Live, learn, and work with a community overseas.

Be a Volunteer.

peacecorps.gov
The Peace Corps welcomes people from every background and does not discriminate against anyone based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 or over), disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, union membership, genetic information, or prior participation in protected activity including grievance proceedings.
What’s Inside?

Peace Corps Overview .................................................................2
Peace Corps Today ........................................................................5
The Volunteer Experience ..........................................................6
Benefits During Service ..............................................................10
Benefits After Service ...............................................................11
Who Volunteers .........................................................................14
Map of Where Peace Corps Volunteers Serve ..............................16
What Makes a Successful Volunteer ..........................................19
Core Expectations ......................................................................21
Volunteer Work Areas ...............................................................22
Application Process ....................................................................30

“The Peace Corps represents some, if not all, of the best virtues in our society. It stands for everything America has ever stood for. It stands for everything we believe in and hope to achieve in the world.”

R. Sargent Shriver
First Director of the Peace Corps, 1961–66
Peace Corps Overview

The Peace Corps is in 65 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific.

More than 7,000 Volunteers and trainees are in the field annually.

Since 1961, the Peace Corps has remained true to its service mission.

More than 215,000 Americans have served.

94% of Volunteers have at least an undergraduate degree.

Data as of September 30, 2013

*Peace Corps Response Volunteers serve in all sectors.
THE PEACE CORPS MISSION
To promote world peace and friendship by

• Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women
• Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served
• Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans

Volunteers are placed where their skills match the needs of host countries

The Peace Corps is an independent U.S. government agency

Volunteers range in age from 20-79

To be eligible for service, you must be at least 18 YEARS OLD and a U.S. CITIZEN

There is no upper age limit

7% Married 93% Single

22% Minorities

The length of service is 2 years

Unlike many other international volunteer programs, there is no fee to participate in the Peace Corps

Apply nine months in advance of your desired date of departure

Volunteers live in the communities they serve, from small rural villages to large urban cities

Find informational meetings in your area, interact with recruiters through virtual webcasts, or watch recruitment presentations at peacecorps.gov/events

DIGITAL LIBRARY: collection.peacecorps.gov
PASSPORT BLOG: passport.peacecorps.gov
Peace Corps Today

Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer is an experience like no other.

Peace Corps Volunteers want to make a difference, and they do. Their service improves the lives of people in communities around the world, informs the global perspectives of Americans, and is a life-defining experience for Volunteers themselves.

Today’s Peace Corps Volunteers are the United States’ grassroots ambassadors around the world, serving in 65 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. By providing technical assistance to countries that request it, the Peace Corps shares the United States’ most precious resources: its people and their skills.

Volunteers serve abroad for two years, working directly with communities to build capacity in the following sectors:

- Agriculture
- Community Economic Development
- Education
- Environment
- Health
- Youth in Development

In return, Volunteers receive benefits before and after service, learn new languages, gain leadership and international development experience, and work with their host countries as partners and friends.

Peace Corps Response

Peace Corps Response offers short-term, high-impact assignments for U.S. citizens who have at least 10 years of work experience or are returned Volunteers. Peace Corps Response Volunteers provide targeted assistance in specialized development assignments ranging from three to 12 months. Visit peacecorps.gov/response for more information.

The Global Health Service Partnership is a Peace Corps Response program that aims to build health-care capacity in countries that face critical shortages of health-care providers. Through the partnership, the Peace Corps sends trained health professionals to serve as faculty in medical, nursing, and clinical officer training schools of partnering countries for one year. Visit peacecorps.gov/globalhealth for more information.
The Volunteer Experience

Service Length and Location

Peace Corps Volunteers serve for two years, plus pre-service training. Each Volunteer serves in a single community in one of 65 countries, assisting in an area specified by the host country. There may be just one Volunteer in a particular community or there may be several Volunteers in the same area.

