Presentation Tips

DOs

- **DO** have fun. Think of a presentation as simply a conversation with friends who want to learn about your experience. Be sure your answers are animated and engaging, yet concise.

- **DO** speak about personal experiences, and feel free to talk about what motivated you to serve.

- **DO** ask questions of audience members. Say something like, "I had an amazing experience in Zambia. Is there anything specific you would like to learn from me about the Peace Corps or Zambia?"

- **DO** bring photo albums, artifacts, and/or articles of clothing for display.

- **DO** select 10-20 photos when creating a presentation. The presentation should last no more than 20 minutes. Select photos that walk the audience through your experience using the Customizable PowerPoint Template.

- **DO** weave colorful glimpses of the Peace Corps experience, utilizing at least three snippets of anecdotal material. This adds emotional depth to the presentation.

- **DO** remember to speak ethically about your host country. Your audience probably doesn't know anything about the community where you served. How would they like themselves to be represented? Remember – your stories have an impact!"

- **DO** keep in mind that audiences will see you as a representative of Peace Corps, a person who—in the words of founding Director Sargent Shriver—"personifies our best qualities and deploys to the world the vision of what the United States stands for." What you choose to say—and how you say it–matters.

DON'Ts

- **DON'T** read your presentation slides word-for-word. The audience can read your slides while you talk about an experience related to the subject.

- **DON'T** generalize about the Peace Corps experience. What you experienced is unique to you. Each volunteer has a different experience. Say, "This is what I experienced," or "I can tell you about what it was like in my village."

- **DON'T** use Peace Corps acronyms like RPCV, PCV, IST, MST, and COS. These terms are meaningless to someone who has not served in the Peace Corps.

- **DON'T** try to explain everything about the culture or the history of the country where you served. The details will be lost. People remember a personal story more than a history lesson.

- **DON'T** overshare horror stories. It's alright to share stories about getting sick or giant bugs, but try to seek balance in your content. If you speak at length about being ill and briefly about your work, then your audience will take away the negative parts of your experience instead of the positive. How did you receive help to overcome the difficult situation?Why would you join Peace Corps again despite these hardships?

- **DON'T** cite statistics unless they are particularly relevant to anecdotal material you happen to be presenting.

Peace Corps

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