

PEACE CORPS FACTS



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Peace Corps Volunteers—representing every state in the Union—are now working on projects utilizing over 300 skills in 46 countries.

Why a Peace Corps?

Congress established the Peace Corps on September 22, 1961. Objectives defined by the Act for the Peace Corps are to promote world peace and friendship by making available to interested countries Americans who will:

1. Help the people of these countries meet their needs for trained manpower.
2. Help promote a better understanding of the American people on the part of the peoples served; and
3. Help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of the American people.

Who are the Volunteers?

They represent a cross-section of the American people. They come from the cities, villages and farms of all 50 American states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. Although the typical Volunteer is unmarried and about 25 years old, many married couples are now serving together overseas. Some Volunteers are as young as 18—the minimum age—and several are over 60. In professional background, the Volunteers range from students who have yet to finish their education, to men and women who

have temporarily left their careers in midstream, to others who have passed the normal age of retirement.

Volunteers who can teach—all subjects at all levels—are those most requested by developing nations. In particular demand are Volunteers with training in math and science. Persons with agricultural and farm backgrounds usually rank second in demand. But the list is endless—carpenters, brick layers, well drillers, nurses, doctors, engineers, surveyors, social workers, home economists, physical education instructors, etc. Liberal Arts graduates with no defined “skill” can perform many needed tasks. In fact, half the Volunteers now serving are Liberal Arts graduates. There are now more than 300 job categories.

How are Volunteers Selected?

Peace Corps selection is based on merit alone. The Peace Corps stands or falls on the Volunteers it selects. Selection is made for individual projects and every project has particular requirements.

Volunteer candidates first fill out a Volunteer application available from most Post Offices, the Washington Peace Corps Office, college Peace Corps Liaison Offices or United States Senators and Congressmen. The application is numbered and information is coded on computers for fast reference. Each

Volunteer candidate lists six references on his application and these are contacted, along with key persons who have taught or employed the candidate. Responses from these references play a major role in the selection process.

There are no personal interviews before invitations are issued for training. The Peace Corps has no regional representatives. Filling out the application is the only method of applying.

There is a place on the application where you may state your area preference. And, wherever possible, a Volunteer is sent to the area of his preference. Two or more people who wish to serve together should state this fact on their applications. If they qualify for the same area, every effort will be made to place them together.

Applications should be submitted at least six months before the date of availability, if possible, and twelve months in advance is not too soon.

Volunteer candidates are then instructed to take the Peace Corps Placement Test. There is no passing score. Results merely help the Peace Corps Selection Division evaluate a candidate's abilities in certain specific skill areas. Applications must be submitted *before* taking the Placement Test. Your local Post Office, Civil Service Commission or Peace Corps headquarters can tell you the time, date, and place of tests.

If a thorough analysis of all of this material indicates that a candidate has the needed skill, maturity, motivation and character, an invitation to train for a project is issued. The candidate is free to accept or decline the invitation. He may state a preference for another country, or may ask that he be invited for another project at a later date.

Potential Volunteers are carefully evaluated and their talents, interests, hobbies, experiences, all are carefully matched with one of the many existing project requirements. Often, a potential Volunteer does not apply because he doesn't think that he possesses the necessary "skills." Peace Corps experience has shown that persons selected for training have the capacity and background enabling them to acquire a particular skill. During the ten to twelve weeks of training, the Peace Corps will make certain that you are trained for the job to which you will be assigned. It is the Peace Corps' job to make use of those interests, hobbies and experiences that a potential Volunteer brings with him to the training site.

College juniors are being selected for a new Peace Corps advanced training program in which applicants begin training the summer before their senior year to prepare for overseas service following graduation. This provides better training, particularly in critical language skills, before a Volunteer actually goes overseas.

The selection process continues throughout training, giving the Peace Corps a chance to form first-hand opinions of the candidate's qualifications to serve overseas.