Peace Corps Training

Online training starts before you depart the United States. Once you arrive in your assigned country, the Peace Corps provides two to three months of training. Volunteers study together and receive intensive instruction in the local language, usually from native speakers. Volunteers also learn technical skills related to their jobs and become familiar with the country’s cultural traditions. During this period, most Volunteers live with host families to fully immerse themselves in the new culture. At the completion of training, Volunteers travel to their individual sites having gained the language, technical, and cross-cultural skills needed to begin their work. Over the next two years of service, the Peace Corps provides Volunteers with regular opportunities to reinforce existing skills and gain new skills related to work, language, culture, and safety.

“The Peace Corps is a special job. There is an emphasis on development, but with a focus on understanding the people with whom we are living. It is when people know us and trust us that we are able to be our most effective.”

Chris Morrill
Volunteer in El Salvador and Bolivia
Work Schedule

Volunteers work with counterparts and local government or nongovernmental organizations, which means that there is no standard work schedule. Some Volunteers work 9 a.m.–5 p.m., while some may have a more flexible schedule. The length and structure of a Volunteer’s workday depends on the particular assignment, and there are opportunities to develop additional projects in conjunction with the local community.

Living Conditions

The Peace Corps provides housing and covers the cost of other necessities. Because Volunteers live at the same level of the people in the community they serve, housing accommodations vary greatly, from a simple rural hut to an urban apartment. There may or may not be electricity or running water. Bathroom facilities may be as basic as an outdoor latrine. Some Volunteers share housing with a local family or a co-worker in their assigned communities, while others live by themselves. No matter what, all housing must meet the Peace Corps’ standards for safety and suitability.

All sites undergo a thorough evaluation and selection process that considers safety and security; access to medical care, banking, postal, and other essential services; access to communication, transportation, and local markets; availability of adequate housing and living arrangements; and agreements with host country authorities and communities.
Communication While Abroad

Most Volunteers are able to maintain contact with friends, family, and fellow Volunteers by text message, email, social media, phone, and mail. Access to these modes of communication can vary greatly from site to site: Some have very limited technology while others have considerable access. More than 98 percent of Volunteers have a cellphone or smartphone. In all cases, the Peace Corps has systems in place to contact each Volunteer if there is a family or in-country emergency.

Peace Corps Support Abroad

For each country where Volunteers serve, there is a Peace Corps office and staff, managed by a country director. Members of the staff include a safety and security coordinator, medical personnel, program managers, and trainers. Medical staff train Volunteers on basic medical skills, provide primary care, distribute medical supplies, and visit Volunteers at their sites periodically during their service. If a health problem occurs that cannot be treated locally, the Peace Corps, at its own expense, will send the Volunteer to an appropriate facility in a nearby country or the United States.

“Being a Peace Corps Volunteer has allowed me to put my degree to good use, travel and explore the culture and lifestyle of people outside the United States, and learn more about myself.”

Jessica Blatt
Volunteer in Paraguay
**Family Emergencies**

If a death or life-threatening illness occurs in a Volunteer’s immediate family, the Peace Corps provides a leave period and pays for the Volunteer’s travel home. Immediate family is defined as a parent, spouse, sibling, child, or grandchild related to the Volunteer by blood, marriage, or adoption. This includes step-relatives (e.g., stepmother), but does not include in-laws (e.g., mother-in-law).

**Volunteer Safety and Security**

The health and safety of Volunteers is the Peace Corps’ highest priority. The agency devotes significant resources to providing Volunteers with the training, support, and information they need to stay healthy and safe.

However, because Volunteers live and work in communities across the globe, often in remote locations, health and safety risks are inherent. The Peace Corps takes an integrated approach to safety and security, training Volunteers on their new environment and giving them the necessary tools to effectively handle the many challenges they will face. Peace Corps staff and Volunteers work together to maximize Volunteers’ well-being and enable them to carry out their mission effectively.

At each post, the Peace Corps has a country-specific emergency action plan to address events such as natural disasters or civil unrest. The plan ensures Volunteers can be contacted and supported in case of an emergency. Volunteers receive training on who to contact, what to do, and where to go, as well as the agency’s plan of action. In a crisis, the Peace Corps coordinates with the U.S. embassy in the host country to share information, develop strategies, and coordinate communications.

