MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WORLD
WHAT IS THE PEACE CORPS?

It’s a catalyst for grassroots international development and cultural exchange powered by Volunteers, ready to use their energy, ingenuity, and skills to work towards reducing inequality and creating opportunities in communities around the world.

That’s why each year, thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers—American citizens like you—are invited by over 60 countries to build relationships, live as part of a community, and work on projects that are unique, but united in a shared purpose.

As a Volunteer, you can make an investment in our world—one handshake, one project, and one friendship at a time —while growing your career and sharing the experiences that define you.

See current Volunteer postings at: peacecorps.gov/openings

Or talk to a recruiter at: peacecorps.gov/recruiters

YOUR PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE

Find the Peace Corps Volunteer program that’s the right fit for you. Each program has different time commitments and requirements, but all offer the opportunity to serve abroad and make a difference in the world.

TWO YEARS

A life-defining experience, this commitment will fully integrate you into a host country for two years, following three months of training.

This immersive experience is what most Volunteers do.

peacecorps.gov/volunteer

SHORT-TERM SPECIALIZED OPPORTUNITIES

PEACE CORPS RESPONSE

If you are a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) or an experienced professional, you can apply to participate in specialized 3 to 12 month assignments. Requirements and benefits differ from the two-year program.

peacecorps.gov/response

GLOBAL HEALTH SERVICE PARTNERSHIP

As a physician or a nurse, you can take part in this yearlong program, teach in medical schools and grow the healthcare capacity of your host country.

peacecorps.gov/ghsp
WORK AREAS

The Peace Corps can be the first step toward a career or the continuation of a life’s work. Volunteers go to work every day with the opportunity to do something meaningful in these program areas:

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Create new opportunities by helping your host community strengthen its economic infrastructure through urban planning or working with local entrepreneurs and business owners.

YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT
Engage youth by working on awareness projects such as HIV/AIDS education, gender issues, environmental awareness, sports programs, and more.

EDUCATION
Play a role in the future of your community by working with schools, communities, parents, and students to enhance the teaching of math, science, English, and literacy—or by training others to teach more effectively.

ENVIRONMENT
Leave your green fingerprint on the future by teaching environmental awareness and promoting sustainability in your local community.

HEALTH
Work with clinics or develop education strategies to change the way your host community approaches nutrition, maternal and child health, hygiene, water and sanitation, or HIV/AIDS.

AGRICULTURE
Efficient and effective agriculture is critical to a community’s well being. With programs in food security, climate change, sustainable living, and farming—you can take part in growing a community.

SECONDARY PROJECTS
In addition to your main work area, as you gain first-hand understanding of your community, you are encouraged to customize your time as a Peace Corps Volunteer by developing a secondary project that matches your interests with the needs of your community.

Recruiters are returned Peace Corps Volunteers—chat with one now to see how you can match your skills with a Volunteer position abroad. peacecorps.gov/recruiters
A Q&A ON YOUR SERVICE ABROAD

The best way to learn about the Peace Corps and get specific questions answered is to talk with a recruiter who can share their experience with you.

Reach out to a recruiter: peacecorps.gov/recruiters

APPLICATION PROCESS

How long will the Peace Corps application take me?

APPLY ONLINE
The online application is more streamlined than ever before—it takes less than an hour to complete.

WHO CAN APPLY
You need to be a U.S. citizen to be eligible for Peace Corps service. You can also serve as an unmarried or married couple, including same-sex couples. You have to be over 18, and there is no upper age limit for applying.

WHEN TO APPLY
The ideal time to apply is 6-9 months to a year before your desired date of departure. Volunteer opportunities change quarterly and vary by time of year. Each open position has clear apply-by, know-by, and departure dates.

CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM
You can choose the specific country and program where you want to serve, or opt to go where you are needed most. Browse our current Volunteer openings: peacecorps.gov/openings

TRAINING

What if I don’t have experience living and volunteering abroad?

You will participate in a 2- to 3-month-long pre-service training where you will spend your days learning the language and acquiring technical, medical, and safety skills while bonding with a host family and building relationships with fellow Volunteers.

When I was first assigned to Ghana as an Agriculture Advisor Volunteer, the people in my village suffered from serious malnutrition. Children lived off of a monotone supply of food that lacked nutrients necessary for a healthy and balanced diet.

Several other Volunteers and I discovered that the filling and extremely nutritious leaves of moringa trees, traditionally known as “miracle trees,” could be the answer to this problem. In fact, these trees could potentially improve the well-being and health of entire communities across Ghana.

