

Forestry



Your Skills. Our Jobs.

Protection and preservation of the earth's resources is a top priority throughout the world, but many developing countries lack the expertise to change centuries of traditional practices that weaken the natural environment. The Peace Corps is helping these communities protect their natural resources, and are calling on foresters to join the effort and become part of a service legacy that dates back to 1961. While you may have many job prospects, nothing in your career is likely to compare to the challenges and rewards of the Peace Corps.

Sow the Seeds of Change and You Can Move Mountains.

Add a new dimension to your career. Discover innovative ways to apply your workplace, classroom, and leadership experiences. Work in unforgettable locations from Morocco to Malawi, Honduras to Zambia, and Paraguay to Senegal, where your knowledge and resourcefulness are in great demand. Forge new and lifelong relationships within the communities you serve, while empowering them to protect and benefit from sustainable natural resource practices. The possibilities as a Peace Corps Volunteer are endless and yours to leave an indelible mark.

Upon returning to the U.S., you'll discover open doors leading to new and exciting personal and professional opportunities. Fluency in a foreign language, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in today's global economy. You'll take away the satisfaction of knowing your efforts will have a lasting influence abroad while making you stand out among your peers here at home.

Peace Corps environment experience is valued by numerous organizations, including the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, United Nations Environment Program, and many private companies, NGOs, and public organizations seeking individuals with unique skills.

The Work.

As a Forestry Volunteer, your role will be to work with community members, community-based organizations, families, and government extension agents to conserve forest resources, sustain the environment, and point communities to new means of income generation that are not dependent on use of protected areas or species. You will work with local communities and leaders, alongside staff from an NGO or government office of forestry or parks and wildlife. Depending on your specific assignment, you might:

- Apply your technical skills in elementary silviculture, agronomy, and horticulture to incorporate new and environmentally appropriate techniques and species
- Encourage the use of sustainable building practices that discourage deforestation
- Promote income generating activities such as fish ponds, beekeeping, diversified cash crops through irrigation, and livestock management
- Support rural entrepreneurs and community groups designing handicrafts, local cash crops, and other handmade items from local and sustainable materials
- Coordinate with teachers to establish school-based wildlife clubs
- Plant trees, make compost, establish tree nurseries, and build mud stoves to conserve fuel wood



As the Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, it continues to promote peace and friendship, with Volunteers serving in over 70 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have served the Peace Corps in 139 countries around the world

Are You Ready?



How do I qualify?

To qualify for a Forestry assignment, you will need at a minimum:

- A Bachelor's or associate degree in forestry, watershed or natural resource management, environmental science, or ecology or
- A degree in biology, botany, ornamental horticulture, or geology and six months of growing or field experience or
- A degree in any discipline and three years of work experience in forestry or nursery management.

Is this the right fit?

Let the Peace Corps match your skills and ambitions with the right type of program. Based on the areas identified by our host countries, there is a pressing need to expand the community's capacity to improve and maintain environmental quality while at the same time improving their livelihood and expanding their opportunities. You will likely live and work in a rural area or a very small community that is in or near a national park or forest reserve. In all sites, you have the opportunity to put your knowledge and ideas into practice and, in the process, be a catalyst for change and set the groundwork for a truly sustainable impact.

How can I stand out?

Competitive applicants have at least six months of practical experience in gardening, farming, or nursery management. You will strengthen your application if your experience includes: vegetable production using organic and low-input methods; tree planting or other local conservation activities; landscaping; a high level of comfort working outdoors; an understanding of how natural resources can be managed to sustain people's livelihoods; and use of computer applications such as geographic information systems for environmental research and modeling.

The ability to learn a new language is an important ingredient to a successful volunteer experience. Become more competitive by taking at least a year of French or two years of Spanish at the university level. If you have learned a language informally, Peace Corps may consider the CLEP and ACTFL exams to consider you for placement.

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Local event info: peacecorps.gov/events



Grad school programs: peacecorps.gov/gradschool

Call 800.424.8580, option 1 to talk to a recruiter near you.

"By teaching them the utility of forests and how to use open-root bed nurseries and locally available seeds, I hope to make the project sustainable well beyond my presence and the presence of Peace Corps."

— David Solana, Volunteer in Guinea