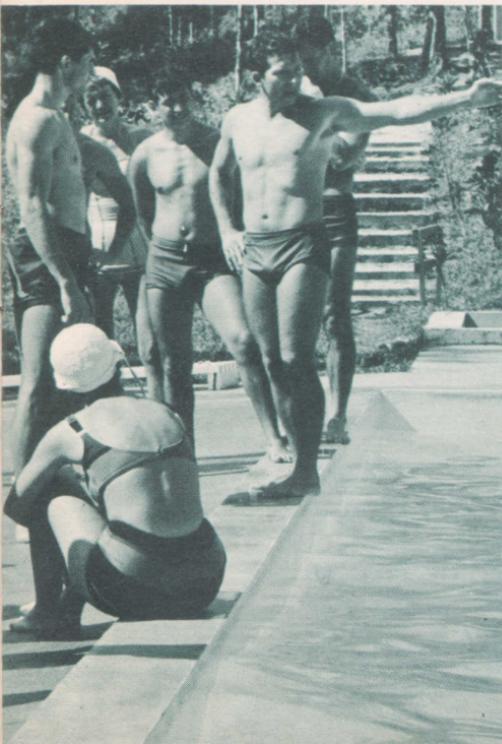
Selection is made without reference to race, religion or political affiliation.

Two underlying factors guide the entire selection process. The candidate's personality characteristics must be such that he can make a successful adjustment to Peace Corps overseas standards, and by the time he completes training he must be able to satisfactorily perform the job assigned to him overseas.

Medical selection standards are exceptionally high, but not inflexible. In all cases, medical judgments are final. Some Volunteers are handicapped by blindness, artificial limbs, etc. But in all cases the Volunteer's skills and ability match the needs and objectives of the project to which he is sent.

If a Trainee demonstrates during the training program that he fully meets the Peace Corps' standards, he is selected for the project. His status has thus changed from a candidate, to a Trainee, to a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Physical conditioning and language studies are important facets of the Volunteer's training. Jim Stevens teaches lifesaving at Camp Crozier, P. R., while in Putney, Vt., a Volunteer is instructed in French before his assignment to the West African country of Guinea.



How are they trained?

Volunteers receive intensive training designed to achieve one basic objective: to prepare them for effective service overseas. Most of the training takes place at a U. S. college or university where prospective Volunteers spend 60 or more hours a week in study. Each training program is tailored for the specific country and project. Studies include the language of the host country, its history, geography, economy, traditions and customs, a review of American history, culture and institutions, and specialized training in each Volunteer's skill area. The college phase of the training usually lasts for about three months, but may vary with individual projects.

The advanced training program includes a summer session between an applicant's junior and senior year, continued study during the school year, and a final training session after graduation. Final selection takes place after the last phase of training.

Some projects are trained by such groups as the National 4-H Foundation, the Experiment in International Living and CARE.

After completing sessions at a college, university or private agency, training programs may be continued at one of the Peace Corps' three training sites in Puerto Rico and Hawaii. There, language study is intensified, field experience gained and physical conditioning programs completed. Training concludes with orientation in the host country before actual work begins.

Where are they at work?

Volunteers are now serving in:

AFRICA: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Malawi, Senegal, Sierre Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda.

ASIA: Afghanistan, India, W. Pakistan, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, E. Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey.

LATIN AMERICA: Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, British Honduras, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Before they joined the Peace Corps, Volunteers earned their

livelihood as teachers, farmers, nurses, engineers, brick layers, librarians, well drillers, auto mechanics, social workers, chemists and a host of other occupations.

As Volunteers, they make use of their professional skills, as have:

— the commercial fishermen who are showing the fishermen of Togo (in West Africa) how to develop their inland fisheries;

— the geologists who are searching for minerals in the interior of Ghana;

— the agricultural extension agents who are demonstrating to the farmers of the West Indian island of St. Lucia how to raise better livestock;

— the mechanics who are teaching vehicle repair in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan;

— the social workers who are helping to alleviate the misery of the people who live in the slums of Arequipa, Peru;

— the architects who are helping to design low-cost housing units and civic buildings in Tunisia;

— the audio-visual specialists and experienced teachers who are working in Colombian Educational Television program.