Visit [peacecorps.gov/safety](http://peacecorps.gov/safety) to learn more.
Benefits During Service

Pay and Living Expenses

The Peace Corps provides each Volunteer with housing and a living stipend that enables him or her to live in a manner similar to the local people in the community, covering food and incidentals. The agency provides complete dental and medical care during service, including shots, vaccinations, and medicines. It also covers the cost of transportation to and from the country of service. Unlike other international volunteer programs, there is no fee to participate in the Peace Corps.

Vacation Time and Visits

Volunteers receive two vacation days per month of service—a total of 48 days over two years. Many use this time to travel to nearby countries. Some invite family or friends to visit so they can share their experience of the host country. And, of course, Volunteers can use this time for a visit home (at their own expense).

Combining Graduate School and Peace Corps

Pursuing graduate school and the Peace Corps is possible through the Master’s International program, which allows you to begin studies on campus, serve abroad for two years, then return to school to finish your degree. Master’s International offers 100-plus programs in a wide range of fields at more than 80 campuses nationwide. As part of your Peace Corps service, you will work on projects related to your master’s studies. A list of participating schools and fields of study can be found at peacecorps.gov/masters.

Deferment of Student Loans

School loan deferments exist for several federal programs (i.e., Stafford, Perkins, direct, and consolidated loans). Volunteers with Perkins loans may be eligible for a 30–70 percent cancellation benefit. Some private loans may also be deferred during Peace Corps service. Because the rules that authorize deferment are subject to change and determinations are made by the lending institution, it is best to talk to your lender about how this benefit applies to your particular situation.
Benefits After Service

*Develop Skills for the Global Marketplace*

Fluency in foreign languages, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today’s global economy. The Peace Corps provides you with up to three months of intensive training before service begins and offers continued training throughout your service. Whether you are a recent college graduate, mid-career, or retired, the new skills you learn can enhance your marketability and help you achieve long-term career goals. Volunteers returning from abroad have used their Peace Corps experience as the foundation for successful careers in a variety of fields, from government to business to education.

*Earn Funds for Transition*

The Peace Corps recognizes that returning from overseas requires some adjustment, so when you complete your two years of service, it provides $7,425 (pre-tax) to help with the transition to life back home. This money is yours to use as you wish.

*Extend Health Benefits*

Take advantage of affordable health insurance following Volunteer service. The Peace Corps pays the first month’s premium, then you have the option to purchase a reasonably priced insurance policy to cover you and qualified dependents for a limited time after you finish service.

*Post-Service Education and Career Support*

When Volunteers return to the United States, the Peace Corps provides transition assistance related to jobs and education. The Peace Corps publishes online job announcements, graduate school information, and career-related articles and advice; sponsors career events throughout the year in Washington, D.C., and across the country; and helps returned Volunteers translate their field experience for prospective employers and other professional contacts. Many returned Volunteers continue their careers in public service after the Peace Corps, and may be eligible for student loan forgiveness programs through the Department of Education.
Graduate School Financial Benefit Eligibility

Returned Volunteers are offered reduced tuition, assistantships, and stipends at more than 80 participating campuses in a variety of subject areas through the Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program. Fellows combine graduate study with substantive, degree-related internships that help meet the needs of underserved U.S. communities. A list of participating schools and fields of study can be found at peacecorps.gov/fellows.

Federal Employment Advantages

Volunteers who complete two years of service receive one year of noncompetitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. This means that, at the hiring agency’s discretion, if a Volunteer meets the minimum qualifications for a position, he or she can be hired without going through the standard competitive process. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers who are employed by the federal government can receive credit toward retirement for their years of Peace Corps service.

Employment Opportunities at Peace Corps Partner Organizations

The Peace Corps partners with nonprofit, government, and community development organizations eager to apply returned Volunteers’ service experience to programs in the United States and abroad. Your Peace Corps service strengthens your competitiveness for employment at other federal agencies, international and domestic nongovernmental organizations, and volunteering and service organizations. Visit peacecorps.gov/careerpartners for a list of partner organizations.

