



**National
Peace Corps
Association**

Go the Extra Mile!

Things You Can Do From
Your Home to Support the
National Day of Action

On February 27, 2014 the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) will hold its tenth annual National Day of Action in support of the Peace Corps, the one day of the year when we encourage everyone to take five to ten minutes to contact their members of Congress.

Beyond that brief, important action? Well, there are lots of things you can do from your home to help. Please take any/all of the actions listed below:

1. **Find Ten Other People to Take Action:** We want to generate thousands – even tens of thousands – of communications to Congress on/about February 27th. As this is a national mobilization, you can reach out to people you know all around the country. Also, don't limit yourself to contacting Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) or former staff. Reach out to family, neighbors, co-workers and friends. Anyone who believes in the importance of the Peace Corps can contact their members of Congress on February 27th. Commit to reaching out to at least ten people you know. Contact those individuals now, explain why you believe the Peace Corps is important, and ask them to make plans to contact their lawmakers in Congress starting on February 27th. Then, plan to contact them on February 27th, and ask them to visit www.peacecorpsconnect.org/dayofaction. Starting on the 27th, we will have all the information they will need posted at that site, so they can contribute to our nationwide mobilization!
2. **Organize a Meeting in the District Office of Your Lawmaker(s):** While more time consuming, this is a great way to take action. Try to find at least one other RPCV or like-minded individual to attend a meeting. Then, go to the websites of your Senators (www.senate.gov) or Representatives (www.house.gov) to find the location of the nearest district office of your lawmaker. Contact the office, identify yourself as a constituent and indicate you want to arrange a meeting to share your views about Peace Corps and Peace Corps funding. If you can schedule a meeting on February 27th that's great! However, if the 27th isn't available, any day that works in the coming weeks will be fine. Contact us at advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org to let us know about your progress. We can possibly help you find some other advocates to participate in your meeting (or let you know if someone else is scheduling a similar meeting). And, we can provide you with handout materials and key talking points to help you prepare.

(NOTE: If you can't organize a district meeting in conjunction with the Day of Action, do know that we are planning a major effort in August/September during which advocates conduct district office meetings. Make note of that date and contact us if you are interested.)

3. **Write an Op/Ed or Letter-to-the-Editor:** March 1st is Peace Corps Day, the anniversary of President Kennedy's 1961 Executive Order that established the Peace Corps. This serves as a great opportunity to highlight the Peace Corps and its ongoing relevance. Local and state news publications are increasingly looking for local voices (rather than national columnists) to feature in their newspapers or on their websites. Go to those sites to determine the guidelines for submissions. Be sure to personalize your submissions by sharing how you made (or continue to

make) a difference because of Peace Corps, and the agency's important role in U.S. global outreach.

Follow this link to read a recent op-ed submitted by NPCA Montana Advocacy Coordinator Otto Koester: http://missoulian.com/news/opinion/columnists/peace-corps-well-worth-a-cup-of-coffee-per-year/article_38743030-6bed-11e3-a8d1-0019bb2963f4.html

Contact us at advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org if you need some further guidance. By taking this action, you will extend your voice to thousands of individuals in your region.

4. **Host an E-Mail/Phone Message Party:** Turn your activism into a social event. Invite friends over for food and drinks and fun, but inform them that they each will be taking ten minutes during the party to phone or email their lawmakers and urge action in support of the Peace Corps! A computer, a phone or two, and a visit to NPCA's website www.peacecorpsconnect.org/dayofaction are all you'll need for the activism portion of your party! Be sure to take photos so we can highlight your action. Your Day of Action Party will not only be fun, it will be a huge contribution to the national effort.
5. **Staff a Public Display:** Alternatively, staff a Day of Action table at a busy public venue on February 27th, so you can educate others about the importance of Peace Corps and urge them to take action. Contact us at advocacy@peacecorpsconnect.org and we'll email you materials you can download for your display table. Bring a phone or have a laptop so people can take action on the spot. Be sure to send us photos!
6. **Take a Whiteboard Action:** Whether you are taking action by yourself, in a small group, or planning a larger function on February 27th, contribute to our "Peace Corps Difference" whiteboard action, through which photos highlight RPCVs and others who write brief, powerful statements on why the Peace Corps matters (using "Peace Corps matters because..."), how Peace Corps transformed your life ("Because of Peace Corps...") or how your Peace Corps service made a difference in the community where you served ("I helped...") You can send these images to your lawmakers, and please email them to the NPCA so they can be added to our growing list of images. Visit our photo album to see examples of these images: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151546526188684.1073741826.8545788683&type=3>
7. **And, Make a Donation:** It takes two solid months of preparation and follow through to organize our National Day of Action. But success requires your support! Please visit our fundraising site at [crowdrise](http://www.crowdrise.com/10thNationalDayofAction), and become a team fundraising member or make a donation: <http://www.crowdrise.com/10thNationalDayofAction>. Thanks!
8. **Finally, Don't Forget to Take Action!** As you write your op-ed, plan your Day of Action party or staff a display at a public venue and inspire others, don't forget to take action yourself! Be sure to visit www.peacecorpsconnect.org/dayofaction on February 27th and contact the offices of your Senators and Congressman/woman.