Volunteer Mervin Stump, Kingsport, Tenn., teaches at the Jose Abad Santos High School, in the Binondo District of Manila, P. I. Philippine school programs constitute one of Peace Corps' largest Far Eastern commitments.



All of the Volunteers will most often work in their primary skill areas. But many find that their extra-curricular activities make significant contributions to achieving Peace Corps objectives. The idea that the Peace Corps can *only* use those people with highly technical specialties is untrue. While the Peace Corps makes use of people with special skills and aptitudes, more than half of all Peace Corps Volunteers are Liberal Arts graduates. For instance, liberal arts majors are eligible for many overseas teaching positions without needing a teaching certification or any previous teacher-training experience. The Peace Corps needs people to fill hundreds of different job categories.

What about the draft?

Peace Corps service does not fulfill military obligations, although Volunteers are usually deferred during their term of service. Peace Corps service has been classified as being "within the national interest." All deferments, however, are determined by local draft boards. As a matter of Selective Service System policy, the classification of registrants in the Peace Corps is handled like all other registrants "engaged in activities in the national health, safety or interest." Deferment does not exempt Volunteers from future draft requirements, nor does it mean they could not qualify for further deferment after completing terms of Peace Corps service. Further deferment would depend upon such considerations as age, physical condition, marital status, the Selective

A Volunteer teaches library skills in Jamaica. Vital farm-to-market roads are maintained in Cameroon, West Africa, through Peace Corps heavy equipment maintenance know-how.



Service regulations in effect when the Volunteer is released and the number of other persons eligible.

A Reservist must have completed his initial period of active duty or active duty for training in a military reserve unit, before he may be considered for service in the Peace Corps, unless his reserve contract does not call for active duty. Otherwise, reservists, and members of National Guard units, must wait until they have completed their initial period of active duty. Thereafter, as with any other individual who goes abroad to do useful work, any remaining weekly drill or summer camp obligation would be suspended while he is in the Peace Corps.

What about language requirements?

Prior knowledge of a foreign language is desirable, but not required. For most projects, the Peace Corps will teach the Volunteer to be as proficient in a foreign language as is necessary to satisfactorily perform his job. However, English is spoken in some countries and knowledge of another language may not be necessary.

What is the term of service?

The Peace Corps term of service is approximately 24 months, normally including the two or three month training period, though there are some programs which may require as much as 27 months of service including training. There are no programs involving a short tour of duty, such as a summer. Programs begin throughout the year.

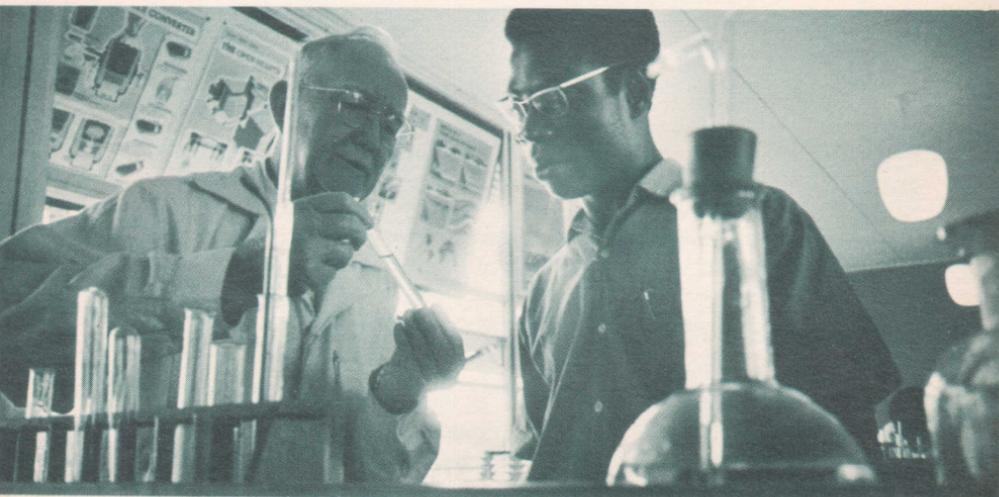
What will Volunteers be paid?

