CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Peace Corps Connect 2020: Cultivating Connections

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and Seattle Area Peace Corps Association (SEAPAX) are looking for proposals for breakout sessions at the 2020 Peace Corps Connect (PPC) conference. For this year’s conference, we are looking for dynamic presenters to share ideas on the “Cultivating Connections” theme to stimulate respect for and protect cultural diversity. Seattle is a location of great cultural diversity, a major hub for welcoming immigrants and refugees, respecting the original inhabitants of this land, and promoting quality education both locally and internationally. The conference will also focus on how the Peace Corps community can be better connected to work together toward common goals. All ideas will be considered, so if you have an idea submit an application!

POTENTIAL PRESENTERS CAN INCLUDE:

- Members of an affiliate group engaged in innovative activities in their communities
- Anyone with ideas on how the RPCV community can improve connectivity as groups or individuals
- Anyone partnering with host country nationals from their Peace Corps country on a great project that is related to the conference themes and objectives.

General Information

- **Location**: Seattle, Washington
- **Date**: Community content sessions will be on Friday, July 17th and Saturday July 18th.
- **Location**: University of Washington, Seattle, WA
• **Submission Deadline**: April 2nd, 2020. All proposals will be considered, but there is no guarantee of a place on the program. Proposals submitted after the deadline may be considered the basis of availability.

• **Expected Conference Attendance**: 300-450 registrants (session room capacity ranges from 15 to 500 people)

• **Session Length**: 50 minutes average (other sessions will run concurrently), and can be longer if more time is requested and space is available

• **Submissions**: You must submit your information online. Paper applications *will not* be accepted.

Submit Proposals By Clicking Here

**Session Topics**

Peace Corps Connect sessions aim to share ideas, best practices, and solutions to global challenges. Proposals should consider the Peace Corps community’s agenda for the future with the goal of helping to shape this agenda. Sessions will be forward-looking and inspire conversation on how Peace Corps, returned Volunteers, and our communities can continue to be influential in these areas and increase our global impact.

Competitive proposals will focus on NPCA’s three key pillars and this year's conference theme:

1. **Impact**: Proposed activities will feature service-oriented activities that show the RPCV community is creating a positive impact, both globally and at home, as well as spurring innovation in global development and social entrepreneurship within the RPCV broader community.

2. **Community**: Proposed activities will seek to increase the RPCV community’s connectivity and/or foster the continued growth of NPCA affiliate groups and their broader networks. This also may include special interest or cause-related activities.

3. **Advocacy**: Proposed activities will showcase how our community can raise its voice as citizens in support of a bigger, better Peace Corps; rally for needed legislative changes; and encourage debate about policy issues that affect our current and returned volunteers.

4. **Conference theme “Cultivating Connections”**: Proposed activities should showcase strategies and tools that build and strengthen relationships between people, communities, and businesses and organizations to help promote a more connected
and understanding global community. Special consideration will be given to proposals that directly relate to immigrants, girls’ education, and indigenous peoples.

Before You Submit…

- NPCA and SEAPAX reserve the right to request that applicants with similar topics combine efforts to produce a more dynamic session.
- NPCA and SEAPAX also reserve the right to modify content within a session as deemed necessary by the review committee.
- NPCA and SEAPAX do NOT cover hotel or travel expenses for speakers or session organizers and do NOT provide a stipend of any kind. All presenters must complete and pay for their registration through the NPCA website.

Tips for a Successful Session

Chosen sessions will engage the audience and provide participants with a substantial learning experience.

- **Engagement:** Sessions will provoke thoughtful and interactive discussion and activities about the direction of the Peace Corps community in the future. They might highlight new developments, technology or innovations. Strong proposals will explore existing and/or potential relationships between the Peace Corps, the community, and like-minded organizations (i.e. think tanks, USAID, the United Nations, businesses, universities, AmeriCorps, Rotary, etc.). Proposals that promote only a specific organization, program, or product will not be accepted.

- **Format:** Sessions can take a variety of forms, including thought-provoking activities, interactive games, or spirited competitions, a single speaker, a panel, a debate, etc. Creative and interactive session formats are highly encouraged.

- **Speakers:** Speakers should represent a variety of perspectives and backgrounds. For panel-style sessions, we recommend no more than three (3) speakers, including the moderator. Sessions will be small workshops and will not be integrated into the Conference Plenary or Keynote speaker schedules.

Responsibilities of Session Organizers

If selected, you are responsible for organizing and executing the session in its entirety. This includes determining the content, selecting and confirming speakers, and developing any and all materials, including PowerPoints, videos, handouts and other items.
You must ensure that all speakers have registered and paid through the NPCA registration website.

Visual presentations and handouts for accepted sessions must be submitted to the NPCA and SEAPAX for pre-approval no later than June 16, 2020. Session organizers are responsible for printing and providing any handouts they wish to bring. If materials are not approved in advance, they cannot be used during the session.

Requests for A/V will be honored on a first-come-first-serve basis and provided based on equipment availability. Session presenters will be informed if there will be a cost they must cover. After selection, organizers can request A/V equipment, but there is no guarantee that all requests can be granted. Just in case, presenters should come prepared to give their presentations without the assistance of a projector or other A/V support.

Organizers must submit a brief description of the session for inclusion in the conference program.

After the conference, the organizer must submit a 500-word (maximum) article discussing the content and outcome of the session for the NPCA blog.

Session Review Criteria

Priority consideration will be given to proposals submitted by April 2nd, 2020. Sessions are selected based on the following criteria:

1. The session is relevant to one of the core pillars or the theme of the conference (listed above) and will be of interest to a broad audience.
2. The session is forward-looking and addresses the potential for the Peace Corps community to have (or continue to have) impact.
3. The format and topic of the session are interesting and engaging. Preference will be given to sessions that present opportunities for attendees to engage with the material.
4. The session is inclusive. It offers a diverse perspective and/or engages multiple demographics or organizations.

Sessions that solely promote a specific organization, program, or product will not be considered.

Questions? E-mail: apply@peacecorpsconnect.org
## Timeline & Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposal Deadline</strong></td>
<td>April 2, 2020</td>
<td>All session proposals submitted by this date will be given first consideration based on availability, venue capacity, and how much time is available in the conference program. Applications received after will be considered on a rolling basis.</td>
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<td><strong>Session Selections Announced</strong></td>
<td>May 1, 2020</td>
<td>Session organizers of selected proposals will be contacted with news of their acceptance.</td>
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| **Final Session Content, Conference Program Information, and A/V Request Form Due** | May 22, 2020   | • Session organizers must submit a detailed overview of the content to be discussed, an outline of their session’s activities, and logistical support requests. The overview should also include, if applicable, a list of confirmed speakers.  
• Session organizers must submit the final title of the session and a brief description to be printed in the conference program. No changes are accepted after this date. Organizers will also provide the names, brief biographies, and photos of any confirmed speakers.  
• Organizers can submit A/V needs (microphones, projector, etc.), but there is no guarantee that all requests can be accommodated. |
| **Presentation and Handout Materials Due**                           | June 16, 2020  | Visual presentation (PowerPoint, video, etc) and any handouts must be submitted for pre-approval.                                           |
| **Peace Corps Connect Conference**                                   | July 17-18, 2019 | Session organizers must be present to help direct their speakers to the appropriate location and facilitate the session even if the organizer is not participating as a speaker. |
| **Blog Post Submission Due**                                         | August 16, 2020 | Session organizers must submit a 500-word article about the session’s content and outcome for publication on the NPCA blog.                  |