

Melanie Kwan, a health Volunteer in Senegal, shares tea with her neighbors.

Teachers, Health Care Specialists, Engineers, Environmentalists Needed for Overseas Work!

516 Peace Corps Volunteers will begin training this Fall to spend two years overseas working as English teachers, business specialists, public health workers, forestry managers, and crop extensionists—to name just a few of the 59 positions Peace Corps Volunteers hold. Before they are sworn in as Volunteers, the trainees will complete 12 to 14 weeks of in-depth language, cross-cultural, and job training in the country they will be working in.

Education remains the top request of the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers work, and so over half of all qualified applicants are offered teaching assignments. Some will teach high school math and science, others English, and some will be teacher trainers. Other Volunteers will work in agriculture, fisheries, business, nursing, engineering, natural resources, and other fields, depending upon their skills and the needs of Peace Corps countries.

Volunteers work in over 91 countries around the world, including those in Africa, Eastern and Central Europe, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Each Volunteer receives a cost of living allowance that covers housing and other expenses, complete medical care, foreign language and special skills training, and transportation. Additionally, after successfully completing their service Volunteers receive a \$5400 readjustment allowance and special graduate school scholarship opportunities open only to returned Volunteers.

1993 Survey Rates Volunteer Experience "High"

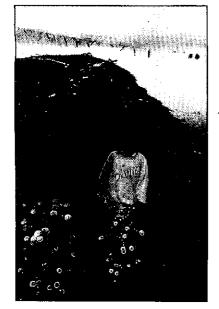
According to a recent survey of Peace Corps Volunteers, most highly rate the experience. Peace Corps scored points for matching their skills and interests to assignments; for providing a safe, non-hazardous work site; and for paying an adequate living allowance. Most Volunteers believe the majority of people in their overseas communities feel positively about their presence. They rated their cross-cultural accomplishments very positively—i.e., learning the language, adapting to local customs, participating actively in the community's social life, learning about the country's history and customs, and teaching people about the U.S. Overall, Volunteers think Peace Corps could improve upon certain things like

language training for older Volunteers and additional training to help them deal with some of the more challenging aspects of intercultural communication. "We need this kind of feedback from the Volunteers to let us know how we're

doing," said Peace Corps' Director, Carol Bellamy, who was a Volunteer in Guatemala. "This year we had a lot of Volunteers say they want more training to help them deal with sexual harassment. We're already working it into the training program for the next wave of Volunteers."









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Peace Corps Today is produced by Peace Corps, with contributions from currently serving and former Volunteers. Director of Communications: Celia Fischer. Editor: Sarah Bott. Layout: Brian Liu, Louis Welton, Sarah Bott. Copy Editors: Tom Edwards and Elizabeth McAlee. Big Ideas: Carol Bellamy, Suzy Becker, and John Coyne. For more information on Volunteering, call your local Peace Corps office or (800) 424-8580.







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My Life in the Peace Corps.

Spending two years in Senegal was a rich cultural experience

By Teddy Eisenmann

Assalam Malekuum. This is the Arabic greeting used in Muslim countries around the world. It means, "May peace be with you," and it is the introduction to the greeting ritual in Senegal (West Africa), where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer for the past two years.

In brief, Peace Corps was established in 1961 by former President John F. Kennedy. It is often associated with other international development organizations, yet Peace Corps is exceptional-its goal is not only to provide technical assistance to developing nations, but also to improve understanding and communication between Americans and people of other cultures.

The work is voluntary and not for profit. We live predominantly in rural areas with the local people. We speak their language, we eat their food, and we basically adapt to the native culture. There are today more than 6,500 Volunteers serving in over 91 countries.

In September 1991, 30 colleagues and I arrived in Senegal's capital, Dakar, situated on Africa's westernmost point. Our initial encounter with the continent was intense-the heat weighed heavy as we elbowed our way through the disorderly airport. The humid city air smelled of exhaust fumes and sweat, and the bus got a flat tire

It did not take long to get into Senegalese culture, for no sooner had we arrived at the training center than we promptly met our new "families." This first introduction was understandably awkward. Our Senegalese hosts presumed Americans couldn't be too far removed from the French, so for the first and only time we greeted each other with kisses on each cheek. Soon thereafter I adopted my family's last name, N'Dao, and was named Issa. Most Volunteers in Senegal take local names as it facilitates our assimilation in the culture and these names are simply easier for Senegalese to pronounce.

During the first three months I lived with my Senegalese family in Thies, the country's second largest city, and I spent long days at the Peace Corps training center studying rural primary health care, French, and Wolof, the most widely-spoken indigenous language. Even though French is the official language, only the welleducated speak it. Wolof, on the other hand is spoken by almost everyone, and in that sense Senegal is quite fortunate. Africa's colonizers drew national

borders with little concern for ethnic make-up, so today many contemporary African countries have a dozen or more ethnic groups with their own, unique languages. It is understandable that communication sometimes breaks down—telephone and road systems are poor, and people often do not speak the same tongue.

Like much of West Africa, Senegal is a predominantly Muslim country. The people are overwhelmingly positive regarding Americans (in large part due to Peace Corps) and I can honestly say that I never felt threatened, much less unwelcome. In fact, most West African Muslim states lean more to the Western

democratic model as opposed many of their Arab counterparts. That alone is refreshing news for westerners, who often have a tainted view of

Islam because of its negative portrayal in the media. The Senegalese family I lived with is somewhat representative of the Senegalese urban middle-class. The father works at the train station and has a regular income. He has one wife (many Muslim men have two or more), and all seven children are going or have gone to school so they speak fluent French and even some English. One of my most vivid memories from those first months is hanging out with my "brothers," Doudou and Lamin. During the traditional three rounds of strong Senegalese tea we would discuss, in halting French, such topics as jazz, soccer, Salman Rushdie and censorship, and listen to Miles Davis while Doudou performed one of the day's five prayers. They live in a house not much unlike homes in the U.S., and they watch a lot of television. Every Wednesday the normally bustling streets would become empty and quiet because "Dynasty" was on. But that was two years ago- now they have cable TV and CNN is on the whole day.

For three months we spent eight-hour days at the Peace Corps training center, and like sponges, we absorbed the deluge of information which would make us happy, successful Volunteers. We were sworn in by the U.S. Ambassador and then we all went separate ways to our sites.

My assigned site was Sokone, a town of 9,000 inhabitants, and the county seat for an area with 88,000 people. I worked with health information and education, and also functioned as a liaison between headquar-

ters and health Volunteers serving in outlying villages throughout the district. Our work varied with respect to the needs and desires of the community, but some of the more common projects were anti-malaria campaigns, malnutrition prevention, family planning, and AIDS education.

One of my major projects was to help a nearby village establish a health hut. It was on their initiative, which should be the primary criteria for all development projects. We basically started from scratch: created a health committee, selected two health practitioners and coordinated their training, built the hut, and set up training to manage the finances and medical supplies. We did it without relying on outside financial assistance, which is all too often the first resort of local



groups and arguably one of the major problems with development today.