They receive an allowance to pay for clothing appropriate to the job and climate, a living allowance to pay for food, housing, and incidental expenses — such as postage, cigarettes, books, recreation, toiletries and other personal items — and a readjustment allowance which accrues at the rate of \$75 a month for each month of satisfactory service, including training. During the training period, Volunteer Trainees receive meals, housing, medical care and all necessary training materials, plus \$2 a day expense money.

The living allowance is designed to let the Volunteer live at a



Bill and Carol Cull are Volunteers in the kampong of Sungei Suluang, Malaysia. "Our job is to stay in the background, and guide these people in their community development achievements," Carol said.



Dr. Virgil Payne who, with his wife, are the oldest couple in the Peace Corps, performs chemistry experiment for student at the Federal Advanced Teachers College at Yabba, Nigeria, a suburb of the capital city of Lagos.



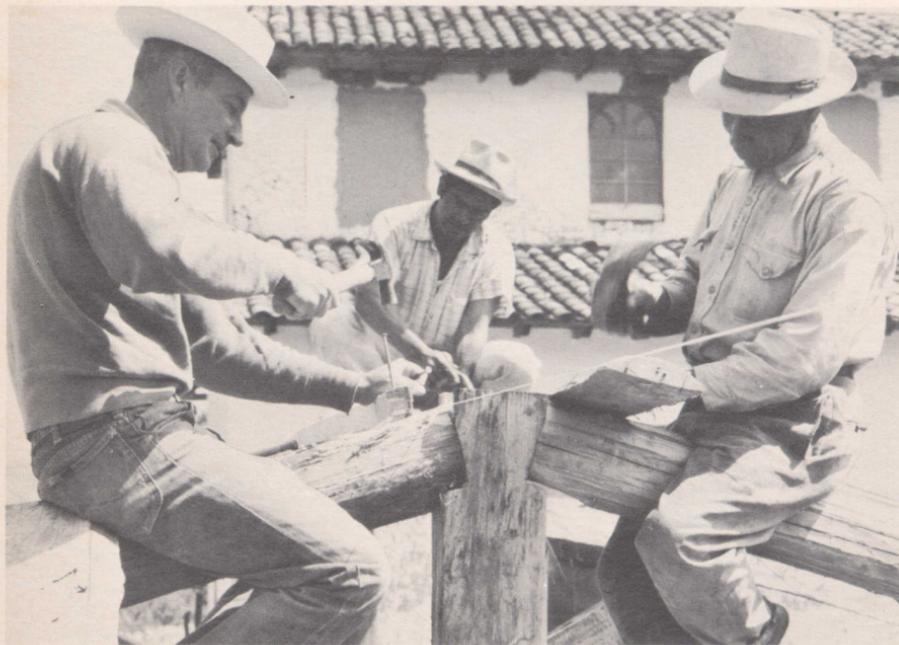
Volunteer Regina Williams (left), a 29-year-old laboratory technician from St. Paul, Minn., works in her laboratory at Roi-Et Provincial Hospital, Northeastern Thailand.



Lucy Bettis teaches needle skills in a Santiago, Chile, pants factory. She and her husband, Lee, are assigned to a community development project.



Sierra Leone's first A-frame building was designed by Peace Corps Volunteer Tim Howell, near the village of Kenema.



