

*“... what
you can do
for your
country”*



QUESTIONS AND

ANSWERS ABOUT THE

PEACE CORPS

The Goals of the Peace Corps

The goals of the Peace Corps are the understanding and trust that arise from common effort. One human working with another—on a farm, in a laboratory, in a school—does more to demonstrate the meaning of peace than all the oratory in the world. Volunteers will work toward these goals with all their intellectual and physical energy. You will help to build, to measure, to cure, to teach, to give the fruits of what you know. You will receive the friendship of your hosts and the enrichment that arises from intimacy with another culture. You will stand in the eyes of the world as examples of the moral purpose that established the United States and now guides its course in world affairs.

QUESTION: Where will the Peace Corps serve?

ANSWER: Wherever a nation seeks the spirit and know-how of a qualified Volunteer. Service seems most likely in the newly developing nations of Latin America, Asia, and Africa, but the Peace Corps will respond to need wherever it can.

QUESTION: Who may apply?

ANSWER: Any American citizen over 18 is eligible for the Peace Corps. There is no upper age limit. A married person with no children will be accepted if his spouse is also accepted as a Volunteer.

QUESTION: How will Volunteers be selected?

ANSWER: Selection will be made after interviews, written tests and physical examinations. Assignments will be made on the basis of specific skills and the needs of the people with whom you will work.



LIFE PHOTO BY JOHN DOMINIS

"Although this is an American Peace Corps, the problem of world development is not just an American problem. Let us hope that other nations will mobilize the spirit and energies and skill of their people in some form of Peace Corps—making our own effort only one step in a major international effort to increase the welfare of all men and improve understanding among all nations.

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

President John F. Kennedy
March 1, 1961

What the Peace Corps Can Mean to You

In helping others, you will learn yourself. You will grow in your job, and at the end of your assignment you will have earned the friendship of a people you might otherwise never have known. And most important, you will have contributed directly to world peace. You will serve for 2 years—including a training period of 3 to 6 months. You will be given an allowance which will let you live modestly in the country to which you are assigned. When your assignment is over, a Career Planning Board will help you continue your education or to secure jobs in agriculture, business, labor, government or education—whatever is right for you and your interests. The qualities of resourcefulness, tolerance and leadership which Volunteer training experience will develop are the very qualities greatly in demand in our own country.

QUESTION: How will Volunteers be paid?

ANSWER: In addition to a living allowance, you will accumulate \$75 a month payable when you complete your assignment. Your transportation costs will be paid and you will be given a modest allowance for travel in the host country.

QUESTION: What about the draft?

ANSWER: Service in the Peace Corps *will not exempt* anyone from provisions of the Universal Military Training and Service Act. The Act, however, *permits deferment* for members of the Peace Corps. Selective Service Director Hershey has said that the fact that a registrant has been a member of the Peace Corps will not preclude further deferment, provided he engages "in an activity which permits him to be deferred in the national health, safety, or interest."

QUESTION: What about health and insurance problems?

ANSWER: Service in the Peace Corps will be hazardous in many areas. The Peace Corps will ask Congress for permission to provide a life insurance policy for each Volunteer and post-service medical care for service-connected disabilities. Overseas Volunteers will be provided with all medical care necessary.

QUESTION: How can you join the Peace Corps?

ANSWER: Fill out a questionnaire available from post offices, county agricultural agents, colleges, labor unions, veterans groups, business associations, and Members of Congress or by writing the Peace Corps, Washington 25, D.C.

QUESTION: Who will administer Peace Corps programs?

ANSWER: Peace Corps programs will be carried out by voluntary agencies, by universities and colleges, by agencies of the United Nations and by the Peace Corps itself.

QUESTION: What will Peace Corps Volunteers do?

ANSWER: They will serve as teachers, administrators, community development workers, agricultural extension workers, health workers, sanitation engineers, construction foremen, medical assistants, mechanics, accountants, librarians, surveyors, nurses, laboratory technicians . . . the variety is endless.

QUESTION: Is it necessary to be a college graduate to get into the Peace Corps?

ANSWER: No. Many crafts of the kind learned on the farm or in apprenticeship courses will be needed.

QUESTION: Must the college student be a technician in order to qualify?

ANSWER: No. Any liberal arts major may qualify. If a project requires that a liberal arts Volunteer know certain additional practical skills, he will be trained in those skills. One great demand is for Volunteers who can teach. Liberal arts graduates can be trained by the Peace Corps for this task.

QUESTION: How will the Peace Corps Volunteer be trained?

ANSWER: By experts in the language and culture of the host country, in the technical fields which a project will require and in the tradition, government and institutions of the United States.

PEACE CORPS

Washington 25, D.C.

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