It wasn’t long before I was referred to as the “Moringa Man.” I was planting seeds with my bare hands, launching farms across communities, and helping people grow and sell moringa to increase their incomes—all through partnering with an agribusiness called MoringaConnect.

I’d never have imagined a type of tree would become my life’s calling.

Joe Stein | Volunteer in Ghana

IT’S MORE THAN A JOB TITLE
I’ve served while being unmarried and married, right out of college and again with significant volunteer and work experience under my belt; serving in a hot, arid sub-Saharan African country and then in the numbing winter of a former Soviet country.

During my first service, I was surprised to be the first Black American that so many people from Lesotho had met, but our meeting gave them real-life exposure to our sorely misrepresented culture, which they had only viewed through the media. In Ukraine, I had the chance to do the same— I became someone’s window into America.

Byron L. Williams
Volunteer in Lesotho & Ukraine

SCHEDULE
How much will I be working?

Being a Peace Corps Volunteer is a 24/7 responsibility. Your schedule largely depends on your work area—you could be teaching six days a week, working from nine to five with an NGO, or you could have a few small projects and set your own schedule. What you do with your spare time can really define your service—whether you spend it integrating with your community or building a secondary project.

LIVING CONDITIONS
Where will I be living?

After your pre-service training, you will be assigned to a site in your host country. The Peace Corps will find housing for you. You may be living with a roommate in a house, in a city apartment with a host family, or in a ger (yurt) by yourself—as long as it meets our safety and suitability standards.

FINANCES
Will I get paid?

You will receive a living stipend, which will enable you to live like a part of the community where you serve—covering housing, food, and incidentals. The Peace Corps will cover your living expenses, including travel to and from your country of service. In addition, you will receive over $8,000 (pre-tax) upon the completion of your service to help you transition back to daily life in the U.S., and use as you choose.

SUPPORT ABROAD
Will I be on my own?

Whether you are the only Volunteer in your site, or you are serving with several others, you will have access to support staff. All Peace Corps countries have an office managed by a country director with a dedicated staff of program managers and a safety and security coordinator. Additionally, there are 24/7 on-call medical personnel.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ABROAD

I’ve served while being unmarried and married, right out of college and again with significant volunteer and work experience under my belt; serving in a hot, arid sub-Saharan African country and then in the numbing winter of a former Soviet country.

During my first service, I was surprised to be the first Black American that so many people from Lesotho had met, but our meeting gave them real-life exposure to our sorely misrepresented culture, which they had only viewed through the media. In Ukraine, I had the chance to do the same—I became someone’s window into America.

Byron L. Williams
Volunteer in Lesotho & Ukraine
**COMMUNICATION WHILE ABROAD**

Can I keep in touch with family and friends back home?

Text messages, email, social media, phone, or actual mail—there are many ways you can keep in touch with family, friends, and fellow Volunteers. Your access to these technologies will depend on your site, but more than 90% of Volunteers have a cellphone.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

What can I do if I feel unsafe, or in the case of an emergency?

Wherever you are, it’s our priority to make sure you have the support you need to stay healthy and safe. Each Peace Corps country has a specific emergency action plan in case of natural disasters, civil unrest, and other safety risks. The Peace Corps has devoted in-country safety and security coordinators who are available in the case of any emergency. As a Volunteer, you will be trained on who to contact, what to do, and where to go.

Visit peacecorps.gov/safety to learn more about safety and security in the Peace Corps.

**FAMILY EMERGENCIES**

What if something goes wrong? Will I be able to leave my Peace Corps site?

Your family can contact you in the case of an emergency, either directly or through a 24-hour duty officer at Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. If a death occurs in your immediate family (that is, a parent, spouse, sibling, child, grandchild, or stepfamily), you are allowed a leave period, and your travel home will be paid for by the Peace Corps.

**DIVERSITY**

Will my race, sexual orientation, age, or disability have an effect on my service?

We live in a multicultural society built from different perspectives, backgrounds, and beliefs, and it is a goal of the Peace Corps to reflect this abroad and actively recruit people from a variety of backgrounds. Talk to a recruiter if you have questions about the different cultural norms you may encounter.

Learn more about diversity in the Peace Corps: peacecorps.gov/diversity

**WHERE YOU CAN SERVE**

Find the countries you are interested in living and working in, and see if there are openings that fit your skills and aspirations.