Peace Corps Volunteer Gerry Miller assists in the construction of a school building in Cuchil, Canton Sigsig, Ecuador. Miller later served the Peace Corps in a staff position as associate representative for Jamaica.

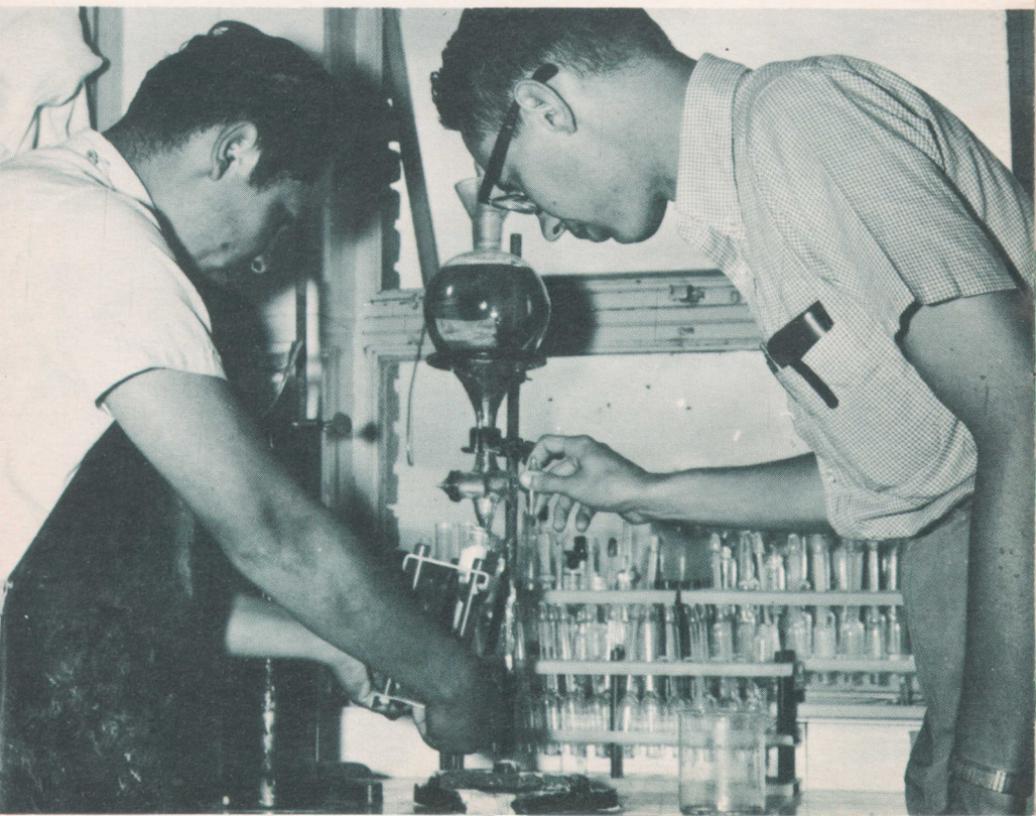
level comparable to that of the people with whom he works. If he's a teacher in Ghana, he gets an allowance similar to the pay of a Ghanaian teacher. If he's a health worker in Bolivia, he gets about what a Bolivian health worker makes.

With the prior approval of the Peace Corps, Volunteers may allot a portion of their accruing readjustment allowance for continuing obligations, such as the support of a parent, insurance payments, loan payments, educational costs for members of their families, or other similar obligations.

What about transportation?

All necessary transportation will be provided between the Volunteer's home and training sites as well as to overseas posts. At the end of Peace Corps service, transportation home is provided. However, upon separation, a Volunteer may request the cash equivalent of transportation home.

Eric Smith (left) checks the acidity index of milk as part of a Bolivian rural community development project.



What about vacation?