Be Part of a Vibrant Network

After service, you can share your experiences with some of the more than 215,000 returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Connecting with any of the hundreds of diverse returned Volunteer groups is a great way to stay engaged as part of the active alumni network.
A Variety of Backgrounds

One of the goals of the Peace Corps is to help the people of other countries gain a better understanding of Americans and our multicultural society. The agency actively recruits people with a variety of backgrounds and experiences to best share our nation's greatest resource—its people—with the communities where Volunteers serve around the globe.

“Serving as an African American in Latin America has been really important because I can set an example and increase self-esteem. I see my role here is to inspire young black Ecuadorians.”

Kadeon Thomas
Volunteer in Ecuador

Those in Mid-career

The Peace Corps can enhance an existing career or launch a new one. International leadership experience can lead to many opportunities upon return to the United States. Many returned Volunteers begin new careers based on their work experience in the Peace Corps.

Couples

The Peace Corps welcomes couples who are married or in a recognized domestic partnership or equivalent. However, the opportunities to place couples are more limited than those for individual applicants. Both you and your spouse/partner must apply at the same time and qualify for assignments in the same country. Couples who have been married or in an equivalent committed relationship for at least a year before they begin service have usually been better able to adapt to the challenges of the Peace Corps than those who are newly coupled. Due to legal restrictions in certain host countries, same-sex couples may have more limited placement opportunities.
There is No Upper Age Limit for Volunteers

Older applicants have a wealth of life skills, professional experience, and tested maturity to offer the Peace Corps. Eight percent of current Volunteers are age 50 or older, and this segment is a valuable part of the Peace Corps. When deciding to apply to serve in the Peace Corps, many older Americans have questions about issues that may be relevant to this stage of life, such as insurance, Social Security, or maintaining home and financial affairs while living abroad. For more information, visit peacecorps.gov/50plus or ask your recruiter.

“The first question you’re asked here is how old you are, so they can put you in a strict sequence of where you fall in the toasting and which piece of meat you’ll be given at feasts. We were ranked very highly because of our age. It’s very nice to be treated with such tremendous respect.”

Harvey and Patty Gagnon
Volunteers in Kyrgyz Republic

In Good Health

Due to the nature of countries where the Peace Corps serves and the scope of the medical services available in those countries, all applicants undergo a comprehensive medical and dental assessment to determine if they are medically qualified to serve in the Peace Corps and that any special medical needs can be supported in their country of service.

To be considered for Peace Corps service you must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen.
Where Volunteers Serve

Countries with Volunteers as of September 30, 2013. Posts where Volunteers are not currently serving are not listed.

**The Caribbean**
1. Dominican Republic
   2. Dominica
   3. Grenada
   4. St. Lucia
   5. St. Vincent/Grenadines
   6. Jamaica

**Latin America**
7. Belize
   8. Colombia
   9. Costa Rica
   10. Ecuador
   11. El Salvador
   12. Guatemala
   13. Guyana
   14. Mexico
   15. Nicaragua
   16. Panama
   17. Paraguay
   18. Peru

**North Africa and the Middle East**
19. Jordan
20. Morocco

**Africa**
21. Benin
22. Botswana
23. Burkina Faso
24. Cameroon
25. Ethiopia
26. The Gambia
27. Ghana
28. Guinea
29. Kenya
30. Lesotho
31. Liberia
32. Madagascar
33. Malawi

Visit peacecorps.gov/countries for up-to-date information.
Where Volunteers Go and What They Do

Countries with Volunteers as of September 30, 2013.

Posts where Volunteers are not currently serving are not listed.

Where Volunteers Serve

4% The Caribbean
1 Dominican Republic
2 Eastern Caribbean
3 Dominica
4 Grenada
5 St. Lucia
6 St. Vincent⁄Grenadines
7 Jamaica

20% Latin America
8 Belize
9 Colombia
10 Costa Rica
11 Ecuador
12 El Salvador
13 Guatemala
14 Guyana
15 Mexico
16 Nicaragua
17 Paraguay
18 Peru

13% Eastern Europe/ Central Asia
45 Albania
46 Armenia
47 Azerbaijan
48 Georgia
49 Kyrgyz Republic
50 Macedonia
51 Moldova
52 Ukraine

3% Pacific Islands
53 Federated States of Micronesia
54 Palau
55 Fiji
56 Samoa
57 Tonga
58 Vanuatu

10% Asia
59 Cambodia
60 China
61 Indonesia
62 Mongolia
63 Nepal
64 Philippines
65 Thailand

Visit peacecorps.gov/countries for up-to-date information.
What Makes A Successful Volunteer?