**THE CARIBBEAN**

1. Jamaica
2. Dominican Republic
3. Dominica
4. Grenada and Carriacou
5. St. Lucia
6. St. Vincent

**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
WHERE YOU CAN SERVE

10%
EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
19 Albania
20 Armenia
21 Georgia
22 Kosovo
23 Kyrgyz Republic
24 Macedonia
25 Moldova
26 Ukraine

48%
AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST
27 Benin
28 Botswana
29 Burkina Faso
30 Cameroon
31 Comoros
32 Ethiopia
33 Ghana
34 Lesotho
35 Liberia
36 Madagascar
37 Malawi
38 Morocco

56 Cambodia
57 China
58 Indonesia
59 Mongolia
60 Nepal
61 Philippines
62 Thailand
63 Timor-Leste

12%
ASIA

3%
PACIFIC ISLANDS
50 Federated States of Micronesia
51 Fiji
52 Palau
53 Samoa
54 Tonga
55 Vanuatu

Countries with Volunteers as of September 2016. Visit peacecorps.gov/countries for up-to-date information. Posts where Volunteers are not currently serving are not listed. Percentages reflect Volunteer positions by region. Results may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.
Every Peace Corps Volunteer wants to create a project that outlives their service. I’ve been fortunate enough to be able to do that by turning my Peace Corps project into a startup.

With two other Volunteers from my training group, we created a community-guided tour that would provide consistent income, develop the local economy, and highlight the locals’ skills and traditions—all at the same time.

We built a website that Volunteers could use to load information about their community tourism projects, and called it Keteka. We quickly realized that with over 7,000 Volunteers in more than 60 countries, we could use the Peace Corps network to connect travelers to community tourism efforts and other authentic experiences.

Keteka is now a tours and activities marketplace that leverages the Peace Corps network to connect travelers with off-the-beaten-path experiences, help develop local economies, and create jobs for communities all over the world. We are currently in nine countries and we’re working to expand globally.

Jack Fischl  |  Volunteer in Panama

BENEFITS DURING SERVICE

The Peace Corps asks a lot of you, but it also has a lot to give. While you serve others you will be gaining benefits that last through your time as a Volunteer and beyond.

STIPEND
As a Peace Corps Volunteer, you will receive a living stipend allowing you to live like a part of the community you are in—covering housing, food, and incidentals. Living expenses are covered by the Peace Corps. There’s no application fee to become a Volunteer and Peace Corps covers transportation to and from your host country.

VACATION TIME
As a Volunteer, you will earn two vacation days per month of work—a total of 48 days over two years, along with U.S. and host country holidays.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL COVERAGE
The Peace Corps provides medical and dental care that covers all related expenses during service, including preventative care, and issues incurred during your training period, service, or on vacation. In the case of a health problem that cannot be treated in your host country, you will be sent to a nearby country or the U.S. at no cost to you.

STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE
Volunteer service is considered “qualifying employment” for the Department of Education’s Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Several federal programs and some private loans may also qualify for school loan deferment or forgiveness (such as Stafford, Perkins, direct, and consolidated loans). The Perkins Loan may be eligible for a 15-70 percent cancellation benefit. Talk to your lending institution about your particular student loan benefits. For more information, visit peacecorps.gov/loans.
BENEFITS AFTER SERVICE

TRANSITION FUNDS
In order to offset the financial transition of moving back to the U.S. after spending two years abroad, the Peace Corps provides returned Peace Corps Volunteers a readjustment allowance of more than $8,000 (pre-tax) to use as you choose.

GRADUATE SCHOOL BENEFITS
Graduate schools recognize the valuable service experience returned Peace Corps Volunteers can bring to underserved communities at home. The Paul D. Coverdell Fellows program offers returned Peace Corps Volunteers reduced tuition, assistantships, and stipends at more than 90 participating campuses. Find a partner school at peacecorps.gov/fellows.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS
The skills you gain through two years of Peace Corps service—such as learning a language, getting international service and field experience, having high adaptability and the ability to think strategically during tough situations—will give you a leg up when you’re searching for jobs back home.

EMPLOYMENT ADVANTAGES IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Returned Peace Corps Volunteers receive non-competitive eligibility (NCE) for jobs in the federal government. This allows you to have less competition for a position, a faster application process, and desirability among hiring managers because of the ease of the hiring process of an NCE candidate. For more information, visit peacecorps.gov/nce.

JOB SEARCH SERVICES
As a Volunteer, you will have dedicated over two years to international development—and the Peace Corps is here to help transition your skills to the U.S. job market through career fairs, job postings, expert career advice, and opportunities to connect with over 220,000 returned Peace Corps Volunteers. Learn more at peacecorps.gov/careers.

