

Third Goal on Annual Leave Guidance

1.0 What is Third Goal on Annual Leave?

Third Goal on Annual Leave (3GOAL) is an incentive program for Volunteers to share their host country and Volunteer service experiences with Americans while providing an opportunity to earn back up to 3 days of annual leave, as set forth in section 4.7 of MS 220 *Leave for Volunteers and Trainees*. 3GOAL is an effective way for a Country Director to support Volunteers in achieving the Peace Corps' Third Goal, "to help promote a better understanding of other people on the part of Americans," as well as support direct recruitment efforts for their host country.

2.0 What is a Third Goal activity?

A Third Goal activity means a planned event or talk to a group of Americans in the United States that creates a better understanding of the people or culture of a Volunteer's country of service.

Third Goal activity examples:

- (a) visiting a classroom and giving an interactive presentation;
- (b) hosting a table at a high school career fair; and
- (c) giving a talk at a local community organization.

Please note, social occasions with other Returned Peace Corps Volunteers or informal gatherings with friends and family are not considered Third Goal activities for the purposes of this leave credit.

3.0 How does a Volunteer qualify for 3GOAL credit?

In order to qualify for 3GOAL credit, the Volunteer must:

- (a) obtain approval from their Country Director for a 3GOAL credit at least 2 weeks prior to beginning annual leave. In the request for Country Director approval, the Volunteer must include the date, time, place, and estimated number of attendees at each Third Goal activity to be conducted during annual leave, along with the number of 3GOAL credit days requested;
- (b) email the Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services at thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov with the date, time, place, and estimated number of attendees;
- (c) inform the Regional Recruiting Office of the date, time, place, and estimated number of attendees, by contacting a Regional Recruiter that covers the territory where the Third Goal

activity will be conducted. To connect with a recruiter, a Volunteer should visit <https://www.peacecorps.gov/volunteer/connect-with-a-recruiter/>; and

- (d) Upon return from leave, the Volunteer must document the activity in the Volunteer Reporting and Grants (VRG) tool as a Third Goal activity.

Before granting a Volunteer a 3GOAL credit, Post staff should verify that the Volunteer has met the above requirements in 3.0 (a)-(d). A Volunteer that does not complete all of the steps in section 3.0 (a)-(d) above is not eligible for any additional annual leave days through the 3GOAL credit.

4.0 How is 3GOAL credit calculated?

One annual leave day may be earned back for each day during which one or more Third Goal activities are conducted. Volunteers may only earn a maximum of three (3) days of leave credits for Third Goal activities during their Peace Corps service.

Examples of earning a 3GOAL credit are as follows:

- (a) If a Volunteer conducts two Third Goal activities in one day, the Volunteer may only receive one annual leave day back through the 3GOAL credit.
- (b) If a Volunteer conducts two to three Third Goal activities each on separate days, the Volunteer may receive a 3GOAL credit of one annual leave day back for each day during which a Third Goal activity is conducted.

5.0 Where can I learn more?

For further guidance on 3GOAL, reach out to the Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services at thirdgoal@peacecorps.gov.