Corps service, making the number of books published by Peace Corps Volunteers well over 1,000.
24. **Number of universities participating in Master's International and Fellows** – At the end of 2008, there are 60 universities participating in the Master's International program and 51 partner schools with the Fellows program.
25. **Number of United States classrooms matched with a Peace Corps Volunteer in 2008** – During fiscal year 2008, there were 5,106 Volunteers matched with a classroom through Coverdell World Wise Schools.