



Common Ground

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Fall 2017

BSU Welcomes Peace Corps Prep Program

For the first time ever Boise State University is partnered with the Peace Corps offering students the opportunity to participate in Peace Corps Prep. The Peace Corps website states, "Peace Corps Prep is a certificate program for undergraduates that centers on one empowering question: How can you prepare yourself to be the best Peace Corps Volunteer you can be?" The goal of the Peace Corps Prep program is to ensure that students graduate with the four core competencies Peace Corps considers critical for service. The competencies include sector-specific skills, foreign language proficiency, intercultural competence, and professional savvy and leadership. The Peace Corps Prep program directs students through requirements that assist them with the acquisition of these four core competencies. The requirements include completion of applicable coursework and at least 50 hours of professional experience that relates to a student's desired sector of Peace Corps service. Faculty from various disciplines serve as sector advisors, many of whom are RPCVs. The sector advisors assist the Peace Corps Prep students in tailoring the program requirements to fit students' interest, passion, and desired region of service.

Unique aspects of the Boise State Peace Corps Prep program include the requirement to attend Boise State's annual Tunnel of Oppression. The Tunnel of Oppression is a 20-30 minute interactive theater that challenges the way people think about marginalized groups. Additionally, students will strongly be encouraged to participate in courses with a service-learning aspect, allowing them to bridge classroom learning with applied experiences within the community. Boise State University hopes to recruit 8-10 Peace Corps Prep students a year and increase the awareness on campus of the opportunity to serve in the Peace Corps. Opportunities for Idaho RPCVs to support the Prep program will be advertised as events and recruiting sessions are developed. For more information about the program visit Boise State's Center for Global Education's Peace Corps Prep website at <https://academics.boisestate.edu/globaleducation/peace-corps-prep-program/>.

*Holly Mikesell
Boise State University Peace Corps Prep Coordinator
RPCV Belize 2009-2011*

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INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR



*****SHARE JOY*****

Support the IRPCV small grant program by buying and giving a Peace Corps 2018 International Calendar!

PRICING: \$13 each or \$10 each when you buy 5 or more. Receive a free calendar when you purchase 10 calendars or more.

Contact Connie at connie1940@gmail.com to place your order today. Orders will be shipped to you or you can pick them up (a postage charge may be added for shipping).

Annual Holiday Party

WHEN: December 9th @ 5:00 pm
WHERE: 11 N Latah St
 Boise, ID 83706
CONTACT: cabreraila@gmail.com

The Annual IRPCV Holiday Party will be held again in December! The location of the party will be at the Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel (CABI). Be sure to bring a dish and/or drinks to share, as this is typically a potluck dinner.

Please do not bring any dishes that contain pork or shellfish. The annual White Elephant gift exchange will also take place during this time. If you are interested in participating, please bring a wrapped gift. Friends and family are also welcome to join in on the fun and festivities. We are looking forward to celebrating with everyone again this year.



Now Seeking Candidates: IRPCV Board

Glen Blumhorst, NPCA president, in his latest letter to NPCA stated the following:

“Affiliate groups are the drivers of change in the Peace Corps community. Acting on our own, we can certainly make a difference in the world. But when we join together, our potential for change-making expands exponentially. So engage with an affiliate group today. If you are already a member of a group, we ask that you find ways to help that group live up to its full potential.”

Idaho Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are such an affiliate group and we are asking you not only to join, but to volunteer to serve on the IRPCV Board. The service terms are 2 years. Maybe you have ideas about the direction of IRPCV and its activities? Choose a position where your talents can shine. Present board members will mentor you. Open positions are **President, President-elect, Treasurer/Membership, Education, Secretary** and **Newsletter Editor**. Below are our general responsibilities. If you would like to have a description of a specific position, contact Meg Stephenson at megletter@msn.com :

- Attend all board and general membership meetings and present report
- Check board-related emails on a regular basis; reply in a timely manner
- Help cover shifts at our Peace Corps promotion table during public events
- Promote IRPCV to RPCVs
- Promote IRPCV to family, friends and the public
- Promote IRPCV annual membership to RPCVs

If you are a former board member, a newly returned RPCV or a long standing-member, please make a commitment to serve today. Contact: Connie Collins by text/email: Connie1940@gmail.com or phone: 208-412-2135



Campout 2017

Our IRPCVs attended the 2017 27th Regional Campout at South Beach State Park in Newport, Oregon. The event was hosted by Eugene RPCVs. Thank you to all members who helped make this event a success!



You Shop and Amazon Gives: IRPCV Partners with Amazon Smile

Are you an on-line shopper, especially from Amazon? Did you know that you, your family and friends can have a small percentage of every purchase from Amazon donated to the **IRPCV**?

Just visit www.smile.amazon.com and click "Pick a charity." Search for Idaho Charities and **IRPCV**. Like magic, an Amazon icon will appear on your home tool bar, making it easy for you to click on the icon every time you want to shop Amazon. When you make a purchase, click on the icon and a percentage will go to us, giving us a little more to help us continue our work!