Volunteers generally receive about ten days' leave at home after completing training and before going overseas. While overseas, Volunteers receive 45 days of leave and may seek approval to travel in nearby countries. Volunteers cannot return to the United States while on leave, except in cases of family emergency. They are encouraged to use their leave time in becoming better acquainted with the country in which they are working. For each day of leave, \$7.50 of leave allowance is paid to the Volunteer.

What about health care?

The United States Public Health Service has accepted responsibility for the health care of Volunteers. The first steps are appropriate physical and psychiatric examinations, immunizations and a thorough medical orientation provided during training. Volunteers are given instruction in emergency first aid and taught the basic preventive measures which must be taken while overseas. More specific health instruction is given during training in the host country. In the event of any disability resulting from illness or injury while in service, Congress has extended to each Volunteer coverage under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.

Doctors detailed to the Peace Corps from the U. S. Public Health Service are assigned to countries where the Peace Corps has projects. They visit Volunteers periodically and provide medical care when it is required.

Who is in charge of Volunteers?

A Peace Corps Representative is assigned to each country or area. He handles relationships with the host country and is responsible for the well-being and performance of Volunteers. In most cases, the immediate supervisor of a Volunteer will be a host country official.

Can a Volunteer be dropped?

Yes. The Peace Corps has the right to terminate the service of any Volunteer at any time. This may be done for reasons of health, inadequate performance or poor conduct. In special cir-

cumstances a Volunteer may request reassignment within a country or to a different post. Such requests will be evaluated and, if desirable, fulfilled. In the past two and a half years only 6 per cent of the Volunteers in the field have not completed their two-year assignments.

Marriage and pregnancy policies?

Married couples may serve together if both qualify for the same project (not necessarily the same job) and have no dependents under 18. In-service marriage of single Volunteers must have the prior approval of the Peace Corps Representative in charge of the project. Before approving a marriage, the Representative will consider such questions as what job changes would be necessary to accommodate the marriage. In any case, approval will not be granted when the future spouse has come from the U. S. or from some other country for the purpose of marrying a Volunteer, or when the Volunteer has left his assignment to return to the U. S. or to go to another country in order to marry. If, for some reason, approval is not forthcoming, the Volunteer must resign if he still wants to marry.

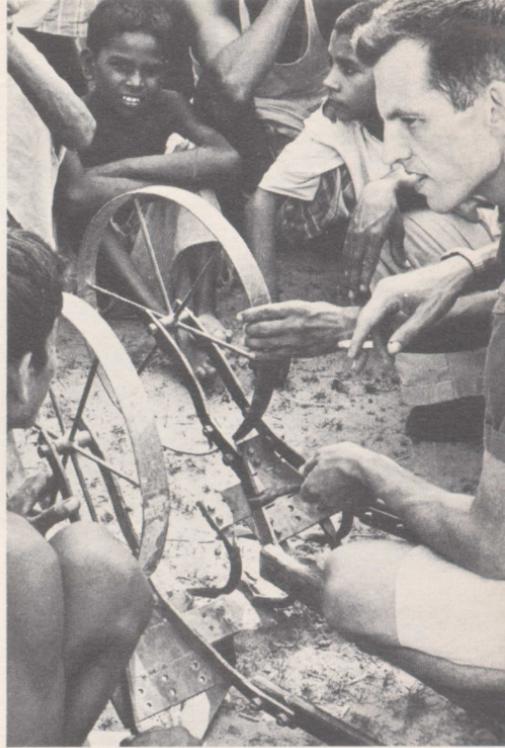
Married Volunteers who are to become parents must notify their Peace Corps Representative as quickly as possible. The Representative will consider the health hazards to the mother and child, prospects for the continued effectiveness of the Volunteers, and the plans for supporting the family. If the outlook is unfavorable in any of these areas, the Volunteers may be asked to resign.

What about taxes?

The readjustment allowance and some maintenance allowances are subject to federal income tax. Depending on state laws, some payments may be subject to state taxes. Generally, Volunteers are not required to pay income taxes in the country where they serve.

