The Peace Corps Community in New York

For more than a decade, New York has ranked 2nd in the nation in recruiting Peace Corps Volunteers. In 2020, New York sent 372 volunteers overseas. In 2019, the greater New York City area ranked 2nd among major metropolitan areas in sending volunteers abroad. The Ithaca region ranked 4th in sending volunteers on a per capita basis.

Among medium-sized colleges and universities, Cornell University ranked 6th in 2019/2020 in sending Peace Corps Volunteers overseas, while SUNY Geneseo ranked 8th. Among small colleges and universities, St. Lawrence University ranked 1st in sending volunteers overseas, while Hobart and William Smith Colleges tied for 16th.

New York is home to six National Peace Corps Association affiliate groups, at work in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Long Island, New York City, and Rochester.

2020 activities of the New York City Peace Corps Association included an MLK Day community outreach project to assist with people’s SNAP benefits, and promotion of virtual events including virtual storytelling, grocery delivery to refugee families, and building social contact with New York’s elderly.

In 2020, the RPCVs of Northeastern New York raised over $2,000 from calendar sales and an online screening of the Peace Corps documentary “A Towering Task”. Proceeds were donated to local and international charitable organizations.

*Based on data from Peace Corps, National Peace Corps Association, and other news sources.