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Peace Corps News:

IRPCVs received a surprise visit this summer from current NPCA President Glenn Blumhorst. Glenn provided several recent updates regarding the strong need for Peace Corps advocacy and fundraising while sharing great ideas and stories of what current RPCVs are doing in Washington D.C. and all over the nation. A number of IRPCVs were able to attend this meet and greet. Thank you to all IRPCVs that welcomed Glenn to Boise, and a special thank you to current IRPCV President Lila Cabrera for graciously hosting Glenn's visit while sharing those awe-inspiring Peace Corps cupcakes! We are truly thankful that Glenn took some time out say hello to us in Idaho and would love for him to stop by again. Glenn Blumhorst is the current President and CEO of the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). He is a RPCV (*Guatemala 1988 – 1991*).





Volunteer Drivers Needed!

Are you looking for a way to help Boise's Refugee Community? One major challenge facing this community is a lack of adequate transportation. Boise is trying to address this issue by sponsoring and running a volunteer

driver service called GO RIDE. For more information, call 208-345-RIDE. You can also browse the GO RIDE Facebook page or visit www.gorideidaho.org. For additional questions, feel free to reach out to Lila Cabrera (Phone: 208-850-6040).

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. 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!

Boise Holiday Parade 2017

This year's holiday parade theme is "A Storybook Christmas." Join the IRPCV group and walk in the holiday parade on November 18th. The parade is scheduled to begin at 9:45 am, so we will need to meet a little earlier to set up the IRPCV taxi. Be sure to wear clothing from your country of service or holiday items (santa hats, jingle bells and reindeer antlers are all acceptable)! Learn more about the parade at www.boiseholidayparade.org and look out for updates in the next couple of weeks.



Food Bank Update:

Thank you all volunteers who gave their time to help with the Food Bank again this year! The last food bank volunteer night took place on November 1st.



We are on Facebook!
Idaho Returned
Peace Corps Volunteers

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

IRPCV 2017 Executive Board

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Upcoming Events

November 4th - Ethnic Food Night @ Casa Blanca Cuban Grill (6 pm).

November 11th - "The Biggest Planting Day Ever" Table Rock Fire Planting (10 am - 1 pm)

November 18th - Boise Holiday Parade (located downtown) @ 9 am

December 2nd - Sagebrush Seed Collection, Time and Location TBD

December 9th - Annual Holiday Party @ 5 pm (CABI)



A New and Exciting Opportunity with the IRC!

We all have been desperately interested in helping our local refugee population set up their new lives and find their place in their new home in Idaho. After hitting many dead ends in our partnership with the IRC, a new opportunity has been presented and we would love to hear back from you! The program is new and has yet to be named, so for now, let's call it the IRC Community Engagement No Name Program. So, here is the idea: refugees who have recently arrived in the Boise-area get comfortable in the places they know; we breach those boundaries all the time as we develop relationships within this community, but do they ever breach their boundaries into "our" territory? Let's help them become more comfortable within their new home and explore the area, and become familiar participating in new activities! We will do this in partnership with the IRC.

They get calls all the time from different organizations and groups offering tickets to a play or opera, time at the local skating rink, help navigating local hiking trails, etc. What the IRC needs from us are people willing to spend a night out on the town with these interested refugees and rides to and from the activity. We think we can provide this support! If you are interested in participating in this partnership, please email Aviva at ipcvservice@gmail.com or call/text her at [301-802-0956](tel:301-802-0956). When you do so, please state your name, your interest, and your email address. Aviva will then submit all of this information to the IRC and they will do a quick background check on us all. Then, this fantastic program idea will get off the ground! Aviva will e-mail all people interested in this program every time a new opportunity presents itself. Thank you ahead of time for your interest and for your dedication in helping our refugee community call Idaho home.



Join us for a Peace Corps Story Slam



The Center for Global Education presents:

Peace Corps, Their Story, Your Story.

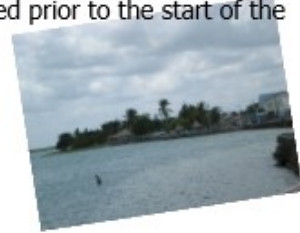
Join members of the Boise State Peace Corps Community during International Education Week 2017 for the first ever Story Slam! Come and listen to returned Peace Corps Volunteers share short stories about their Peace Corps service built around 1 meaningful image. In addition to their stories we will have Boise State students who are set to join the Peace Corps following their graduation, share their own stories. Following the stories there will be a Q&A about Peace Corps service. A FREE lunch will be served prior to the start of the program.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 15th, 2017

WHERE: Student Union Building (SUB) on the 2nd Floor in Hatch A

WHAT: Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Soon-to-be Volunteers share their stories about Peace Corps using 1 image as a prompt

TIME: FREE lunch starts 12 PM, the Story Slam will run 12:30-1:30 PM.



A graphic of the state of Idaho. The top portion of the state is filled with a blue field containing white stars, and the bottom portion is filled with red and white horizontal stripes, mimicking the US flag. The map has a black outline and a slight 3D effect.

**IDAHO RETURNED
PEACE CORPS
VOLUNTEERS**

www.IdahoPeaceCorps.com