



www.peacecorps.gov

Kennedy and the Peace Corps

John Kennedy
United States

☀ Values

- Giving
- Patriotism
- Determination
- Adventure
- Enthusiasm
- Courage
- Social Emotional Learning

☀ Reflection Questions

Do you know anyone who is a Returned Peace Corps member?

Would like to join the Peace Corps? Why or why not? Where would you like to go?

Sargent Shriver's decided, "Never to accept 'no' as an answer. Why was this important?"

Why do you think President Kennedy's call to action was so powerful?

☀ Lessons Learned

When people are asked to help, they often will.

One secret of America success is we believe we can change things and make them better.

Americans have skills and talents that people in the 3rd world need to build their villages.

Doing good deeds can combine travel and fun with service to others.

"Ask not what your country can do for you: ask what you can do for your country." With these inspiring words, John F. Kennedy launched the Peace Corps in 1961. Since then, over 150,000 Americans have brought skills, life-saving technological improvements and a goodwill message of generosity and optimism to poor countries around the world. Harris Wofford tells the little-known story of how it began when Kennedy, on the campaign trail, spontaneously asked a group of college students if they would give a few years of their life to help others in underdeveloped parts of the world. The students' response was so overwhelmingly positive, and their energy so contagious, that it galvanized the newly elected President into action. His campaign promise to create a corps of young men and women who "could work miracles for peace," has been coming true ever since.

☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Visit the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers website at www.RPCV.org. What are the Peace Corps' three goals? Which is most important to you? Read one of the many books about the Peace Corps. Request someone from their Speakers Bureau to speak at your school. Have students poll their relatives, parents' friends, community members to discover who has served in the Peace Corps. Interview them and write a paper on their experience.

☀ Social Studies: Diversity

Study other times in history when young people have influenced a President's Actions. Compare the values and lives of young people in the 1960's with today's Generation Y. Create a student petition for a special project e.g. creating a sister city Peace Corps program. Create a list of Peace Corps countries; find them on a map. Study the impact on a country. Explore the origins of service organizations and their goals. The Peace Corps is to "improve the human condition at the grass roots level." Write a report on your findings.

☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Assemble a Care package for a Peace Corps member and ship overseas. Send a thank you note to show your appreciation for the work they are doing. Call 800-424-8580 for a list. Write to a Peace Corps member and ask what local people need that you could send them. Host a gathering of Returned Peace Corps members in your community.

