



Common Ground

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Fall 2016

Peace Corps Beyond

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) is hosting Peace Corps Beyond, this year's Peace Corps Connect conference. Peace Corps Connect is the Peace Corps community's annual conference hosted by the NPCA and its affiliate groups to connect, engage and inspire our community. "At this year's conference we look forward to celebrating 55 years of Peace Corps and the limitless potential of our community to continue to create change. The conference will highlight work being done by our community members and partner organizations and explore how, through increased collaboration, we can continue to champion Peace Corps ideals."



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Peace Corps Beyond consists of a series of events over five days (Wednesday, September 21 through Sunday, September 25, 2016). You can register for any or all events being held at the conference. Signature events will include an International Day of Peace Film Screening of Refugee: The Eritrean Exodus, a Spoken Word Storytelling workshop, Capitol Hill Advocacy Day, Peace Corps Connect Conference Sessions, the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award Reception and the Walk for Peace. Peace Corps Beyond will take place at George Washington University in Washington, DC. To register for the conference, visit bit.ly/peacecorpsconference.

Calendars are here!



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 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 postage is extra). Contact Connie Collins for more information at connie1940@gmail.com.



IRPCV HOSTS NORTHWEST REGIONAL CAMPOUT

With the Pioneer Fire north of Lowman, the Camp Out Committee watched the reports on air quality, and with a little bit of luck we greeted about 13 RPCVs from Oregon and Washington groups on August 11, 2016, to Grayback Gulch campground, which was slightly smoky, but breathable. During the days, attendees hit the hot springs in Idaho City, fished, went on tours, hiked some, played cards, read and in the evening enjoyed swapping PC tales around the campfire before hitting their sleeping bags in the multiple tents that peeked through the woods throughout the camp site. By Saturday afternoon, 36 RPCVs were bringing in food for the big pot luck. Sam Greer and Andy Long manned the grills and President Lila Cabrera lead us in games. Prizes were awarded for the most dexterous and Mezelle Moore received the annual "Walk on Water Shoes" for the most recently returned PCV. Mezelle returned from Mongolia in 2014. Then, it was time to enjoy all the casseroles, salads, meats, desserts, wine and beer that covered the tables; to renew old acquaintances; to make new friends and enjoy the beauty and peace that the mountains provided. On Sunday morning, tent stakes were pulled up; cars and RVs were packed and RPCVs headed home looking forward to next year's camp out, which will be sponsored by the Eugene Oregon group.

BOISE PRIDEFEST SUCCESS

A special thank you to all IRPCVs that helped make our presence at the Boise Pride Festival a success! We distributed Peace Corps information and spoke with 140 people who were interested in the Peace Corps. Many attendees knew about the Peace Corps but did not know that Peace Corps is LGBT friendly. There were many memorable moments during this celebration and day of mourning and remembrance for those affected in Orlando this year. The festival took place on Saturday, June 18th, at Capitol Park in Boise, ID.





IRPCV Ethnic Food Night: *Sofia's Greek Bistro*

Our most recent Ethnic Food Night took place on July 28th at Sofia's Greek Bistro. This event resulted in a great turnout and sizeable helpings of chicken souvlaki, lamb, dolmades, giant gyros, spanakopita, tzatziki and much more. Be sure to join us for the next Ethnic Food Night outing on September 8th. Dinner will take place at Bombay Grill (located in downtown Boise) at 5:30 pm, followed by a showing of "7 Days in Syria," hosted by the Agency for New Americans at The Flicks Theater at 7 pm. This showing will be a fundraising event. Those interested in learning more about the film can visit www.7daysinsyriafilm.com/ for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

July 4th Update:

RPCVs gathered downtown in Boise to march with the IRPCV taxi in the annual July 4th parade. As always, the parade was a lively event with a large turnout from the Boise community. After the parade, volunteers celebrated by enjoying an IRPCV BBQ!