MORE QUESTIONS?
Reach out to a recruiter: peacecorps.gov/recruiters

“THE BIGGER PICTURE
I have a business degree, and my background was in fundraising for children, orphans, and a nonprofit association called the Mexican American Foundation.

I joined the Peace Corps when I was 56 years old, and it was like being born again, like having a second life. I enjoyed my work in the United States very much, but as I got older, I began to think less about ‘me’ and more about ‘we.’ I loved working for the Peace Corps; I felt like I did something for the world, for the planet.

Diana Gomez  |  Volunteer in Armenia
THE PEACE CORPS COMMITMENT

What it takes to be a Peace Corps Volunteer:

1. You are ready to leave your home for over 2 years to constantly adapt, change, serve, and learn.

2. You are energized by the thought of improving the quality of life in a community, working alongside community members, and adapting to their lifestyle while gaining new skills.

3. You are ready to go where you are needed most. Even if you have to live in difficult conditions, you’re confident about your flexibility and adaptability.

4. You are excited to create trust in your local community, become a member of the community, and integrate yourself into their culture.

5. You are dedicated to serve, contribute to, and connect with a community for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

6. You live and breathe through cultural exchange, and you look forward to engaging with your host country partners in a spirit of cooperation, mutual learning, and respect.

7. You are interested in finding out about the cultural and legal environment of your host country. You can easily work within the rules and regulations of the Peace Corps and the country you are in.

8. Personal responsibility is your strong suit—and you are ready to use your best judgment to protect your health, safety, and well-being and that of others.

9. You can’t wait to represent the cultures, values, people, and traditions of the U.S. abroad.

10. You are excited to learn about the people, cultures, values, and traditions of your host country and community and to share their stories in the U.S. both during and after your service.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLY ONLINE
Filling out the online application is easier than ever before. It takes less than an hour to complete.

HEALTH HISTORY FORM
This is to make sure that you can safely serve. Provide your health history so you can be matched with countries that can support you.

CHOOSE A COUNTRY & A JOB
Passionate about serving in a specific area of the world or in a certain work program? Browse current Volunteer openings and submit your choices.

SOFT SKILLS QUESTIONNAIRE
How do you work most efficiently? Answer these questions about your work style and preferences.

INTERVIEW
If you’re selected for an interview, you’ll have the chance to talk to a Peace Corps placement officer about how you can apply your skills and interests during service.

INVITATION
If chosen to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer, you will get an invitation by the know-by date. This is contingent on final medical and legal clearance.

MEDICAL AND LEGAL CLEARANCE
The Peace Corps Office of Medical Services will confirm that the Peace Corps can provide the individual medical support you need, and the Placement Office will confirm your legal eligibility for service.

DEPARTURE
Meet your fellow Volunteers at staging in the U.S., and depart for your country of assignment.
CONNECT WITH A RECRUITER

Contact your nearest recruitment office or find a local recruiter at: peacecorps.gov/recruiters

Atlanta
60 Forsyth St. SW
Suite 3M40
Atlanta, GA 30303
404.562.3456
atlinfo@peacecorps.gov

Chicago
230 S. Dearborn St.
Suite 2020
Chicago, IL 60604
312.353.4990
chicago@peacecorps.gov

Dallas
1100 Commerce St.
Suite 427
Dallas, TX 75242
214.253.5400
dallas@peacecorps.gov

Los Angeles
2361 Rosecrans Ave.
Suite 155
El Segundo, CA 90245
310.356.1100
lainfo@peacecorps.gov

New York
201 Varick St.
Suite 1025
New York, NY 10014
212.352.5440
nyinfo@peacecorps.gov

Oakland
1301 Clay St.
Suite 620N
Oakland, CA 94612
510.452.8444
sfinfo@peacecorps.gov

Seattle
300 Fifth Ave.
Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98104
206.553.5490
seattle@peacecorps.gov

Washington, D.C.
1111 20th St. NW
Attn: Recruitment Office
Washington, DC 20526
202.692.1040
dcinfo@peacecorps.gov

Peace Corps Response & Global Health Service Partnership
1111 20th St. NW
Attn: Peace Corps Response
Washington, DC 20526
202.692.2250
pcresponse@peacecorps.gov
ghsp@peacecorps.gov

If you have questions, find a local recruiter at peacecorps.gov/recruiters or call 855.855.1961, opt. 3

peacecorps.gov/apply