



Common Ground

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Fall 2015

Update: Boise International Market

September's devastating fire left the Boise International Market's vendors and the Boise community at an extraordinary loss. Although the market was only open for about a year (Boise International Market first opened its doors last October, while the market's grand opening took place last Spring), it had already established itself as a center for culture, authentic international cuisine and vibrant shopping.

While it will undoubtedly take time to get the market back on its feet, generous community efforts have been made this past month to raise funds for these valuable vendors and their families. The International Market family fund has raised \$55,586 with over 800 individuals having donated to this relief fund, while Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers were able to provide a donation of \$300 to the market. These donations clearly speak to the powerful impact the market has had in the Boise community. Perhaps continued sustained efforts will soon bring back this beloved business center.



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Holiday Events

Boise Holiday Parade

When: November 21st @ 9:45 am
Where: near Bannock/Jefferson & 11th/12th streets
Contact: Jennifer Rogers (208) 484-7511

IRPCVs please contact Jennifer if you can come early to help! We encourage you to wear costumes or clothing from your PC country of service and/or Santa hats, jingle bells & noise makers. Join us for brunch at Elmer's afterwards. Find out more at boiseholidayparade.org.

Annual Holiday Party

When: December 12 @ 5:00 pm
Where: Chloe's House (4303 Hoover St., Boise, Idaho)
Contact: Chloe Ross (208) 789-7547

Be sure to bring your "silly" white elephant gift, potluck item and drink to share! Every year there is a large turnout for this event, so come ready to enjoy some delicious grub while having a very merry time with your Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteer family!

Past Events



First Annual International Food Festival

The international food and culture festival was held on August 1st at Julia Davis Park. IRPCV manned a booth throughout the day and educated visitors about the Peace Corps. A variety of food vendors and live entertainment helped make this event a memorable one. Thank you to all volunteers who came out.

Idaho Shakespeare Festival Volunteer Night

IRPCV volunteer night took place on August 22nd. Volunteers were able to attend the showing of *The Secret Garden* for free. We are grateful to the Idaho Shakespeare Festival for recognizing IRPCVs and allowing them to view such an enjoyable showing at no cost.

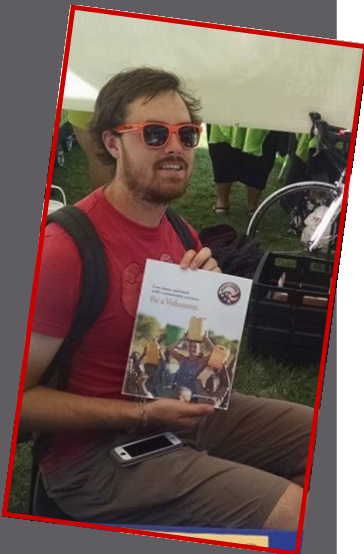
IRPCV Beer Night at Cloud 9 Brewery

This last beer night of 2015 was held on October 16th at Boise's first nanobrewery in the state. There was a wonderful turnout of volunteers who were able to experience the local and organic beers Cloud 9 had to offer. The new faces, great conversations and delicious eats were enjoyed by many.

IRPCV & NPCA Memberships

Going forward, membership in the NPCA will be complimentary for everyone in the Peace Corps community (serving PCVs, RPCVs and current Peace Corps staff, former Peace Corps staff, host country nationals and anyone who shares Peace Corps ideals, so long as we have accurate service and contact information for you). As of January 1, 2016, the dues required for membership are eliminated.

For those interested in IRPCV membership, the cost is only \$15 a year, allowing you to receive 12 months of Peace Corps advocacy, IRPCV activities, updates and information to help fulfill the 3rd goal of the Peace Corps: to bring the world back home to Idaho. Dues can be sent to our Treasurer, Connie Collins (make your \$15 check payable to IRPCV and send to: 512 S Eagleson Road, Boise, ID 83705). You can contact Connie at 208.853.1051. Membership forms are at www.idahopeacecorps.com. First time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!



2016 IRPCV President Needed

Are you looking for a great opportunity that allows you to volunteer your time in a leadership position? We are currently looking to fill the role of our new 2016 IRPCV President. As IRPCV President, you will have the opportunity to meet IRPCV members from all over the state while serving as a board member. For questions or more information on the duties and role of IRPCV President, contact Chloe Ross at **208.789.7547** or send an e-mail to rosschloe@hotmail.com.



Ocean Guardian Contest 2015

My name is Travis and I did my service in a little coastal community called Bahia Ballena in Costa Rica, where I currently live and operate a small surf and yoga camp called Bodhi Surf School. In addition to my work with Bodhi Surf, I help PCCR select potential PCV communities in the South Pacific of Costa Rica and consult for the **Costa Rica - USA Foundation (CRUSA)** which annually gives \$100k to small grant projects for PCCR PCVs. I enjoy being connected to PCCR and the greater RPCV network!

The reason I am reaching out to you is because Bodhi Surf is currently running their third annual **Ocean Guardian Contest** and I thought your members might be interested in participating. Through essays and photo submissions, the competition calls for participants to prove that they're taking unique and powerful steps to reduce carbon footprints and catalyze conservation efforts. The grand prize winner will win a free, week-long surf and yoga camp at Bodhi Surf School in Uvita.