I also worked in Sokone's high school, working with the students in the production of a school paper. They had a mimeograph machine donated by a school in France, so it was "simply" a matter of organizing and motivating the staff and students. But "simply" is a relative term, and everything seemed to take five times longer than expected. Maybe the African pace of life is "simply" slower and maybe Africans "simply" do not understand the sense of urgency with which we conduct our daily lives in the States.

My living conditions were exceptional compared to most other Volunteers in rural villages since I had electricity and running water. But the general feeling was

that it was not so much the material drawbacks which were difficult to overcome-it was the cultural differences which presented the greatest obstacles.

The Senegalese are extremely sociable and you greet your nearest neighbors each day by shaking hands, sometimes several times a day. When you are walking about and you see someone you know, you automatically go through the greeting ritual which can last several minutes and sound something like this:



This is me (left) with my neighbor, Baxuum, and another Volunteer who lived close to

Naka nge def? (How are you doing?) Mangi fi. (I'm here.) Ana waa ker ge? (How's the family?) Nunge fe. (They're all there.) Am nge jamm? (Are you in peace?) Jamm rekk. (Peace only.) Mbaa ken feebarul. (Hope nobody is sick.) Jamm rekk, Alhamdullilay. (Peace only, praise Allah.)

And so it continues with variations. To us this may seem superficial and even redundant, but it is the acknowledgment of the other person and their family that is important to the Senegalese. It promotes a sense of community and mutual respect. Furthermore, it is very easy to meet people and you always have someone to talk to.

Yet, that in itself became a problem sometimes. As westerners we highly value our personal space and at times just want to be by ourselves, but Senegalese have a hard time understanding this. If anything, they actually feel pity for anyone who is alone. So, even though I lived on my own, there were not many solitary moments during the course of the day.

Senegalese are very proud of their hospitality, which they call teranga. As a foreigner I received special attention even though that is exactly what I did not want. My neighbors always kept tabs on me and at times it felt like I had no private life. I also had to adjust to always being in the spotlight. Wherever I went, I was an obvious minority.

The African family is large. Cousins and second cousins all fall under the heading of "brother" or "sister," and uncles and aunts function as parents. If I were a Senegalese student, for example, and I wanted to go to the university in Dakar, the assumption would be that I could live in the city with my extended family. A communal vision runs throughout the community and if you have, you share.

My two years in Senegal have been an incredible learning experience. I am convinced that everyone involved has benefited from it positively. My Senegalese friends and colleagues have gained some knowledge about Western health practices and management, and they now have a truer image of Americans to balance out the J. R. Ewing stereotype.

On a personal level, I now better understand a part of the world usually portrayed as in crisis, because most of what we hear about Africa are stories of famine, strife and suffering. This is a very narrow view. Sure, Senegal and Africa may be poor, financially speaking, but they are incredibly rich in other, possibly more significant ways. I consider myself very fortunate to have experienced this the family unity, the generous hospitality, and the wellestablished sense of community.

Will I Live in a Mud Hut?

Peace Corps Volunteers live in a variety of types of housing. The following tell us about their homes away from home.

My house was made of wood, built up from the ground. There was a verandah, living, dining, and kitchen area, three small bedrooms, a bathroom, and two rainwater tanks in the yard. These tanks had no pipes connecting them to the house, but probably had been the main water supply before the town had its own water system. Living conditions in my town were not only adequate, life was tranquil and quiet. One only heard the sounds of birds and happy children. Could one ask for more?

-Carmen Font, Papua New Guinea

I lived for one year in a home constructed of wooden slats, cement floor, a tin roof, cold running water and a toilet that flushed. It was considered quite posh. During my second year I had a room with a family in Santo Domingo. This was a cement block structure with water and electricity.

-Kathleen Novak, Dominican Republic

I went into Peace Corps expecting to live in a mud hut, but it was no mud hut for me. My home was a comfortable ranch-style house made of cement blocks, with a corrugated tin roof. There were three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, and large kitchen. There was electricity for as many as 8 hours a day, depending on the season (little to none during the rainy season of November through March). I also had running water, but that, too, was uncertain during the rainy season.

—Linda Bauknecht, Comoros Islands

I lived in a small stucco house with a tile roof. I pulled my water from the well in the backyard, and heated it on my gas stove. I read by candle or gas lantern in the evening. My yard was shaded in part by a huge avocado tree, and other fruit trees - lemon and mango. This was wonderful as it is very hot in the long Paraguayan summers and many hours were enjoyed sitting with neighbors in the shade drinking terrere (a cold version of sipping mate tea). I loved my house with it's rose bushes and hibiscus by the front door.

—Jean Seigle, Paraguay

I lived by myself in a two-room mud hut with a straw roof, in a small village about 10 miles outside of a town of 100,000 people. I had a kerosene lantern and candles for light. Cooking was done on a charcoal stove. My water came from a nearby source and needed no special treatment before drinking. It was a very comfortable and safe living situation.

-Fred Marton, Zaire

I first lived in a three-bedroom cement brick house with a bathroom and cold running water. Then I lived in a three-bedroom house with two bathrooms and hot water. Housing accommodations were very good in Cameroon.

—Linda Vene, Cameroon

I lived in a fairly modern village of about 4,000 people. I had a twobedroom apartment (my roommate was also a Volunteer) with occasional running water and occasional electricity, beautiful tiled floors and walls, and a squat toilet (real indoor plumbing!). We even had a bathtub, which was pretty weird according to our neighbors.

-Kristyn Leftridge, Morocco

I lived in a cinder block triplex with a zinc pan roof. There was no running water or electricity. Our house was in a small compound with the "kitchen" in front and latrines out back. We had a banana tree, two papaya trees, a coconut tree that never bore fruit, and five mango trees that produced

generously. Because so many people lived in our compound, there was always something cooking, children laughing and someone to talk to. I always felt safe and at home.

—Tracy Washington, Sierra Leone

I lived in a concrete block duplex. Half was house, half was for the program I worked for. There were no screens. Doors were open metal grid. The walls didn't go all the way to the roof peak. It had a concrete slab floor. It was basically pretty swell.

-Judy Harrington, Venezuela

I lived in Kabul, Afghanistan for two years in a variety of houses. All were adobe-style, made of mud, straw, and rock, with wainscoted ceilings. Straw mats were woven to cover the floors, wall to wall. —Peaches Joyal, Afghanistan



A Volunteer models her house in a Nepali village.

My first year in Peace Corps I lived with a family in a comfortable, two-story concrete house on the school grounds. I had my own room, and my family respected my need for privacy. Other teachers lived nearby, and we had a nice little neighborhood. The family helped me in countless ways, with language, cultural tips, how to solve specific problems, and exposure to Thai family life. —Nicholas Wootton, Thailand

My living accommodation was a new apartment above a neighborhood grocery store. All the windows were screened, electricity was available 24 hours a day, my water came from a rain tank that gathered water from the corrugated iron roof when it rained, and the apartment had a shower and a flush toilet!

