

INSIDE PEACE CORPS

Chief Executive Officer's Message

Connect. It is a powerful word that captures the essence of what the Peace Corps is all about. And, it is our invitation to people of all ages and from communities around the United States to join the Peace Corps network, to connect across difference, and to contribute to world peace and friendship. As of today, Volunteers in 28 countries have begun the unique, transformational journey of Peace Corps service. Already, they have bonded with our amazing staff, and begun learning local languages and collaborating with community members. And, every day, they are sharing meals with trainers or host families, meeting their neighbors, and making lifelong friends.

Over the past year, I have been asked repeatedly why Volunteers retain such close ties with their host communities and identify so strongly as returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), even decades after the close of their service. There are many reasons, but the one I keep coming back to is the gift of connection and the opportunity to work alongside people who challenge us to open our minds and hearts in new and unforgettable ways. It has been such a joy to meet several groups of Trainees as they departed for service, knowing that their excitement and energy will soon develop into a lifetime of connection and deep appreciation.

Do you know someone who would make a terrific Volunteer? Help us spread the word that Volunteers are back in action and that we are accepting applications for more than 50 countries!

Calling all RPCVs! Inspire your networks to apply.

Peace Corps Volunteers are back in service around the world! RPCVs, we would like your help to spread this exciting news by sharing your Peace Corps experience with the next generation of Volunteers. Currently, we are inviting future Volunteers to serve in:



To help get the word out, we developed a **Connect Campaign Toolkit**. Download the toolkit's photos and videos to post on social media and share the opportunity of Peace Corps service with others.

Developments

The Return of Volunteers to Service Overseas. To date, Trainees and reinstated Volunteers have returned to 28 countries: Belize, Benin, Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ghana, Grenada, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. These and all 53 countries issuing invitations (see above) have met the Peace Corps' robust reentry criteria, which involve health, safety, and other logistical factors. Learn more about the Peace Corps' reentry progress and current **Volunteer Openings** on the **Return to Service** page.

Sexual Assault Advisory Council Summit. In May, the Peace Corps' Sexual Assault Risk Reduction and Response (SARRR) program hosted the independent Sexual Assault Advisory Council (SAAC) Summit. Staff and Council members discussed recommendations, actions taken to strengthen the SARRR program, and next steps. The Peace Corps is working to fulfill the SAAC's recommendations outlined in the **2021 SAAC Report** and to complete its own commitments toward **Broadening the Peace Corps' Approach to Sexual Assault Prevention**. Following the May Summit, members submitted a **SAAC Memorandum** to Peace Corps leadership. The memorandum summarizes the Summit's outcomes and the Peace Corps' progress toward implementing recommendations. The Peace Corps will host a second SAAC Summit this month to provide the Council with additional updates that members may use to finalize their 2022 annual report.

Revised Volunteer Core Expectations and Staff Responsibilities and Conduct. In an effort to better lead with and express its values, the Peace Corps revised the Core Expectations for Volunteers and the Staff Responsibilities and Conduct. These revised standards articulate how staff and Volunteers are to conduct themselves in their work and during their service and were codified in the Peace Corps Manual in May 2022. Staff and Volunteers commit to upholding these ethical standards as they are sworn into their roles or into service. The updated **Core Expectations for Peace Corps Volunteers** are available on the Peace Corps website.

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Annual Meeting. In July, Peace Corps staff participated in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Annual Meeting and the AIDS2022 Conference in Montreal, Canada. During the PEPFAR Annual Meeting, Dr. John Nkengasong, the newly confirmed U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy (who was formerly taught by a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon), outlined his vision for community- and youth-led programming. Peace Corps staff and Volunteers will help to implement this vision in the 13 countries that are supported by both PEPFAR and Peace Corps. Learn more about the **Peace Corps' partnership with PEPFAR**.



The Peace Corps in Photos

In the News

The Peace Corps is making headlines! Here are a few recent stories. *(Clicking any of the news links will take you to a third-party website.)*

The Guardian

'He's the only American I have a relationship with': The Friendship that Survived 40 Years of Afghan Conflict

Government Matters

Peace Corps Volunteers Return to Service after Pandemic-driven Pause

Notre Dame Stories

Origin Story: The Peace Corps Began in Part on the Campus of Notre Dame

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We live in a chaotic, divisive, and difficult world, but we also live in a world with a lot of goodness. There's goodness in each of our hearts just waiting to be ignited... And I think the Peace Corps showed me the goodness of America and what it truly represents.

**— Roberto “Ambet” Yangco, Peace Corps/Philippines Staff Member, '02-present
2022 Peace Corps John F. Kennedy Service Award Recipient**

Stories

This issue, we highlight a partner and four RPCVs' work and perspectives on technology:



Longtime Peace Corps Partner Gives Virtual Service a Try

"Luis Enrique Macario Ajcá's infectious passion for youth development is rooted in the belief that, if given the opportunity, youth can make a difference in their communities."



Thought Leaders Forum Explores the Intersection of Technology and Development

"Four returned Volunteers – all professionals in technology – provided their viewpoints on how to leverage technology to maximize and shape global development."

[Read more stories →](#)

Events

Check out recent and upcoming virtual events involving the Peace Corps:

June 7 – Community and National Youth Service: A Vision from the Field (recording)

June 14 – The FY23 Budget Request Hearing for Peace Corps (recording)

July 21 – Peace Corps Thought Leaders Series: Exploring the Intersection of Technology and Development (recording)

July 28 – Public Service Loan Forgiveness for RPCVs and Peace Corps Staff (recording)

September 12 – At the Intersection of Climate and Poverty: Solutions to Advance Planetary and Human Well-being by RPCVs for Environmental Action (registration)

September 19-23 – Rotary-Peace Corps Week 2022: Peacebuilding on the Ground (registration)

September 24 – Global Connections Storytelling Showcase: Stories from the Peace Corps (Information on the free, Kennedy Center event)

[View all events →](#)



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