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Food Bank 2016



There are only 2 more shifts left in 2016 for IRPCV Food Bank Nights. Shifts are scheduled on Tuesdays from 7 pm-9 pm. We've had some great evenings of bagging peaches, prepping for the backpack program and packaging thousands of pounds of various food. Jennifer will need someone to take the lead on September 27th to welcome volunteers and take pictures. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Rogers by phone at 208-484-7511. The following shifts are left: **September 27th & October 25th**

IRPCV Memberships

Peace Corps service continues long after Volunteers leave their posts. President Kennedy stated that the third goal of the Peace Corps is to "strengthen Americans' understanding about the world and its peoples." This is a life-long commitment you made when you joined the Peace Corps. The easiest way for you to meet this goal is to join Idaho RPCVs. Together we can strengthen the understanding of other cultures in the State of Idaho. The annual dues are a pittance - just \$15 per year (less than a single dinner at a restaurant)! So there is no acceptable excuse for not joining us. If you live in Idaho and you served in the Peace Corps join IRPCV!

Thanks to all who have renewed your IRPCV membership. We hope that all of you renew or join online at www.idahopeacecorps.com. You can also mail your annual payment to Connie Collins (512 Eagleson Rd., Boise, ID, 83705). First time IRPCV members can join for 1 year free!

Bocce Thursdays

There's a new weekly tradition for IRPCVs. Join IRPCVs for "Drop In" Bocce Ball at Julia Davis Park every Thursday at 7 pm. Bocce Ball Thursdays will begin on Thursday, June 9th. The playing courts are located behind the Boise Zoo near Shelter #1. Bring food, drinks and your bocce balls, and be prepared to have some fun!



CDC & RPCV Health Survey

Health Outcomes of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers:

Attention RPCVs: Peace Corps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are teaming up to learn more about the health status of Peace Corps Volunteers after completing service in order to better inform the care provided to current Volunteers. To do this, we're conducting an anonymous survey among RPCVs who served between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 2014. Many of you may already be aware of this survey, and many thanks to those of you who have completed it. We'd like to ask for your assistance to encourage others in your RPCV Group to participate. With more participation, we will be better able to understand what the long term health risks outcomes are for Volunteers and continue to protect Volunteer health in the future.

Here is a link to the survey that could be forwarded to others:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rpcvsurvey>

Please also see the "Frequently Asked Questions" at :

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USPC/bulletins/15d7695>

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IRPCV Volunteer for the Agency for New Americans

About ANA: ANA's mission is to help refugees achieve self-sufficiency in their new lives by providing the skills, education, and support necessary during their resettlement period.

What we will do to help ANA: We will help the supply coordinator organize and box donated items for distribution amongst refugee families. Then we will help deliver packages to 1-2 families each! Each individual can decide whether they want to stay and have a conversation with the family, or just drop off and run, based on their individual comfort level.

When: This activity is set to occur every 3 months. Next proposed dates are still to come, so stay tuned and look out for e-mails and Facebook posts!

Get in touch if you're interested: If you are interested, please RSVP to Aviva. Contact her by phone at 301-802-0956 or e-mail her at irpcvservice@gmail.com with any questions.

Stay in touch with the Peace Corps by updating your contact information on the Peace Corps Web site. There are all kinds of RPCV resources available to you on the Web site at www.peacecorps.gov/rpcv.



IRPCV Volunteer at the Learning Lab

About Learning Lab: The Learning Lab's mission is to teach and encourage adults who struggle with literacy, and to encourage families to discover the joy of learning. It is a computer-assisted learning center for adults and families with children ages 6 and under. Students in this program receive basic skills instruction including mathematics, reading, writing, spelling, GED preparation and workplace skills. IRPCV is lucky enough to have been invited to work with their student population through one of our co-president's classes!

Where we come in: The aim is to come volunteer at each of Lila's classes about once a month. We will start with resume help (though it may be more of a conversation about what they can include on a resume), and build from there. We may eventually do a how-to-use-google maps tutorial. All work at the Learning Lab is one-on-one.

Where we will work: The people we will be helping are refugees and those living in the US who are trying to better their lives. The first student group that we will work with are mostly refugees (class located at the Boise Library) and the second student group we will work with is mostly Latino (class located in a Garden City facility).

Get in touch if you're interested: We will cap the number of volunteers going at 14, so it'll be first come, first serve. Aviva will need to know who's interested by the week before each event, so she can let Lila plan for our arrival. Please RSVP to Aviva at irpcvservice@gmail.com or call 301-802-0956 with any questions.



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