-----Stan Suyat, Philippines



A Volunteer puts away clothes in her apartment in Poland.

I lived in Kenya, East Africa. My concrete block house with a tin roof was located about three hundred yards from Lake Victoria. ---Bob Paul, Kenya

While I was a Volunteer in Belize, Central America, my village of San Narcissi was the largest in the Corozal District. My home for a little over two years was in a coconut grove on the property of my host family and was much like a clapboard garden shed. That is, it was made of wooden planks, was quite small, and had all my possessions hanging on the walls. This included my hammock which was the most comfortable of beds I've ever owned.

-Jeanne P. Harvey, Belize

I was hoping for a remote village site and a mud hut, but found myself instead an urban dweller in the capital city. I lived with a Guinean family and this experience offered a security I would not have traded for all the real or imagined pleasures of a "mud-hut" experience. —Roz Wollmering, Guinea-Bissau

The house my wife and I lived in was nothing fancy but was a standard British colonial-style made of concrete blocks. We were, after all, in the capital of the pre-civil war region of Eastern Nigeria, a picturesque town of forest and hills that had been founded as a coal-mining center a century earlier. When we could get away for a day or two we liked to visit our Peace Corps country cousins who lived in the bush.

-Larry Lesser, Nigeria

I had two rooms on the top floor of a wooden house on stilts. The houses in the region were elevated for a number of reasons: snakes and other vermin, flooding, ventilation. It was like being in a tree house or on a flying bridge of a boat. Everything I needed was there and I often wish I could go back. ---Perry Letson, Nepal

I lived out in the bush in a mud hut. Since my work was building wells, my best friend ended up being a mason; he, another villager and I built my mud hut from the ground up. It was two 3-meter by 3-meter rooms with a mud and sticks roof which was accessible by mud stairs we built outside. All in all, the best sleep of my life had to have been on top of my mud hut! From the roof, it seemed as if the moon and stars were only inches above me, and some nights I could hear the drums from another village across the Niger river, two kilometers away. —Billy Fanjoy, Mali

More Questions About Peace Corps Service.

I have been thinking of joining the Peace Corps since I started college four years ago. I finished my degree in urban planning last semester and feel that now is the time to go. My only concern is Rex, a 200 pound Siberian Husky. Rex, who is housebroken and loves. children, means a great deal to me and I couldn't go without him. Does the Peace Corps let Volunteers bring pets?

Bringing a pet overseas is very difficult, but not impossible. You would be responsible for making all of Rex's arrangements. This includes furnishing proof of fulfillment of all legal requirements to the U.S. Immigration Service and obtaining clearance from your airline prior to travel. In addition you must consider the threats to Rex overseas. He may not have a permanent home while you are training. Additionally, animals we value as pets may be considered a viable food source in some countries. In contemplating your decision regarding Rex and the Peace Corps, you should consider these problems along with the difficulties of meeting the legal requirements of both the U.S. and the host country.

Please explain the purpose of the Peace Corps. The three goals of the Peace Corps as defined by the United States Congress in 1961 are: To help the people of interested countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained manpower; to help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served, and to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

I am a college student studying sociology and am thinking about taking a year off from my studies to become a Peace Corps Volunteer. What are my chances of getting an assignment? Do you have any programs for less than two years?

It sounds like you are infected with college student burnout, but here is the scoop on Peace Corps assignments. Most of Peace Corps' host countries request Volunteers with either substantial education or solid experience in a needed area, i.e. farming, forestry, carpentry, or a college degree plus community service, tutoring, etc. In view of these specific requests, I urge you to complete your college education before applying to Peace Corps.

Besides, most government-sponsored student loans, such as GSLs, defer repayment during the time a person serves in the Peace Corps. Also 15 to 20 percent of Perkins student loans can be canceled for Peace Corps Volunteers for each year of service. And there are academic credit programs for returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and over 50 graduate schools offer scholarships to former volunteers.

The Peace Corps has long been a dream of mine. Ever since I was a little kid and saw your TV commercials I've wanted to join. But when I think of all the civil unrest in the world, especially in developing countries, I am a little afraid to apply. What are the Peace Corps policies concerning safety?

Peace Corps' first priority is the safety of its Volunteers. Overseas staff carefully considers each Volunteer and his or her prospective village before placement. The overseas staff is responsible for setting the new Volunteers up in a workable situation, i.e. in a town where community members are motivated and have projects to improve upon.

If a situation develops — either naturally or caused by people — where Volunteers are at risk, Peace Corps will immediately evacuate its Volunteers. Within the past two years, Peace Corps has suspended programs in Yemen, Burundi, and Sierra Leone for just that reason.

Is it possible for people to visit me while I am overseas?

Yes, family and friends can visit you while you're overseas. However, this must be coordinated with your work and vacation schedule. You are entitled to 48 days of vacation during your two years of Peace Corps service.

My husband and I are 65 years old and interested in the Peace Corps. Can you tell us how it would effect our Social Security retirement benefits?

By itself, Peace Corps service does not generate enough income to affect a Volunteer's Social Security benefits. However, should a Volunteer earn a sufficient amount during the course of a year prior to entrance into Peace Corps, his/her benefits could be affected for that year. Here are some figures for you: for those age 64 and under, an amount of up to \$620.00 per month may be earned without having an impact on Social Security payments; for those ages 65-69, the amount is \$850.00 per month; and for those age 70 and above, there is no limit on the amount of earnings for the year. If you are under 70 and reach the maximum, your Social Security payment is reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned. Please note that these figures are applicable to taxable years ending in 1992.

You will receive a monthly living allowance while in service. In addition, a readjustment allowance of \$200 per

month is put aside for each month fully served and given to you upon completion of your tour.

I've always wanted to join the Peace Corps, but am concerned about my family. My parents are in their upper sixties and I'm afraid that if something happened to one of them, I'd be stuck overseas. Would I be able to go home if something happened?

A hard question, but one that concerns everyone. If a life-threatening medical problem or death occurs in your immediate family (sister, brother, children, parents, spouse), you will be offered leave to travel to the site of the emergency at the Peace Corps' expense. The emergency must meet specific criteria as outlined in Peace Corps' policy. In most cases, emergency leave is granted for two weeks. We hope that no emergencies ever would occur, but rest assured that you won't be "stuck" overseas if something really serious happens.

