2027 Loret Miller Ruppe Award
for NPCA Affiliate Groups Advancing the Peace Corps Third Goal

Apply Here by March 1st, 2027.



The Peace Corps' third goal is to help promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

The annual Loret Miller Ruppe Award recognizes NPCA affiliate groups advancing the Peace Corps Third Goal by building understanding and cooperation between people in the United States and the countries where Peace Corps Volunteers served. The award is named in honor of Loret Miller Ruppe, who served as Peace Corps Director from 1981 to 1989 and championed its mission of world peace and friendship both at home and abroad.

The award is for work that reaches across communities. To be eligible, a project must advance the Peace Corps Third Goal by helping Americans better understand other cultures and peoples. Projects may accomplish this through cultural exchange, educational activities, storytelling, or cooperation between communities in the United States and countries where Peace Corps Volunteers served.

Activities may take place locally, nationally, or internationally, provided they help Americans better understand other cultures and peoples. An international partnership or overseas activity is not required. ***Click here to see our previous winners.***

Why Apply?

The selected NPCA affiliate group will receive **$2,500** to support its work and strengthen its impact.

The group will also receive national recognition and an opportunity to share its project with other NPCA affiliate groups and broader RPCV community, inspiring more ways to advance the Peace Corps Third Goal.

Eligibility

1. The group's NPCA affiliation must be current when the application is submitted and when the award is made.
2. The project must be currently active or have been completed within the two years before the application deadline.
3. The group must not have received the Loret Miller Ruppe Award within the past five years.
4. The project submitted for consideration must advance the Peace Corps Third Goal through meaningful engagement or benefit beyond the group's own membership and general organizational operations.
5. The project must help build bridges beyond the PCV/RPCV community.
6. The $2,500 award must support the selected NPCA affiliate group's work. The group must retain responsibility for how the funds are used and may not transfer the award to another group or organization as the recipient. Funds may cover project-related expenses involving partner organizations, provided those expenses directly support the selected group's project.

Selection Criteria and Process

The NPCA Awards Committee will evaluate applications using the following criteria and select up to three finalist groups. Finalists will be notified by April 2, 2027.

Scoring Rubric:

Criteria	Description
Third Goal Alignment	How clearly the project advances the Peace Corps Third Goal by increasing Americans' understanding of other cultures and peoples.

Impact & Reach	Who benefited, how the project engaged people beyond the group's membership and the PCV/RPCV community, and the significance of its results.
Innovation	How the project demonstrates creativity, originality, or a thoughtful approach to meeting community needs.
Inspiration for Other Groups	How the project's approach or lessons could serve as a model for other NPCA affiliate groups.
Lasting Impact	Whether the project has created lasting benefits or has the potential to continue benefiting communities over time.
Clarity & Quality of Application	How clearly and completely the application describes the project and supports its impact with evidence and examples.

How to Apply

1. Complete the application form by March 1st.
2. Up to three finalists will be selected and notified by April 2nd.
3. If you are a finalist, you will need to provide three to four photos of the project along with a short description of the project by April 20th.
4. Finalists will create a video (no longer than 6 minutes) showcasing their work and submit it to NPCA by May 20, 2027.
   Example videos: Full Basket Belize: 2026 Ruppe Award Winner Finalist Video
   2025 Ruppe Award Finalist Video
5. To remain eligible for the award, finalists must submit all required materials by the deadlines listed above. Failure to submit any required materials by the applicable deadline will result in disqualification.
6. Finalist videos will be shown at Peace Corps Connect on June 26-27, 2027. We strongly encourage each finalist group to send a representative to the conference. The winning group's representative will be invited onstage to accept the award and share a few words on behalf of the group.

Important submission requirement

The NPCA affiliate group applying for the award must submit its own application and all required materials. Finalists may receive outside assistance with recording and editing their videos, but the applicant group must retain responsibility for the video's content and submit it directly to NPCA.

Only representatives of the applicant group may speak on behalf of the project in the video. A representative of another group may not speak on the applicant group's behalf. Only the applicant group's logo may appear in the video; logos of other groups or organizations may not be included.

Voting and Award Announcement

Voting opens on June 19, 2027, when NPCA will share the finalist videos with the wider RPCV community and invite them to vote. Voting is open to members of NPCA. Conference attendees will also have the opportunity to vote after watching the videos. Each person may cast only one vote total, whether online or at the conference. Anyone who votes online may not vote again at the conference.

The finalist receiving the most votes will win. In the event of a tie, the NPCA Awards Committee will select the winner using the published selection criteria. The winner will be announced at Peace Corps Connect on June 27, 2027.

Application Timeline

Deadline to submit the nomination form	March 1, 2027
NPCA Awards Committee selects and informs the finalists	April 2, 2027
Deadline for finalists to submit photos and description to NPCA	April 20, 2027
Deadline for finalists to submit videos showcasing their work to NPCA	May 20, 2027
Finalists present videos and a representative attends Peace Corps Connect. Voting window is the week leading up to the conference and winner is announced during the conference.	June 26-27, 2027

Please note that failure to meet any of the deadlines outlined will result in being disqualified from the top finalists.

If you have any questions, please contact conference@peacecorpsconnect.org