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you will likely be placed in an environment very different from anything you’ve experienced in the United States. Letting go of expectations and being flexible will help you handle whatever comes your way.

For example, Volunteers live like the neighbors they serve, so access to running water, electricity, or other resources varies. Housing is safe but may be very basic. Also, in many countries, the way you dress is seen as an expression of respect. To be accepted, you may have to conform to the standards in your host country and community.

The type of work a Volunteer does is ultimately determined by the needs and priorities of a host country, the potential of a Volunteer to contribute to those needs, and the Peace Corps mission. There are a wide variety of Volunteer positions throughout the world.

Education: Most Peace Corps assignments require a bachelor’s degree. Competitive non-degreed candidates can qualify for agriculture and forestry extension with more than one year of full-time work experience in agriculture or environment. In some cases, professional experience can fulfill degree requirements.

Language: There is not a second language requirement to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer, however, some assignments require knowledge of Spanish or French prior to service.

Leadership and Community Service: The Peace Corps seeks applicants with leadership skills and a history of community service. Volunteering in your community, school, faith-based group, or a service organization—particularly in planning activities, organizing and motivating groups of people, and project supervision—will strengthen your application.

“My Peace Corps experience has taught me to never take myself too seriously and that there is no one right way of doing things.”

Sophie Wenzel
Volunteer in Paraguay
**Professional Skills and Experience:** Being selected as a Peace Corps Volunteer means you have the technical experience and education needed by a host country. The Peace Corps will further prepare you by providing language, cross-cultural, and project-specific training. Continuing to hone these skills during your service will help you make a meaningful contribution to the community you serve.

Professional backgrounds and experiences demonstrating motivation and commitment, work skills and knowledge, social sensitivity, and emotional maturity will help any applicant. The Peace Corps also considers hobbies and volunteer experiences that align with the skills it is seeking.

**Adaptability:** As a Peace Corps Volunteer, being able to adapt to new and different situations will help you understand and respond to the needs and intentions of your community. It’s possible that you are the first U.S. citizen the people you live and work with have ever met, and it may seem like your every move is scrutinized. In all likelihood, your new community will find you curious and unusual, just as you will likely find their customs unfamiliar.

**Responsibility:** The Peace Corps’ highest priority is the safety and security of Volunteers. As a Volunteer, you will need to exercise personal responsibility and good judgment to protect your health and safety, which will complement the Peace Corps’ policies and enable you to be successful.

Additionally, as a Peace Corps Volunteer, you represent the United States and are a vital part of a large team assigned to your country of service. You are responsible for the quality of your work and the way you represent the Peace Corps.

**Sense of Humor:** Having the ability to laugh at yourself and at life’s little surprises goes a long way. Your service will be a continual learning process and you will make mistakes. Keeping a lighthearted view will help you learn from your mistakes without judging yourself harshly. Besides, laughter is universal.

**Patience:** Peace Corps service is not an endeavor for people seeking quick fixes or instant gratification. Instead, you will need to work creatively to develop relationships with community members, building trust and motivating various stakeholders. This takes time and patience.
Self-Reliance: You may be the only Volunteer in your community, and you may feel like you are on your own. You can expect to be welcomed by the community, but initially you will have to learn people’s names, navigate language barriers, and find your way around a new neighborhood in a new country. Having a strong sense of self-reliance will help you cope with challenging situations and moments of doubt.

Positive Attitude: As you adjust to a new environment and culture, you will likely go through certain predictable emotional states: loneliness, isolation, insecurity, uncertainty, homesickness, and doubts about your commitment to serve. A positive attitude can ease the transition and help you be successful in your new community.