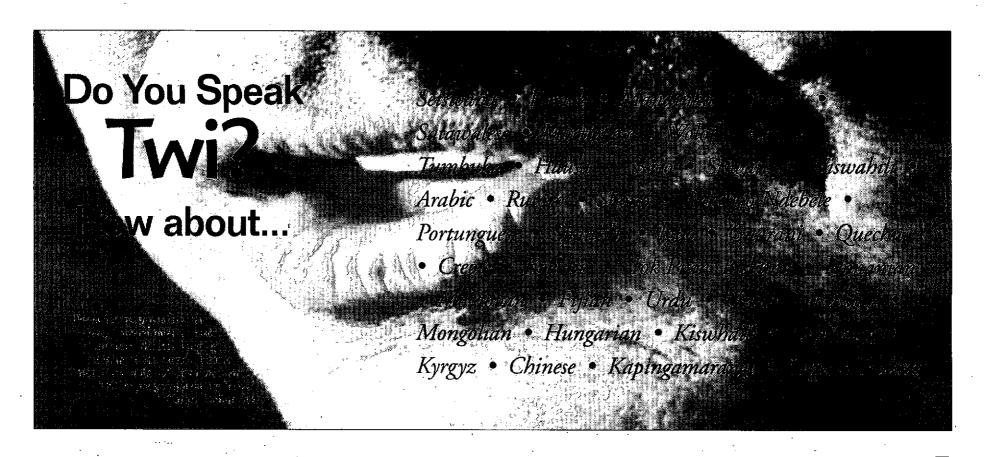
I am a college junior majoring in business and want to know if there's anything I can do to help my chances of being accepted after I graduate. Do you have any suggestions?

Many Volunteer assignments are competitive. Here are a few suggestions which could help you. You should supplement your schoolwork with internships or work experience in bookkeeping, cooperatives, or small business management. Agricultural experience can be very helpful because there are generally more requests for Volunteers in agricultural economics than in regular business programs.` Agricultural experience generally includes three to five months of actual work experience on a farm or 8 semester/ 12 quarter hours in agricultural economics or agricultural resource management. You may also want to study another language, get involved in the community, tutor math or science... there's no limit to the things you can start doing. So begin preparing!

I am currently in the National Guard and want to know if I can still apply to the Peace Corps.

Individuals serving in the National Guard (or the Reserves) may be considered for invitation to Peace Corps service. However, each must provide a written statement from his or her commanding officer that, if selected, "his/ her presence will not be required by their military unit for the duration of their Peace Corps service, except in the case of a national emergency." This statement must be exact and cannot contain any variation or qualifiers. Volunteer candidates serving in the National Guard or the Reserves must also not have served in an intelligence organization or engaged in intelligence gathering or analysis in the last 10 years.

Got a question about Volunteering? Call (800) 424-8580 for an answer today!



What Do Peace Corps Volunteers Do, Anyway?

Buzzing Around Paraguay

My husband, a forester, and I came to Paraguay in 1991. As a social worker, I was labeled a "generalist" and trained in beekeeping. As I look back I'm amazed at how much I've learned and how many technical skills I've gained and have been able to pass onto farmers in hopes of increasing their income!

I feel that Peace Corps offers the Volunteers an opportunity for personal and professional growth, unlike the kind of growth one experiences in the U.S.

It's amazing how fast you learn a new language when standing face-to-face with someone who doesn't speak yours. We've had to speak both Spanish and Guarani, the languages of Paraguay. Peace Corps training got us going, but we really learned when we were plopped down in our site and faced with the daily necessity of communication.

The training we received two years ago really got us headed in the right direction and made it possible for us to succeed in our assignments. Our first year of service was full of "jump starts," so to speak, as we tried to motivate the local farmers to look at alternative crops as options for income since cotton, the main crop, is a losing proposition. It's difficult to encourage something new when people have lost hope after experiencing so much failure and oppression. They are timid and skeptical about anything new.

Now we've completed a second year and the other day while I was out in the back fields with four people from our community capturing a wild hive from a dead tree stump, I sat on a nearby log to rest and marveled. We had just captured this wild hive making it 40 total hive captures and I was quite sure it was a successful capture since they had found the queen and we had caged her in the box. As I sat on that log watching these people work fervently tying honey comb into bars I started reminiscing about the work that had been accomplished. There are 28 people in this small community of about 800 that really know beekeeping and can make some tangible new income from this work. In addition to the beekeeping, I started to consider what other accomplishments have been made and immediately the organic fertilizer crops came to mind. When we arrived here in Narangjaty (northeastern Paraguay) no one had ever heard of the use of organic fertilizers, and they were accustomed to using very expensive chemical fertilizers very sparingly. The fields here had long ago lost their fertility from overuse and erosion and consequently production is very low. Last year my husband started promoting the use of various crops that are planted specifically to enrich the soil. Alongside three local farmers, we planted ten kilos of lupine seed, a winter legume crop in a demonstration plot, and last spring we harvested 250 kilos of seed!

What is exciting about this is, first, no one had ever heard of this crop before we arrived. Second, it costs nothing because the initial ten kilos we received from Peace Corps were free to try out. Now the farmers are using it and are going to save the cost of the chemical fertilizers because they won't need them. This year three farmers are also experimenting with a spring/summer green manure called "*mucuna*" and now the community is all abuzz about it. So many people want seed we couldn't provide it free so the families got together and made a plan for planting special plots to produce enough seed for everyone who wants it.

As I sat on that log reminiscing, I also thought about the two new classrooms built this year after so much struggle in fundraising; I thought about the world map painted on the school wall that the students love to examine to find out where the Olympics will be next, or where the World Cup is being played, or where my husband's and my hometown is.

I want to keep doing work like this, wherever I am, because it gives my life meaning and it's such a "high" to see people empowered with renewed hope of having the kind of life they dream of. At the same time I have the kind of life I dream of too.

Susan Witt Beekeeping Volunteer, Paraguay Save the Turtles!



Environmental Volunteers Jim Kinley and Mary Bell teaching local children how to weigh and measure green sea turtles in Tortuguero, Costa Rica. Tortuguero is one of the world's largest nesting sites for the turtles.

Teaching in Cameroon, Africa

Sanu! Jamna! That's "Hello, how are you?" I am typing at my school's typewriter that is manual and French, so please excuse the mistakes. My village is Pitoa, about 17 km north of Garoua. The population is about 5,000-8,000.

One of the biggest lifestyle changes was the African time adjustment: you fix a time but the Africans will arrive up to an hour later. Plus, people walk even slower and time seems always to be on their side. You quickly adapt and learn not to make concrete plans. Another is the present verb form used here-I'll be running and people will say, "Tu fais le sport"? You are doing sport running? Or you arrive home and they ask you, "Tu es retourne? Tu es la?" You have returned? Are you there? At first I thought, "How silly, of course I'm here, aren't I?" Now it has become so normal that I

find myself saying it, too. My secondary school is still young—we're in our third year now. There is no library, and latrines are being built as I type. The headmaster is from the "corporal punishment" school of teaching, and this is sometimes difficult for me to deal with.

I like teaching the seventh graders, who range in age from 11-16 years. Each class has about 70 students and that is the average size here. I taught ninth and tenth grade for two weeks—it was living hell! Imagine 130 adolescent boys who are trying to get your goat and make you sweat every day. Girls make up only about 8% of the class. Here in the north few girls continue after fourth grade.

