The Peace Corps Community in Oregon

Oregon Peace Corps Volunteers Through the Years

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5 Things to Know about the Peace Corps Community in Oregon

1. In 2020, Oregon ranked 6th in the nation in sending volunteers overseas on a per capita basis. The Portland–Vancouver–Hillsboro region ranked 7th in the nation in sending volunteers among major metropolitan areas.

2. Among large colleges and universities, the University of Oregon was tied for 17th in 2019/2020 in sending Peace Corps Volunteers overseas. Among small colleges and universities, the University of Portland and Lewis and Clark College were tied for 7th in sending volunteers overseas.

3. Through its Coverdell Fellowship program, the Peace Corps has educational partnerships with the University of Oregon’s Department of International Studies, and Willamette University’s Law School as well as the Atkinson Graduate School of Management. The University of Oregon also has a Peace Corps Prep program.

4. National Peace Corps Association affiliate groups include the Portland Peace Corps Association, the West Cascade Peace Corps Association (Eugene), and the Southern Oregon Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs).

5. Activities of the Portland Peace Corps Association include volunteering weekly at the Oregon Food Bank. In 2022, the West Cascade Peace Corps Association (WCPCA) raised $15,000 to support humanitarian relief to Ukraine. Since 1986, WCPCA charitable giving has surpassed $65,000.

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