

MS 207 Volunteer Oath and Pledge

Effective Date: May 20, 2015

Responsible Office: Office of Global Operations

New Manual Section

Issuance Memo (5/20/2015)

1.0 Authority

22 U.S.C. §2504(j).

2.0 Purpose

This Manual Section establishes the Peace Corps policy requiring individuals enrolling as Volunteers to take an oath prescribed by law and, under certain circumstances, to take a Peace Corps Volunteer pledge.

3.0 Policy

- (a) All individuals who have satisfied the standards for enrollment as a Volunteer must swear or affirm to the following oath orally and in writing in English in order to become a Volunteer. Such individuals must be told that they have the option to swear or affirm, and to omit the last sentence:

I, *first, last name* do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. [So help me God.]

- (b) At the discretion of the Country Director, after taking the required oath, Volunteers may also be required to take the following Peace Corps Pledge orally and in writing:

I first, last name promise to serve alongside the people of Country of Service.

I promise to share my culture with an open heart and open mind.

I promise to foster an understanding of the people of Country of Service, with creativity, cultural sensitivity, and respect.

I will face the challenges of service with patience, humility, and determination.

I will embrace the mission of world peace and friendship for as long as I serve and beyond.

In the proud tradition of Peace Corps' legacy, and in the spirit of the Peace Corps family past, present, and future- I am a Peace Corps Volunteer.

- (c) Volunteer oaths and pledges are to be administered by the Peace Corps Director, Regional Director, or Country Director as set out in MS 114 Attachment H, or by the U.S. Ambassador in country or his or her designee.

4.0 Effective Date

The effective date is the date of issuance.