There are moments when I like teaching. As I correct the quizzes I often find myself getting excited when they get a good score; the one sixth-grade student who would come up to me with his notebook and say, "Miss, what does this mean?" or "Explain this." At first I thought he was dozing in class, but now he is one of my favorites and the day he stopped me in the marker to have me help him I gladly did. Then there is the other fourth grade student they nick-named "mosquito" who every day mimics my way of speaking. It's annoying and I usually tell him to cut it out. One day I had to laugh because another student gave a correct response and Moustique (mosquito) said "Good" the way I say it. It made me realize how funny I do sound to them. I laughed, too.

Being able to speak the local language—Foulfoulde, spoken here in the northern provinces—is really respected by my villagers. I feel more in touch with the people speaking local languages—not only for being in touch with the people here, but for being able to stave off major price hikes and rip-offs in the market. Speak Foulfoulde and the price drops half. They realize you aren't like other white people. A lot of foreigners, French-speaking especially, make no attempt at speaking anything but French, but I have fun speaking Foulfoulde. Even my students are amazed. They will say something to a classmate and I will comment on it in Foulfoulde and they will stare back wide-eyed. "Don't talk in class," I'll say. "I'll know what you're talking about," and now they believe me.

Before setting foot on this continent, I imagined I would be deprived of food, but not so here. Cameroon has a lot of food and everyone has a field to grow corn, peanuts, millet, etc. Papi, a 10-year old neighborhood boy, amazed me one day by pointing out and explaining medicinal uses of all the plants and trees in my yard. Nothing is overlooked or passed by or wasted in this culture.

Mary Gainer - Education Volunteer, Cameroon

Environmental Assistance in the Czech Republic

Industrial pollution created by coal burning industries—primarily refineries and manufacturing make the Czech Republic one of the most environmentally contaminated regions in the world.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, I work for Greenhouse Litvinov, an environmental Non-Government Organization (NGO) on the fundraising end, making international contacts. I am especially excited about my primary project, Czech Energy Brigades, currently under way. The concept behind the brigades is to change public attritudes about energy waste. We will be putting insulation around windows and reflectors around radiators. Only 5% of the energy produced in the Czech Republic is used by private homes, so one could argue that even if you insulated every house in the country it wouldn't make a dent in energy waste. The real purpose of the project is to get people interested in energy issues, educate them, and keep them interested.

"To neni moznal It isn't possible" is one of the first phrases I learned in the Czech language and a lot of my ideas were met with this response. Time and time again my colleagues have told me that public action campaigns might be possible in the U.S., but are impossible here because people are very apathetic, don't care about the environment, or view public actions with suspicion because under communism they were forced to participate in "volunteer" actions such as trash pick-ups, forestry work, or agricultural brigades.

Many people told me that Czechs would not let strangers into their homes to install energy-saving products. Fortunately, I've found the opposite to be true. The Czechs don't yet have door-to-door salesmen and are far more intrigued and impressed by someone that would take the time to visit them personally at home, especially when that person has traveled all the way from the U.S.

A lot of my friends here have children who are constantly ill. Our secretary was showing me photos of her children at birth, both born prematurely. It was shocking to see them, though the children seem normal today. Last winter 60% of the babies were born premature. Children on the street have hacking coughs, rashes. I walk home every day, but during the winter I found breathing to be so difficult that I took the train because I would be nauseous or have a headache otherwise.

At first I was a little disappointed that I was going to Europe, because I had hoped to go to Africa, where I believed I would face the greatest cultural and work challenges. That notion was dispelled rather quickly! It's often surprising for some new Volunteers that their Czech colleagues who dress and look so familiar to them can have a completely different set of values and world view.

Margo Banner

Environmental Volunteer, Czech Republic

AIDS Prevention in Thailand

I'm working in Chiang Mai, Thailand with HIV and AIDS prevention and control. Primarily I'm focusing on raising awareness in the Thai community both in the city here and in the village to educate people on how they can better understand HIV and AIDS and help prevent themselves from catching it.

I was recruited knowing I would be working with HIV and AIDS prevention and control. I actually have a degree in Molecular Biology and I worked in genetic engineering for about 6 years.

I'm originally from Massachusetts, near Boston.. I'm now living just outside of Chiang Mai in a Thai teak house. One Volunteer is living in a fairly modern style townhouse, while others live further out in a house with a well outside. Obviously there are a wide variety of housing options.

Peace Corps is a great way to really understand a country. You really develop a greater understanding of the culture, and the experience is such that you'll learn a whole lot about yourself and your host country that you can bring back. It's just an experience that will stay with you for a long time.

Louis D'Angio

Health Volunteer, Thailand

Business Development In Albania

The alarm went off signaling the start of another week. Like many winter mornings I was very hesitant about getting out of bed because the temperature in my room was a chilling 45°F degrees. I own a heater, but it does not work when there is no electricity. As the winter progresses, power outages seem to be getting more and more frequent, coinciding perfectly with Murphy's Law. At least I can enjoy my breakfast of bread and Gulf War surplus peanut butter and jelly. I live with an Albanian family of four. The older of the two boys was still sleeping as I was having breakfast. He sleeps on a bench-style single bed in the kitchen so I had to be quiet as I was eating.

Outside it was another beautiful, yet cold, day in Korka. Korka is in the southeastern part of Albania, about 30 kilometers from both the Greek and the Macedonian borders. Due to its location, it is an important city for trade and commerce. I went to the office and met with the Albanian office manager and the assistant manager. Together we discussed what we were going to do for the day. Our first order of the day was to go to the printer to pick up our new business cards. The printer is one of our clients, but today he did not need our advice. We have advised him in his capital purchase decisions as he is trying to update his vintage equipment from the 1920s to the 1990s. We have saved him over \$10,000 already, but I am more excited about the future when I will help him expand his product line and find new markets.

We returned to the office where we met with the director of a bakery. It seems as though this bakery is having serious problems just staying solvent. They are producing at about 25% capacity. This is a common condition for bakeries because when the free market was adopted many people rushed to produce Armenia's staple food. At first the profits were large, but now there is an overabundance of bakeries. As a result, many bakeries have begun to produce new and different types of bread. The competition is very fierce and only the best will survive. This bakery is a little more important than other bakeries, though. The profits from this bakery are used to fund a private school. If the bakery does not realize a profit, the school will not get the books and equipment it so desperately needs.

The next order of business was some design consulting work. My host father wants to start a business producing biscuits. He is now at the stage of designing his packaging. I told him to come in and we could design it on the computer. He bought some other biscuits to see what kind of packaging and labeling they had. We started to work it but it took him some time to come up with ideas. I had plenty of my own, plus the burning desire to just do it all myself, but I knew this was not my job. I started asking all sorts of questions to get him focused on the design. It took awhile, but together we came up with some good ideas and a nice design.

My work day was just about over, so I decided to go home with my host father for dinner. On our walk home we discussed the plans for his business. My host family speaks only Albanian, so it was good practice for me. Luckily for us the electricity had come back on. The food is so much better when there is electricity to cook with!

