



STORYTELLING EVENT GUIDE

THIRD
GOAL
TOOLKIT

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer groups are using storytelling events to share their experiences of Peace Corps service. These events are revitalizing the art of storytelling to spread culture and ideas through the spoken word.

Tips for Planning Your Storytelling Event

Set goals. How will you share the culture of your country of service? Is it for fun or learning? To attract new volunteers? Is this a competition?

Determine your audience. Is this event for RPCVs, for potential recruits, or other members of the general public?

What? Where? When? Find a name for the event that matches your goals. Peace Corps Story Time, Peace Corps Story Slam, and Story hour with Peace Corps have been used previously. Find a time and venue that fits the goal/s of your event.

Tell Peace Corps. [Register your event](#) on the RPCV Portal and help Peace Corps measure its domestic impact.

Recruit storytellers. Determine how many storytellers you will need. Reach out to RPCVs to share their stories. Provide details on event theme, time limit, time commitment, and the outline of the event schedule. Have storytellers write brief personal introductions.

Select stories. Stories should balance each other in the areas of geography, diversity of the volunteer (age, sector, gender, background, etc.), and tone of the story (happy, funny, serious, poignant, etc.).

Add polish. After selecting the storytellers, prep them with [storytelling training tips](#) from Peace Corps. Watch the [Storytelling Training video](#).

Market your event. Promote your event through local channels, social media, and RPCV groups. Reach out to your local [Peace Corps recruiter](#). They may be interested in inviting prospective Volunteers to your event!

Ready, set, go! On the day of the event, make sure the audio-visual equipment is functioning. Send the order of events to your storytellers. Have the introduction notes for your storytellers. Get media releases from attendees and take pictures and/or videos to capture the stories told.

Follow up. After the event say “thank you” to all storytellers, the venue, etc. Submit the photos and videos you collected to the [Peace Corps Media Library](#).

Suggested themes:

- Holiday celebrations and customs
- Cultural gaffes
- Arrival in country
- “My inspiration”
- “I got more than I gave”
- “It’s the little moments”
- “My second family”

Keep time. Be sure to have a bell or a sign for the 1-minute and 30-second mark to warn storytellers to wrap it up.

Choose your order wisely. The order of your speakers is important! You want a strong, confident storyteller to kick off your event and one to close the show. Be sensitive to your audience’s attention span. Keeping to 6-8 storytellers with 7 minutes each are advisable parameters.

Choose a good emcee. The job of the emcee is to keep things moving along, make sure the audience is engaged and having fun, and make each storyteller feel special and appreciated.