Resourcefulness: The structure of your job assignment and the work itself will probably be less defined than what you have experienced in the United States. The workflow might feel chaotic or slow. You may not have the tools and resources you might expect in the States. By being resourceful, working with what you have, and keeping an open mind, you will be able to overcome these challenges and thrive.

Core Expectations for Peace Corps Volunteers

In working toward fulfilling the Peace Corps mission of promoting world peace and friendship, as a trainee and Volunteer, you are expected to

1. Prepare your personal and professional life to make a commitment to serve abroad for a full term of 27 months.

2. Commit to improving the quality of life of the people with whom you live and work and, in doing so, share your skills, adapt them, and learn new skills as needed.

3. Serve where the Peace Corps asks you to go, under conditions of hardship if necessary, and with the flexibility needed for effective service.

4. Recognize that your successful and sustainable development work is based on the local trust and confidence you build by living in, and respectfully integrating yourself into, your host community and culture.

5. Recognize that you are responsible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your personal conduct and professional performance.

6. Engage with host country partners in a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, and respect.

7. Work within the rules and regulations of the Peace Corps and the local and national laws of the country where you serve.

8. Exercise judgment and personal responsibility to protect your health, safety, and well-being and that of others.

9. Recognize that you will be perceived, in your host country and community, as a representative of the people, cultures, values, and traditions of the United States of America.

10. Represent responsibly the people, cultures, values, and traditions of your host country and community to people in the United States both during and following your service.
Volunteer Work Areas

The type of work a Volunteer does is ultimately determined by the needs and priorities of a host country, the potential of a Volunteer to contribute to those priorities, and the Peace Corps mission. There are a wide variety of Volunteer positions throughout the world, most of which fall under six general work areas.

### Agriculture

### Environment

### Community Economic Development

### Health

### Education

### Youth in Development

**Training**

Volunteers are immersed in a culture of continuous learning through Peace Corps’ global approach to high-quality training. From invitation to close of service, Volunteers are provided with learning resources and events, with a two- to three-month pre-service training as the cornerstone to preparation for Peace Corps service. Regardless of country or work sector, all Volunteers are well prepared before going to their sites and receive ongoing training, support, and resources throughout service. Topics such as technical training for work projects, intercultural education, safety and security, and language are all included.
Agriculture

Volunteers work with small-scale farmers to increase food security, adapt to climate change, and manage natural resources profitably and sustainably. They assist farmers from field to fork, promoting best practices in livestock management and fruit, vegetable, and cash crop production, as well as post-harvest with product development, storage, marketing, and sales.
Community Economic Development

Volunteers work with development banks, nongovernmental organizations, and municipalities to strengthen infrastructure and encourage economic opportunities in communities. They frequently teach in classroom settings and work with entrepreneurs and business owners to develop and market their products. Some Volunteers also teach basic computer skills and help communities take advantage of technologies such as e-commerce, distance learning, and more.
Education is the Peace Corps’ largest program area. Volunteers play an important role in creating links among schools, parents, and communities by working in elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools as math, science, conversational English, and resource teachers or as early grade reading and literacy teacher trainers. Volunteers also develop libraries and technology resource centers.
Environment

Volunteers help lead grassroots efforts in their communities to protect the environment and strengthen understanding of environmental issues. They teach environmental awareness in elementary and secondary schools and to youth groups and community organizations, empowering communities to make their own decisions about how to protect and conserve the local environment. Volunteers also address environmental degradation by promoting sustainable use of natural resources.
Health

Health Volunteers work within their communities to promote important topics such as nutrition, maternal and child health, basic hygiene, and water sanitation. Volunteers also work in HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs to train youth as peer educators, develop appropriate education strategies, provide support to children orphaned by the pandemic, and create programs that provide emotional and financial support to families and communities affected by the disease.
Youth in Development

Volunteers work with youth in communities on projects that promote engagement and active citizenship, including gender awareness, employability, health and HIV/AIDS education, environmental awareness, sporting programs, and information technology.
Secondary Projects

Secondary activities allow Volunteers to customize their service by working in sectors outside of their primary project. These projects are Volunteer-initiated and based on community needs and may utilize funding from Peace Corps partnerships and grant programs.