Business Volunteer, Albania

Combatting AIDS



Health Volunteer Scott Maul teaches kids in Thailand about the HIV infection with the help of a hand puppet. Thailand has one of the world's highest rates of HIV infection. **Volunteer** Profile

Patty Garamendi: Peace Corps' Top Recruiter.

One morning last winter, seven-year-old Ashley Garamendi asked her mother, who is in charge of signing people up to be Peace Corps Volunteers, what her "real" job was.

"What do you think my real job is?" Garamendi asked her daughter.

"Well," said Ashley, "I think you work for peace." "Okay," said Patti. "And what do you think peace is?"

The child paused, a thoughtful expression on her face, and then she said, "Not hating people because they're a different color." Right on.

It is Patti Garamendi's role at to let the public know that Peace Corps is alive and well, and now accepting your application for service. It's a tough job. There are a lot of misconceptions about Peace Corps—that it was shut down in the 70s, that they send you out by yourself for several years to a totally remote location, that you have to pay your own way—Garamendi hears all kinds of kooky rumors about the Agency. In fact, Peace Corps (which

was started in 1961) is anything but shut down: 6400 Volunteers are working right now in more than 91 countries around the world (that's almost half the number of countries)-Some of our locations are remote, but you are never totally on your own. Volunteers maintain close contact with the Peace Corps office in country, and frequently serve alongside other Volunteers. Volunteers are selected carefully for specific assignments in vocations such areas as English teaching or small business development. They are provided with technical, language, and cross-cultural skills before they even set foot in their sites, and they receive a monthly allowance that pays for housing, food, and other necessities. Same deal Volunteers have received throughout Peace Corps' 33 years. Same deal that Garamendi received when she was a Volunteer 29 years ago in Ethiopia.

Patti set her sights on Peace Corps in high school, when she heard Peace Corps founder, John F. Kennedy, challenge her generation to get involved.

And like hundreds of thousands of others who had opportunities galore after college, Patti decided that going overseas to help people living in total poverty was the right thing to do.

Her future husband, John

Garamendi, wasn't so sure. John was an athlete scholar, the quintessential "All American Guy." An economics major, he was also an All-PAC Eight football star and Pacific Coast heavyweight wrestling champ.

By the time they graduated John had been accepted at Harvard and Stanford business schools, and was considered draft material by the NFL. While she was no academic slouch herself, Patti had no plans to head straight to graduate school.

When he proposed to her one night on the quad she said, "But John, you have all these plans—these fantastic offers—your life is all laid out before you, and I'm going to join the Peace Corps."

John Garamendi was not to be deterred.

"We'll work it out," he insisted.

He turned down Harvard, Stanford, and the NFL draft. He chose instead Patricia Wilkinson and two years in the Peace Corps.

"I don't think my students can get over the fact that I am a white woman," she wrote home from her Ethiopian village. "Many have come from small villages and I'm the first white woman they've seen. Me with my stockings and blonde hair, I'm sure they think I'm from another planet!" John and Patti found the climate of the southern

Ethiopian village of Mettu to be not unlike that of their native California—there was a long rainy season, and the rest of the time it was crisp and dry. The accommodations, on the other hand, were a little more primitive than what they were used to. They spent their first year in a three-room house shared with three women who ran the community still and a man who ran a religious bookstore in the village.

"If you can just close your eyes and picture all this under one roof with us in the middle, you'll see how humorous it all is!" she wrote her parents in one of her weekly letters home.

Patti and John supervised about 150 students at the Mettu school. They taught math, science, English, music, gardening, social studies, and sports.

"Some of our students," Patti wrote her sister, "walk two hours to school in the mornings. That's a real desire for education. Most of them in bare feet, too."

Because the kind of classroom materials most American school kids take for granted—books, maps, magazines—rarely made it to Mettu, Patti and John wrote their friends and families for help.

"Can you send an old Sears catalogue? They want to know what a refrigerator looks like." And, "John's biggest problem right now is convincing his eighth grade science class that the world is round. They absolutely refuse to believe it. If you can find any pictures of the earth taken from outer space please send them to us." They've raised six children who now range in age from twenty-six to eight. Given John and Patti's lives of public service, it is no wonder that their children have chosen to take the same route. John Jr. is working in Democratic politics in California; daughter Genet (named for Patti's best friend in Ethiopia) is an aide to a congressman in Washington; and Autumn and Christina Garamendi, students at UC Davis, spent last year as members of Earth Train for Peace. Earth Train is a nonprofit organization that brings together young people from all over the world to meet and discuss peace and conflict resolution. In 1993 Autumn and Christina traveled to war-torn Croatia to teach in Bosnian refugee camps.

The sisters give credit to their parents for lighting the desire to be activists.

"Mom and dad have always inspired us with their public service, and Earth Train opened the door and released the values our parents instilled in us," said Autumn.

Patti's staff is made up of 147 people around the country. Among them are the recruiters at 12 field offices

around the country who speak on college campuses and at community centers, the evaluators who pore over the Volunteer applications and determine if applicants are qualified and suited to Peace Corps service, and the Placement officers whose job it is to match prospective Volunteers with the 6,200 assignments available. Patti and her staff also have the difficult task of explaining to people who want to be Volunteers why they can't be. Some don't meet the basic requirements: you must be at least 18 years old, in good health, and a U.S. citizen. Others don't have the skills: most assignments require a college degree and experience in tutoring



Patty Garamendi teaching school in Ethiopia in 1966. Today she heads the recruitment effort for all of Peace Corps, encouraging other Americans to experience what she calls "one of the best shings I've ever done."

Patti and John were champions of their school kids. To this day they feel that one of their biggest successes in Ethiopia was helping a little boy continue with his education.

"We have good news," she wrote home. "One of our eighth-graders won a complete four-year scholarship to a high school in Addis Ababa. Out of 317 candidates, 27 were chosen and he was the only one in our province. He used to drive us crazy in class, finding absolutely any tiny mistake made that was made on the blackboard or said in class. He's constantly parked on our doorstep, poring through our encyclopedias by the hour. John made up his mind to do something about him and he did. We're so happy."

As the end of their two-year tour approached, Patti and John made plans for their future back in the states. John would enter Harvard's business school and Patti, committed to the American civil rights movement, would teach in an inner-city school outside of Cambridge.

Twenty-nine years have passed since they returned from Ethiopia, and the Garamendi's have never slowed down.

John earned an MBA from Harvard and has been active in California and national politics, serving four terms as California state senator and currently as the state's Insurance Commissioner. Patti taught school in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and was active in community politics in California before returning to school for her law degree. or business management. Hardest of all for hopeful Volunteers to understand is that the host countries specify the skills needed most. As a result, there are more applicants than positions available and those applicants with the most common degrees such as English or Political Science find it difficult to be placed. People with degrees in nursing, forestry, and business, on the other hand, find themselves in a much more competitive situation.