Bodhi Surf School isn't your typical surf school. We are committed to leveraging the nature-based experiences our guests have in this pristine region of the world to encourage them to become environmental spokespeople, or Ocean Guardians as we like to say. Over the past five years we have come to realize that having a memorable and monumental experience like learning to surf can be a powerful catalyst for lasting, pro-environmental behavior change. In fact, this thesis is about to be tested by Dr. Carter Hunt of Penn State University, who is undertaking a study entitled "The Influence of Nature-Based Tourism Activities on Pro-Environmental Behavior" and which Bodhi Surf School will be participating in. The results should be interesting!

Finally, if you'd like to enter the contest please do so by visiting : <http://www.bodhisurfschool.com/ocean-guardians/contest>.

Please visit our Bodhi Surf School Facebook page. Any help is appreciated!

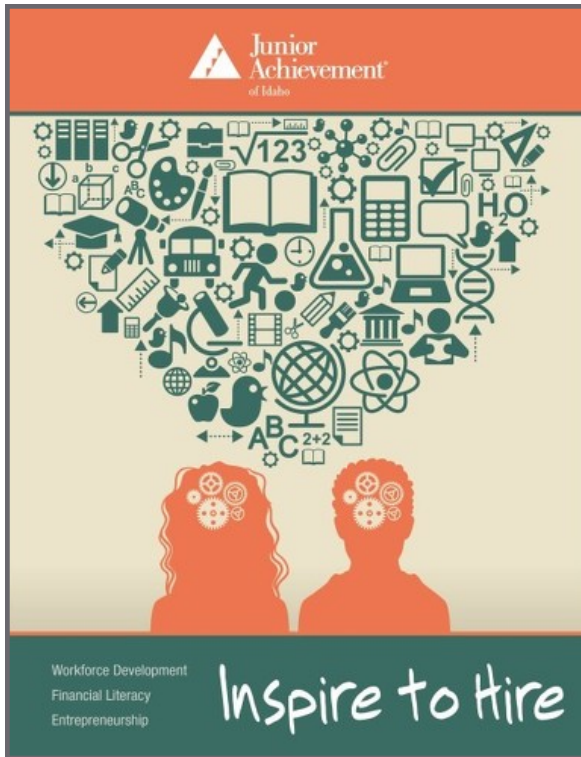
Peace Corps official merchandise!
Visit the NPCA online store at
peacecorpsconnect.org

Travis James Bays
RPCV Costa Rica (05-08)
travis@bodhisurfschool.com

Calendars on sale!

For the last 25 years, the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in Madison, Wisconsin, have been producing the International Calendar. It features countries where Volunteers have served. Net proceeds from calendar sales have been donated to community projects around the world. Calendars can be purchased at IRPCV meetings. You may also contact Chloe by calling 208.789.7547 or by e-mailing irpcvpresident@gmail.com. Calendars are **\$12.00** each. Buy 1-5 for \$12.00 or buy 6-10 at \$10.00 each. Buy 10 and you get one for FREE! (sales tax is included, mailed post-age is extra). Visit www.rpcvcalendar.org/ to learn more.





Volunteer for Junior Achievement of Idaho

Junior Achievement of Idaho (JA) is a partnership between the business community, educators and volunteers all working together with Junior Achievement of Idaho. Come to a short training and then present 5-6 45-minute lessons in K-8 classrooms or 5-12 60-minute lessons in 9-12 classrooms. The curriculum is free to public schools and covers financial literacy topics, career readiness and entrepreneurship. Forty-five minutes once a week provides hands on experiences to help young people understand the economics of life. Please visit www.jaidaho.org and look under the Volunteer tab for opportunities.

Thank you,
David Wallas
RPCV Tanzania 91-93
208.869.5393

NPCA Update

The National Peace Corps Association's affiliate groups are the lifeblood of our community. Each one keeps our Peace Corps family connected, advocates on behalf of the Peace Corps and its volunteers, and carries out the Third Goal in its own unique way. That's why one of the NPCA's goals is focused on enabling affiliate groups to thrive. Your NPCA staff and Board of Directors approved new strategies – which I wanted to share with you before we begin rolling them out this week – to expand our community and to make it more robust, inclusive and diverse:

This refreshed community engagement approach aligns with our launch of the boldest and most visionary initiative in the 36-year history of the NPCA: the **Peace Corps Community Fund**. Members will have the opportunity to support the Peace Corps community as **Mission Partners** through donations to the Community Fund.

NPCA is partnering with Publishing Concepts Inc (PCI) to produce the 2016 **Peace Corps Community Directory**. Please encourage your members to respond promptly to the postcards and emails requesting them to verify their contact and service information and share their photos and reflections. The print directory – and a searchable online version – will be published before Peace Corps Connect in Washington, DC next September, when we will honor Peace Corps' 55th anniversary.

In service,

Glenn Blumhorst
President & CEO
RPCV Guatemala 1988-1991





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**We are on Facebook!
Idaho Returned
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