Peace Corps service is a life-defining leadership experience. Peace Corps Volunteers live, learn, and work with a community overseas for 27 months, providing technical assistance in six program areas: education, youth and community development, health, business and information and communications technology, agriculture, and environment. We are looking for applicants with a variety of skills and are actively recruiting to reflect the diversity of America. Peace Corps prepares Volunteers with language, cross-cultural, and technical training.

We recommend you submit your application as early as possible so we can match your skills to openings as they become available. Plan ahead and apply nine months to a year in advance of your target departure date. To be eligible for service, you must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen.

Youth and Community Development Volunteers

Through strong relationships forged with students, parents, and other community members, Peace Corps Volunteers engage in a wide variety of locally sustainable projects. Volunteers act as catalysts for change by working within their communities on projects that spread across all Peace Corps work areas.

Youth Development Sample Projects

- Design programs and training that help young people make the transition from school to productive, dignified work or careers through vocational or technology training, entrepreneurial education, or develop mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities
- Act as a health promoter while training young people to serve as peer educators, enabling them to provide HIV/AIDS education and awareness to other youth and adults in their communities
- Mobilize young people to work on community improvement projects while they build critical civic engagement, life, and leadership skills
- Train youth development workers to design and facilitate high quality youth programs
- Engage parents, community leaders, and organizations to support youth programs

- Help young people form youth groups, clubs, sports teams, or extracurricular activities that build teamwork, confidence, and positive relationships with peers, parents, and adults
- Through interactive training methods, develop critical life skills in boys and girls, such as decision-making, goal setting, communication, leadership, and self-esteem
Community Development Sample Projects

- Work on projects that focus on education, youth development, health and HIV/AIDS, the environment, and/or nongovernmental organization and business development
- Help community members plan, design, and implement community-building projects

What Makes a Successful Volunteer

From the application process through completion of service, successful Peace Corps Volunteers demonstrate motivation, flexibility, curiosity, cultural sensitivity, leadership, and a commitment to service.

Launch Your Career

Peace Corps Volunteers who served in the field of youth or community development have gone on to careers with a variety of leading institutions, including: U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Teach for America, and many private companies and nongovernmental organizations. Visit our website to learn how returned Peace Corps Volunteers receive advantages in federal employment.

Benefits of Peace Corps Service

- Language, cross-cultural, and technical training
- Travel costs to and from the country of service covered
- Stipend for overseas living and housing expenses
- Medical and dental coverage
- Student loan deferment and partial cancellation of some loans
- Vacation time
- Transition funds of $7,425 (before taxes) following 27 months of service
- Career and transition assistance
- Advantages with Peace Corps graduate school partners
- No fee to participate

“Peace Corps is a special job. There is a focus on understanding the people from our community. It is when people know and trust us that we are most effective.”

Chris Morrill
Volunteer in Bolivia and El Salvador

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