It is Garamendi's job to supervise the process, and she keeps the gears moving smoothly. She rallies her staff like a scout troop leader, roaming the halls of the office, encouraging, listening, and nodding supportively. There are always cookies in the big Ethiopian basket on her credenza, and she makes sure to keep her door unlocked at night for someone pulling an all-nighter who might take a nap on her couch.

Garamendi's drive to keep her staff energized and enthusiastic is legendary in the hallways of Peace Corps. But for Garamendi the explanation of why she works so hard is simple:

"The Peace Corps greatly influenced my life and this is my opportunity to give back—I want to do everything I can to let other people have the opportunity I had."

But it is her characterization of the Volunteers that reveals her unabashed enthusiasm:

"Volunteers are a Corps of doers, believers, and risk takers. They are brave, adventuresome and caring." Who wouldn't want be one?

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Where in the World Do Peace Corps Volunteers Go?



Mike McCaskey was a **Peace Corps** Volunteer?

Yes! Did you know that these other well-known Americans also served as Volunteers?

Ron Arias Senior Writer, People Magazine

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James J. Bausch Former President, Save the Children

Julia Chang Bloch former U.S. Ambassador to Nepal

William Buzenberg Vice President, News and Information, National Public Radio

Drew Days III Solicitor General of the United States, former Professor of Law, Yale University



Christopher Dodd United States Senator

John Garamendi Insurance Commissioner, State of California

Robert Haas Chairman of the Board and CEO, Levi Strauss

Taylor Hackford Movie Director (White Nights, An Officer and a Gentleman)

Denise B. Martin Former Editor, The American Lawyer

Henry Muller Editorial Director, Time, Inc.

Michelle Press Managing Editor, Scientific American

Martin Puryear Sculptor

Check your geography awareness on page 11...

Leonard Robinson former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

Donna Shalala Secretary of Health and Human Services; former Chancellor, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Paul Theroux Author, The Great Railway Bazaar, The Mosquito Coast

Paul Tsongas former United States Senator

Bob Vila Author and former Host, "This Old House"

Jim Walsh Member, U.S. House of Representatives

...plus, more than 140,000 other Americans just like you!

Applying to the Peace Corps: what to expect.

Applying to the Peace Corps can be exciting, but it can also be challenging. The application process involves essays, letters of recommendation, medical examinations, and interviews. This guide is designed to familiarize you with what can be a lengthy application, screening, and placement process.

Volunteer Projects

Peace Corps overseas programmers work closely with the officials of our host countries to develop Volunteer projects. Countries begin making their requests for Volunteers two years in advance of the beginning of training.

Timing of Requests These requests are grouped into four "seasons"

These requests are grouped into four "seasons" depending upon when these trainees begin training. We begin the Volunteer delivery process up to nine months in advance of the beginning of a season. For example, for trainings which begin sometime during the spring season, the screening and placement process begins in August. We identify two candidates for every one trainee that is requested—thus the process is competitive.

This entire process, including the medical and legal screening, takes anywhere from 6 to 18 months depending on your skills and the demand from our overseas posts for Volunteers with your skills.

Your Application Once you submit your application to an area

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Once you submit your application to an area recruitment office, you will be sent a letter confirming the receipt of your application. A recruiter assigned to you will review your application for basic qualifications, and match your skills and interests to a general skill area. All trainee requests are grouped into 60 generic types of assignments, e.g. forestry, fisheries, construction, nursing, nutrition, science teaching, etc. Each assignment area describes the experience or educational background needed in order to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer in that assignment area. If you meet these qualifications you will be sent a list of the assignment areas for which you qualify along with a request for you to schedule an interview.

Your application could be withdrawn from further consideration at this point for any of the following reasons:

- you are not a U.S. citizen
 you are under 18
- you are under 18
 you are under supervise
- you are under supervised probation
 you are or have been involved in intelligence
 organizations
- organizations
- your particular skills do not match those requested by Peace Corps host countries
 you have dependents

The Interview

Once it is determined that you meet the qualifications of a particular assignment area you will be invited for an interview. This usually takes place within two weeks of receipt of your application. During your interview your recruiter will explore your flexibility, adaptability, social sensitivity, cultural awareness, motivation, and commitment to Peace Corps service. Also, you will need to decide whether Peace Corps service is for you. Your recruiter will not nominate you to an assignment area without an expression of genuine commitment on your part to Peace Corps service.

Nomination

In addition to your having been interviewed and having the basic skills our host countries want, there must be an open request for someone with your specific skills to begin training at the same time you are available. If there is such an opening, your application competes with others in the recruitment office for that opening. Nomination can be very competitive, especially for liberal arts majors.

If you are chosen to fill the opening, you will be nominated. This means that your recruiter formally submits your name into the Volunteer delivery system. It is important to emphasize that, as a nominee, you are being considered, along with all other nominees in your particular assignment area, for various specific country assignments which begin training in that season.

At the time you are nominated your recruiter may be able to tell you the geographic region for which you are being considered— e.g., Africa, Asia, the Pacific, etc.— but would not be able to tell you specifically what country. Also, remember that our host countries make these requests up to 24 months before training begins. Thus they are subject to change, often at the last minute. You will know your specific country of assignment when and if you have been invited.

Your recruiter will immediately notify you when you are nominated. At that time you will be given an assignment area name and number. It is also at this point that your references are contacted by mail and your application is forwarded to the Washington, D.C., Evaluation Division. Shortly after you are notified of your nomination, you will receive a nomination kit which includes forms you must complete and return immediately to the Evaluation Division. At this time you should also contact your references and urge them to complete the reference form as soon as possible to avoid delays.

What you should do during the nominating phase

- Respond to the request to schedule an interview as soon as possible.
- Upon notification of nomination, contact references and urge them to complete the reference form as soon as possible.
- Complete and return all forms in the nomination kit as soon as possible.

A note regarding your medical condition: Your medical history page remains sealed in its envelope until you are nominated and your file is sent on to the Evaluation Division in Washington, D.C. The screening process may be delayed or your placement options severely limited or eliminated altogether if you have certain medical conditions which may jeopardize your health overseas. Please review the Medical Information for Applicants sheet to assess your chances of being medically cleared.

Once you are nominated, your application and a summary of your interview are sent to the Evaluation Division. You will receive a letter from Evaluation stating that your file has been received. Your evaluator reviews your application to make sure that your qualifications match the assignment area skill requirements and checks for clarity, accuracy, and completeness.

Evaluators also collect and review references. Evaluation requires at least five references in order to evaluate your file. It is important that your references send their forms in as soon as possible.

You must be medically and dentally cleared prior to Peace Corps service. The purpose of the clearance system is to insure that you can perform your assignment without jeopardizing your health.

As soon as the Evaluation Division receives your file, the sealed envelope containing your medical page is opened and reviewed by the evaluation screening nurse. If you have no major medical problems, you are processed routinely. This means that you won't receive the necessary papers for your physical until you are invited to a particular Peace Corps assignment.

