



Honoring Peace Corps at 50

Suggestions for Individual RPCVs and Affiliate Groups

There are several ways that individual RPCVs, affiliate groups and other members of the Peace Corps community can help document and preserve the unique and important history of Peace Corps and our legacy of service around the world.

Peace Corps Projects—50th Anniversary Archive Digital Library

Individual RPCVs will soon be able to submit a story and up to five photos from their service to the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Archive project. Collected materials will become part of a digital library accessible to the general public via the Peace Corps website, and will be transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for long-term preservation.

Detailed guidelines and an online submission form will be available this fall at www.peacecorps.gov/50. Note that only one personal story and up to five photos will be accepted per contributor. Peace Corps will not accept any other materials—such as journals, letters, or videos—from individuals.

Other Projects

Efforts by ‘Friends Of’ and Affiliate Groups

Peace Corps anticipates that many ‘Friends Of’ and other affiliate groups will create or otherwise make available historical materials timed to correspond with the Peace Corps 50th anniversary. Please note that the agency cannot provide funding or assistance with developing materials. Materials created by affiliate groups will not be considered Peace Corps agency documents.

However, if your group is interested in increasing access to and long-term preservation of its Peace Corps-related historical materials, please consider the following:

Inclusion in the Peace Corps 50th Anniversary Archive Digital Library

Peace Corps may consider including a link to your group’s materials in the agency’s 50th anniversary digital library if your group:

- Confirms in writing that it holds the copyright to the materials or has a license to publish the materials on its website. The United States Copyright Office at the Library of Congress has further information on copyright compliance: www.copyright.gov.
- Does not include, without permission, personal information such as email addresses, street addresses or phone numbers in the materials;
- Is sensitive to the privacy concerns of individuals, including host country nationals;
- Is not defamatory to the Peace Corps, or any other group or individual;
- Is historically accurate; and
- Places the material on a webpage hosted by a ‘Friends Of’ group or affiliate group.

Preservation of Print Materials

Although Peace Corps cannot serve as a permanent archive, the agency will work in conjunction with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to facilitate long-term preservation of Peace Corps-related print materials. Affiliate groups may send Peace Corps two printed copies of any historical materials they create or otherwise make available. These materials will be offered by Peace Corps to the National Archives (NARA) in College Park, Maryland. Materials will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and NARA policies and procedures. Note that electronic submissions of affiliate group materials will not be accepted.

For further information on contributing materials, please contact archive@peacecorps.gov.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Archival Project at the John F. Kennedy Library

Through its Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collection, the John F. Kennedy Library provides a repository for RPCV letters, journals, oral histories and other historically significant materials related to the Peace Corps experience.

Interested members of the Peace Corps community should contact the Kennedy Library directly for guidelines on how to donate materials. For more information, visit the Kennedy Library’s website at www.jfklibrary.org.

Themes for Returned Volunteers, Former Staff, and Affiliate Groups.

Being a Volunteer

- Projects: primary, secondary
- Impact on: yourself, others, community
- Communication with: family, other Volunteers, host communities
- Integration into community: host family, organizations, host country, host community
- Experiences during service: important, difficult, rewarding
- Significant events: visits from dignitaries, climate conditions, host country or global events, national or international conflicts
- Favorite moments: what they were and why

Recruitment, Training and Selection

- Joining Peace Corps: decision, when and why, support of family and friends, individual preparation, Peace Corps process
- Training programs: descriptions, relevance to Peace Corps experience, impact on service,
- Training sites: U.S., host country, city, community
- Training content: language, culture, technical, preparing for the Peace Corpsexperience

Peace Corps/Third Goal

- Returning to the U.S.: reintegration, how U.S. looked after Volunteer experience, acceptance by others, preparation for steps after Peace Corps
- Long-term influence of experience: personal and professional, career choices
- Influencing others: family, friends, colleagues
- Host community: communications after service with host country, community, family, travel to site, further support for projects in host region
- Continuing Volunteer service: in U.S., other countries, types of service
- Telling the story: ways, methods, times to share stories
- Links with Volunteer colleagues: staying in touch, joint projects, support for each other,
- Perceptions of experience: how and why perceptions changed over time, values of experience on life today

Peace Corps in the early 60s

- Host countries: initiating programs, negotiating, perceptions of program among leaders and communities both in the U.S. and in country of service
- First Volunteers: impressions, experiences, acceptance
- First trainings: sites, activities, experiences
- Challenges of being first: U.S. family and friends, Peace Corps systems, acceptance in-country, personal feelings, perceptions of decision

Peace Corps changes over 50 years

Differences over the decades in training, programs and projects, communication, support among Volunteers, relationships with host families and communities, and Peace Corps procedures and processes