What about social security?

All Volunteers are covered by social security. Social security payments are taken out of the \$75 monthly readjustment allowance.



A Peace Corps Volunteer in the State of Bahia, Brazil, organizes and advises 4-H Clubs, at left. Right, one of Peace Corps' most vital Far East projects is teaching better agriculture methods in India. Below, Volunteer Mike Smith teaches Moroccans some fine points of wrestling.



Insurance?

Upon enrollment in the Peace Corps, Volunteers are automatically insured for \$10,000, unless waived. The premium is \$1.20 per month and is deducted from the monthly readjustment allowance.

Student loans?

Interest and principal payments on National Defense Education Act Student Loans contracted after September 22, 1961, will be suspended while the borrower is serving as a Volunteer. However, teaching in the Peace Corps will not reduce the debt as does teaching in the United States.

Civil Service?

If, when the Volunteer returns, he wants to seek career employment with the Federal Government, Peace Corps service can be used toward retirement and seniority.

What happens when a Volunteer completes his term of service?

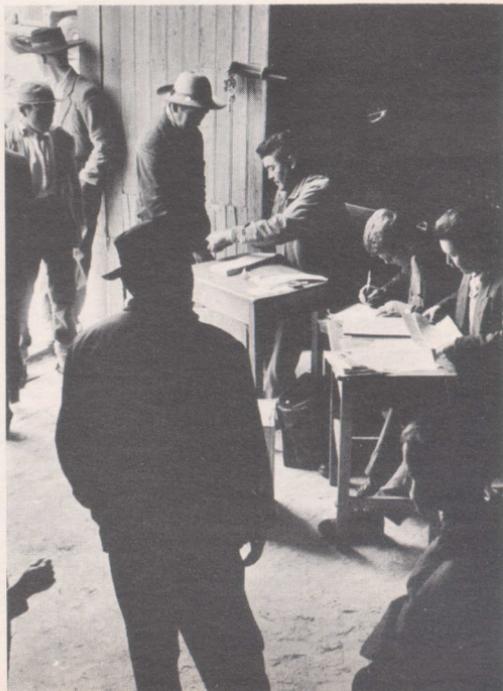
He returns to private life. The extent to which a person's service in the Peace Corps widens his opportunities depends upon his initiative as well as upon the knowledge he has gained in two years' service overseas.

Volunteers return from overseas with an interest in and first-hand knowledge of another area of the world. They have had the opportunity to know the language, culture and traditions of the country to which they are assigned.

To assist returning Volunteers in educational and occupational planning, Congress authorized the establishment of a Peace Corps Career Information Service. Bulletins containing current information on scholarships and job possibilities are distributed to Volunteers in the field and to those who have completed service.



In Iran Volunteer Ann Mentzer teaches deaf children in the School for the Deaf, Isfahan. Below, Annie Wortham, Jackson, Tenn., teaches primary English in Tanzania, at the Isamile School, Mwanza. At right in Chile, an agricultural extension worker supervises a grain co-op.





Judy Baxter, a registered nurse from Providence, R.I., is in charge of maternal and child health at a small government clinic about 40 miles from the Malaysian capital city of Kuala Lumpur. Below, Volunteer Stuart McKenzie, 24, of Grandview, Wash., and his wife, Connie, live and work at Ouled M'Hamed, an 11,000-acre experimental farm on the Sahara's edge, in Southern Tunisia. The farm is the home of one Bedouin tribe, who supply the work force.