If you have a problem of any medical significance, your application will be medically flagged. A medical flag indicates you are on 'medical hold' and cannot be invited to a program until the hold is removed by the Office of Medical Services. You may proceed to the next step—the "placement phase"— but you can not be invited until you are cleared. You will receive your medical examination kit shortly after your nomination.

All applicants must undergo a physical and dental examination. The results are reviewed by the Office of Medical Services before applicants can receive medical clearance. Any irregularities must be corrected. It is your responsibility to provide any/all medical information required to determine your medical suitability. Up to prescribed limitations, Peace Corps pays for your physical and dental examination.

Only applicants who meet the standards of eligibility established by Congress and Peace Corps may be invited to enter training for a Volunteer assignment. If any of the following situations applies to you, your application will be put on "legal hold" and reviewed by the legal liaison. Further documentation on these issues will be required and the legal liaison will either clear or retire your file. Please note that the following circumstances do not necessarily disqualify you from Peace Corps service but require further attention and documentation:

- common law marriages, serving without spouse, or divorced
- dependents under 18
- previous convictions
 student loans (except Perkins loans and National
- Direct Student Loans)
 financial obligations (e.g. home mortgage
- association with intelligence activity
- ✓ application on file with intelligence agency
- current obligations with Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserve

If you meet the skill and suitability requirements of requesting countries your evaluator will "qualify" your application and send it on to the Placement Office. If you do not have all of your references in, if your fingerprints are of poor quality, or if you have a medical or legal hold, the evaluation process may be delayed. Your application may also be rejected if you do not meet the skill and suitability requirements. If your references are promptly received, the "evaluation stage" of the process generally takes five to seven weeks. If all goes well, Evaluation will send you a letter stating that you are "qualified" for Peace Corps service. Your application is then forwarded to the Placement Office for further consideration and matching to specific country programs.

What you should do during the qualifying phase

- Make sure that your references have completed and sent in their recommendations.
- Respond as quickly as you can to requests for further information.
- Make sure that the Evaluation Division has your most current address.

The Placement Office is divided into four skill desks:

- 1. Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- 2. Professional and Technical Trades
- Health
 Education

Each skill desk has two or three placement specialists who review and select applicants for specific Volunteer assignments. After your application arrives at the appropriate skill desk in the Placement Office. It is again reviewed for suitability and technical competence—this time against country-specific criteria. Placement specialists make the final decision to invite or not to invite a candidate to training. The process is competitive and is designed to ensure that Peace Corps Volunteers have not only the technical skills needed for their assignments, but also the personal qualities necessary to work successfully in specific Peace Corps assignments. They also take into consideration motivation, maturity, flexibility, and interpersonal skills.

Though you are initially nominated into a general skill area, all of your skills are taken into consideration in determining whether (and to where) you receive an invitation. Because of the competitive nature of the placement process, it can be lengthy. Your application may also be delayed due to to a legal or medical hold. This phase may take anywhere from one to nine months.

If you receive an invitation you will have ten days to respond. The invitation packet also includes a Volunteer Assignment Description, more forms to fill out, and an invitation booklet which will guide you through the next few steps.

Once you have accepted an invitation, Peace Corps will send you specific information you will need to prepare for training. The Country Desk Officer will send you a packet of detailed information about your host country and a description of your training. The packet will include a recommended clothing list and a country-specific bibliography. The Staging Office will send you reporting instructions with details about time, date, and location of your staging event. The Travel Office will send you airline tickets and soon you will be on your way!

What you should do during the placement phase

- If on medical or legal hold, send in all requested information in a timely manner.
 Responde as quickly as you get to request for
- Respond as quickly as you can to requests for further information.
- Make sure the Placement skill desk has your most current address.

Countries Where Peace Corps Volunteers Serve

AFRICA Benin—1

Botswana-2 Burkina Faso-3 Cameroon-4 Cape Verde-5 Central African Rep.---6 Chad—7 Comoros-8 Congo—9 Côte d'Ivoire-10 Eritrea-11 Ethiopia-12 Gabon-13 The Gambia—14 Ghana—15 Guinea-16 Guinea Bissau-17 Kenya-18 Lesotho-19 Madagascar-20 Malawi—21 Mali-22 Mauritania—23 Namibia—24 Niger-25 Nigeria-26 São Tomé & Príncipe—27 Senegal—28 Seychelles-29 Swaziland-30 Tanzania-31 Togo—32 Uganda-33 Zambia—34 Zimbabwe—35

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(Numbers correspond to map on page 9).

Picture Yourself in the Peace Corps!



Physical Education Volunteer David Dyrek and his PE class after a tough game of kickball on St. Lucia, in the Eastern Caribbean

Check out the kinds of skills Peace Corps needs most right now:

This is a priority listing of the types of Volunteers most requested by host countries and the kind of work they do:

Agriculturalists—Individuals with ag degrees, extensive farm or gardening experience, or agribusiness backgrounds in crop extension, plant protection, agricultural education, agricultural economics, small and large animal husbandry, farm mechanics, apiculture, cooperatives, rural youth development, and research.

Educators—Teachers are needed in many areas, particularly primary education, math, chemistry, physics, and vocational education (also, see English, below). Assignments require a degree and, in some cases, teaching experience or certification. Experienced Volunteer teachers train local teachers and conduct local and regional workshops.

Nurses and other Health Professionals-

Volunteers with degrees or certification in health fields work in public health education and train host country coworkers.

Skilled Trades Professionals

and Vocational Educators—Experienced carpenters, masons, mechanics, electricians, plumbers, welders, refrigeration specialists, and energy technicians teach and demonstrate these skills. A college degree is not required, but three to five years' experience is. **Natural Resources Workers**—Foresters work in nursery development and management, agroforestry, reforestation, research and education, village woodlot development, and social forestry. Other Volunteers work in geographic information systems, park and wildlife management, soil conservation, and environmental education. Candidates need appropriate degrees or three years' relevant work experience in forestry, wildlife biology, resource management, or related areas.

Engineers—Volunteers work on water, sanitation, and irrigation systems; and construction, repair, and preservation of roads, bridges, and other structures. A relevant degree or three to five years' work experience is required.

Businesspeople—Volunteers with business degrees or five years' managerial business experience are assigned to assist small businesses and cooperatives with feasibility studies, accounting, inventory, and marketing.

English Teachers—Volunteers with English degrees, experience or certification in teaching English, TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), or a foreign language, teach in classrooms at the secondary and university levels. More experienced English or foreign language teachers conduct teacher training and prepare curricula and instructional materials. **Fishery Specialists**—Volunteers with degrees in fisheries, biology, or with a certain number of science credits help small farmers stock, manage, feed, harvest, and market pond fish.

Other Skills—In addition to these specific skills, Volunteers with other skills and years of experience may qualify for a variety of other assignments in Peace Corps.

Don't wonder if you're qualified to be a Volunteer, call us today!

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