



Peace Corps

at The University of Arizona



Office of International Programs
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Campus Peace Corps Representative
Education Building, Room 242
The University of Arizona
Tucson AZ 85721
TEL: (520) 621-7188
EMAIL: pcorps@ag.arizona.edu



The Peace Corps Mission

- To help the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
- To help promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served.
- To help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

Although the Peace Corps traces its roots and its mission to the early '60s, when John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in the developing world, it is very much an organization of today. In everything from AIDS education to emerging technologies and new market economies, Peace Corps volunteers help address the issues that affect the human condition throughout the world.

There is no teacher like experience – doing what others can only imagine, leading where others follow, taking dreams and making them a reality. The Peace Corps is just such an experience. It's a job that allows you to learn while you teach, encourages you to challenge yourself and your expectations, and gives you the opportunity to improve yourself while helping others. For many of the more than 160,000 people who have joined the Peace Corps since its founding in 1961, their two-year service has been the chance to re-examine their perceptions and redefine their goals and aspirations. It has immersed them in a new language, a different culture, and an exotic location. All of which makes volunteering in the Peace Corps the chance of a lifetime.



Steve Cole with children of Kazembe Village, Zambia

Current Volunteers

- Volunteers and trainees: 6,678
- Gender: 61% female, 39% male
- Marital status: 91% single, 9% married
- Minorities: 15% of volunteers
- Age: Average—28 years old; Median—25 years old
- Volunteers over 50: 6% of volunteers (oldest is 84)
- Education: 86% have undergraduate degrees; 12% have graduate studies or degrees

Peace Corps at The University of Arizona

Student participation in the Peace Corps has an excellent history at The University of Arizona. Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, the UA recruiting office has produced 1,036 volunteers who have served in 106 countries. At present there are 43 UA volunteers serving or in training. Of the 43 current volunteers, 14% are minorities, while 26 (60%) are women and 17 (40%) are men. A majority of them, 84%, are aged 20 to 29. Most have a bachelor's degree – drawing from a broad range of skills and educational backgrounds, including 30% from environment, 26% from business, 26% from education, 9% from health sciences, 5% from agriculture, and 4% from other fields.

The UA recruiting program earned a ranking of 23rd among large universities (those with more than 15,000 undergraduates) for 2002. The efforts of Jeff Ogren, the former Peace Corps recruiter, proved to be significant in continuing the strong UA recruiting tradition. Jeff, who served in Jordan, graduated in May of 2003 with a Masters in Public Administration. During his two-year period as a recruiter, some of his biggest challenges were clearly defining the Peace Corps, correcting misconceptions, and educating potential volunteers about what the Peace Corps really represents.

Jeff's replacement, Steve Cole, hopes to overcome these same challenges by reflecting back to his Peace Corps experience, where he served in Zambia. His focus will primarily be on recruiting interested people in the fields of agriculture and business, yet also stressing health and secondary education backgrounds. A degree in anything and three months of gardening experience will qualify a person for some agricultural projects. Steve feels that people need to have a strong cultural understanding or a will to understand people of different backgrounds to serve in the Peace Corps.

Emerging Areas of Interest:

• *American Indians and Alaskan Natives*

The Peace Corps seeks more American Indians and Alaskan Natives to share in the benefits of international volunteer service. While learning about the unique heritage and culture of people around the world, American Indians, Alaskan Natives and other ethnically diverse individuals can also show people in developing countries the rich multi-cultural composition within America. Your commitment to family, community, and environment are synonymous with the Peace Corps mission. People who had previously thought the problems of their own neighborhoods were insurmountable have learned through their Peace Corps experience that while they cannot remedy all problems, they can initiate improvement. Many former volunteers have returned to the reservations to help make a difference. Peace Corps assignments are often the first of many positions in which

people take active roles in improving lives throughout the world and in their own backyards. Your level of responsibility as a volunteer, and the goodwill you'll enjoy from community involvement will add to great job satisfaction. While Peace Corps service entails certain sacrifices, most volunteers feel the benefits far outweigh the hardships.

