In 2019, Pennsylvania ranked sixth in the nation, sending 293 Peace Corps Volunteers overseas. On a per capita basis, the State College region ranked ninth in the country in sending volunteers abroad.

Penn State University ranked 13th among large colleges and universities in sending Peace Corps Volunteers overseas in 2019. Among small colleges and universities, Bucknell University, Allegheny College, and Dickinson College ranked in the top 25 in sending volunteers abroad.

Pennsylvania is home to four National Peace Corps Association affiliate groups: the Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association, the Pittsburgh Area Peace Corps Association, the Mountain Laurel Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Northeast Pennsylvania (Lehigh Valley), and the South Central Pennsylvania Peace Corps Association (Gettysburg).

Members of the Pittsburgh Area Peace Corps Association organize monthly volunteering at Global Links, a medical relief and development organization dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship and improved health in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in India from 1968 - 1970. Former mayors Thomas Murphy of Pittsburgh and Tom McMahon of Reading also served in the Peace Corps.

“Peace Corps is probably the best source of influence for helping Americans who have never been out of the country to understand that we are part of a human community that spans the globe, that what we do here matters over there, and that what happens over there should matter to us as well.”

Dr. Susan N. Shopland
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