In addition to his primary project in Health Education, a Volunteer in Mongolia also helps with a youth sports club.

In the Philippines, a Volunteer works primarily on Agriculture projects and provides computer training as a secondary project.

A Volunteer in Senegal works to develop small businesses, as well as hosts an English club to increase language skills.
Application Process

Application
The first step toward becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer is to complete your application at peacecorps.gov/apply. If you save a draft application prior to submitting it, you must re-open and save the draft at least once every 30 days or it will be deleted. Once you submit your application, you will be asked to complete a Health History Form.

Interview
During the interview, you and a Peace Corps staff member will discuss your skills and interests, positions available, and your suitability for service as a Peace Corps Volunteer, including personal attributes such as flexibility, adaptability, social and cultural awareness, motivation, and commitment to Peace Corps service. This is an opportunity to ask questions and explore with the interviewer—who is almost always a returned Volunteer—if the Peace Corps is appropriate for you and how you might best fit our available assignments.

Invitation
If your application is among the best for a particular assignment, you will receive an invitation to serve. Your invitation will include the date of departure, the program assignment, and links to a welcome packet with details about the country where you will serve, the Volunteer Handbook, and more. These materials will help you make an informed decision to accept the invitation.
Preparation for Departure
After you have been medically cleared for service in your assignment and country, the Peace Corps travel office will issue an electronic ticket for travel to your pre-service orientation site (also known as staging). Immediately prior to leaving for the country of assignment, Peace Corps “trainees” meet in the United States to prepare for their Volunteer service.

Departure for Service
The Peace Corps schedules and pays for your international flight. You will fly with your training group to your assigned country to begin in-country training.

Medical Exam
After you accept your invitation, you will be required to complete a physical and dental examination. At a minimum, the physical includes a trip to your doctor for a medical exam with basic lab work and immunizations necessary for your assignment, as well as a visit to your dentist for X-rays. The Peace Corps offers some limited cost-sharing reimbursement. Depending on your health insurance coverage, some costs incurred during this process may be at your expense.
The Peace Corps offers a unique experience to make a difference around the world and bring the benefits of that experience back home. The personal and professional rewards of Peace Corps service last a lifetime.
Explore
how the Peace Corps can fit into your future.

View extensive resources
peacecorps.gov

Speak with your local recruiter
855.855.1961

Attend an informational meeting
near you or online
peacecorps.gov/events

Begin your application online today!
peacecorps.gov/apply
Peace Corps Recruitment Offices

Northeast Region
CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
201 Varick Street
Suite 1025
New York, NY 10014
P: 212.352.5440
nyinfo@peacecorps.gov

Mid-Atlantic Region
DC, DE, MD, NC, VA, WV
Attn: Recruitment Office
1111 20th Street NW
Washington, DC 20526
P: 202.692.1040
dcinfo@peacecorps.gov

Southeast Region
AL, FL, GA, MS, PR, SC, TN, USVI
60 Forsyth Street
Suite 3M40
Atlanta, GA 30303
P: 404.562.3456
atlinfo@peacecorps.gov

West Coast Region
AK, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, WA
2361 Rosecrans Avenue
Suite 155
El Segundo, CA 90245
P: 310.356.1100
lainfo@peacecorps.gov

Southwest Region
AR, AZ, CO, KS, LA, NE, NM, OK, TX, UT, WY
1100 Commerce Street
Suite 427
Dallas, TX 75242
P: 214.253.5400
dallas@peacecorps.gov

Midwest Region
IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, MO, ND, OH, SD, WI
55 W. Monroe Street
Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60603
P: 312.353.4990
chicago@peacecorps.gov

For more information, talk to a Peace Corps recruiter at 855.855.1961, and visit peacecorps.gov

Headquarters
Peace Corps
Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters
1111 20th Street NW | Washington, DC 20526
P: 855.855.1961

DIGITAL LIBRARY: collection.peacecorps.gov
PASSPORT BLOG: passport.peacecorps.gov