The Peace Corps’ purpose is to promote world peace and friendship, to help other countries in meeting their needs for trained men and women, and to promote understanding between the American people and other peoples served by the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps Act emphasizes the Peace Corps commitment toward programming to meet the basic needs of those living in the countries where volunteers work.

The Peace Corps was established by the Peace Corps Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2501), and was made an independent agency by title VI of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1981 (22 U.S.C. 2501–1).

The Peace Corps consists of a Washington, DC, headquarters; 11 area offices; and overseas operations in more than 90 countries. Its presence in foreign countries fluctuates as programs are added or withdrawn.
Activities
To fulfill the Peace Corps mandate, men and women are trained for a 9- to 14-week period in the appropriate local language, the technical skills necessary for their particular job, and the cross-cultural skills needed to adjust to a society with traditions and attitudes different from their own. Volunteers serve for a period of 2 years, living among the people with whom they work. Volunteers are expected to become a part of the community through their voluntary service.

Thousands of volunteers serve throughout Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine, the Baltics, and Central Asia. They work in six program areas, including: education, agriculture, health, small business development, urban development, and the environment. Community-level projects are designed to incorporate the skills of volunteers with the resources of host-country agencies and other international assistance organizations to help solve specific development problems, often in conjunction with private volunteer organizations.

In the United States, the Peace Corps is working to promote an understanding of people in other countries. Through its World Wise Schools Program, volunteers are matched with elementary and junior high schools in the United States to encourage an exchange of letters, pictures, music, and artifacts. Participating students increase their knowledge of geography, languages, and different cultures, while gaining an appreciation for voluntarism.

The Peace Corps offers other domestic programs involving former volunteers, universities, local public school systems, and private businesses and foundations in a partnership to help solve some of the United States most pressing domestic problems.

The Peace Corps Office of Private Sector Relations works with schools, civic groups, businesses, and neighborhood and youth organizations in the United States to facilitate their support of Peace Corps initiatives here and abroad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Offices—Peace Corps</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)</td>
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<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)</td>
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<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, Wyoming)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Arizona, southern California)</td>
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<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin)</td>
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<td>New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington, VA</td>
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<tr>
<td>(District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>(northern California, Hawaii, Nevada)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sources of Information
Becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer
Contact the nearest area office. Phone, 800±424±8580, extension 2293 (toll-free).

Employment
General Inquiries Information or assistance may be obtained by contacting the Peace Corps’ Washington, D.C. headquarters or any of its area offices. Frequently, information is available from local post offices.


PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION
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