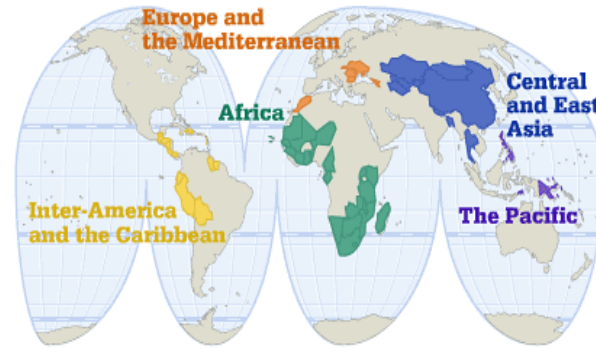
- **Opportunities in Agriculture**

The Peace Corps' agriculture programs attract volunteers with a wide breadth of experience, from those with a bachelor's degree in any discipline, to those with specialized experience or education in agriculture and life sciences. Agriculture volunteers help farmers increase income through farming techniques that are consistent with environmental conservation. They work alongside farmers on integrated farming projects that may combine vegetable gardening, livestock management, agroforestry, and freshwater fisheries. Fruit and vegetable gardens provide valuable micronutrients that alleviate iron, iodine, and vitamin A deficiencies among children. Volunteers with agricultural degrees or significant agricultural experience encourage sustainable crop production by promoting organic farm techniques and better farm management. Their work may include: conducting workshops on integrated pest management; introducing composting, green manures, and other soil improvement techniques; testing new varieties of seeds and demonstrating post-harvest management methods; and teaching agriculture and extension methodologies to young farmers and extension agents in formal training institutions.

- **Regions and Sector Focus**

- **Africa:** Health, Education and Agriculture
- **Zambia Profile:** Health volunteers work with counterparts at various levels, from the rural communities to the district office, to promote preventive solutions to health, water, and sanitation problems.
- **Central and East Asia:** Education, Health, Business, and Community Development
- **Nepal Profile:** Many Nepali teachers have little classroom training. To address this issue, education volunteers teach English, math and science in primary and secondary schools.
- **Europe and the Mediterranean:** Business, Education and Environment
- **Bulgaria Profile:** Volunteers work with small business owners, micro-entrepreneurs, and students to develop skills in business administration and management.
- **Inter-American and the Caribbean:** Health, Business, Environment, and Agriculture
- **Jamaica Profile:** Volunteers work to conserve Jamaica's natural resources, promoting healthy living, and helping youth to gain the skills and education they need for their future
- **The Pacific:** Environment, Community Development, and Education

- **Philippines Profile:** Volunteers working to improve the environment contribute to local efforts through the establishment and/or maintenance of marine sanctuaries, mangrove replanting, and alternative income generation.



- **Benefits to Joining Peace Corps**

Professional/Career Benefits: In today's global marketplace, fluency in foreign languages, international experience, and cross-cultural understanding are highly sought-after assets in many sectors of our increasingly global economy. Robin Southern, who served in Haiti, went into Peace Corps interested in development work and recognized that, "most USAID and UN workers (International Government-Specific Departments and Agencies) were former Peace Corps volunteers. The Peace Corps experience opens a lot of doors into the public and private sectors."

Educational Benefits: Scholarships, assistantships, tuition assistance and more.

Loan Deferments: Deferment and partial loan cancellation for specific school loans.

Financial Benefits: Monthly living allowances, travel expenses and re-adjustment payments.

Return Volunteers Work in the Following Sectors: Agriculture/Environmental Sciences, Business, Career Counselors, Communications and the Arts, Community and Legal Services, Education, Government, Government-Specific Departments and Agencies, Graduate Schools, International Work, Medical/Health Services, Non-Profit.

Master's International: The Master's International Program offers the unique opportunity to combine Peace Corps service with a master's degree program. The foremost benefit of the

Master's International Program is that upon successful completion of university requirements and Peace Corps service, you will have a master's degree and two years of international experience to show for your efforts. For more information about The Master's International go to: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/gradschool/masters/index.cfm>

Fellows/USA: Fellows/USA develops and maintains educational partnerships that place returned volunteers in internships in underserved U.S. communities. As Peace Corps Fellows, returned volunteers earn graduate degrees and/or certification at reduced cost, advancing their professional development for careers in a wide range of fields. Degrees awarded at UA include: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Arid Lands Resource Sciences, MPA in Public Administration & Policy, MPH in Public Health, MS in Urban Planning, MBA in Eller Graduate School of Management, MS in Renewable Natural Resources, and MA in English as a Second Language.

- **For more information on Fellows/USA contact:**

Graduate College Administration
 Grant & Scholarship Development Coordinator
 Administration Building, Room 322B
 The University of Arizona
 Tucson AZ 85721
 TEL: (520) 621-9103
 EMAIL: rpcf@grad.arizona.edu

For more information about Fellows/USA go to: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/gradschool/fellows/index.cfm>

Peace Corps Regional Offices
 Toll-free telephone number: 1-800-424-8580
 Website: www.peacecorps.gov

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