Peace Corps Facts To Remember—

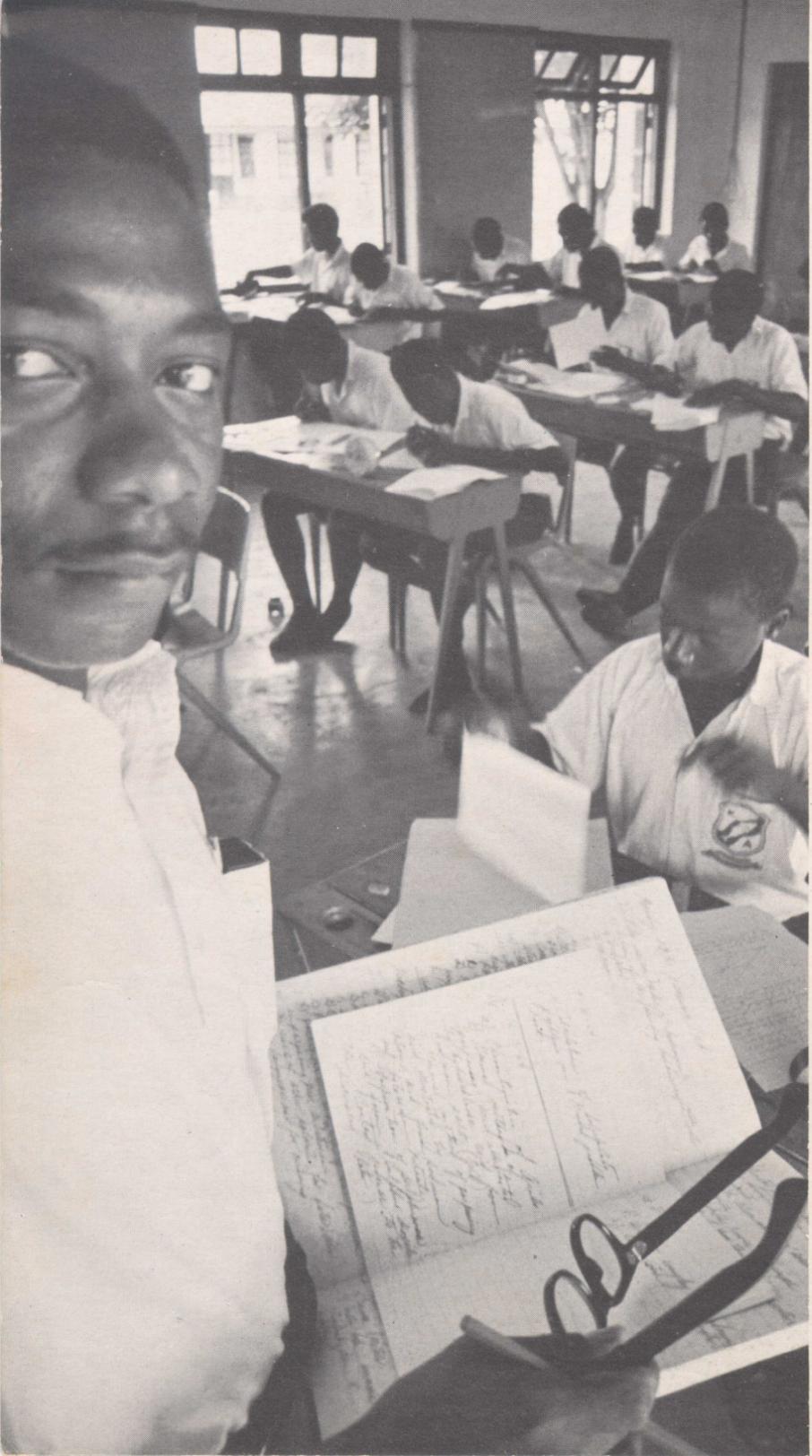
To qualify as a Volunteer:

1. You must be an American citizen.
2. You must be at least 18 years of age, but there is no upper age limit.
3. If you are married, both you and your spouse must qualify for the same project and have no dependents under 18.
4. You must be available to serve for a minimum of two years.
5. You need *not* have studied a foreign language.
6. To apply for Peace Corps service you must submit an application, which you can obtain at your local Post Office or write:

PEACE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20525

Attn: Office of Public Affairs



PEACE CORPS FACTS