

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Collection

Collection Development Policy

The Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) Collection at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum (JFKL) comprises original documents and other materials created and/or received by Peace Corps volunteers during their official terms of service. In accordance with the provisions of law (44 U.S.C. 2101-2207 and 2301-2308 and Pub. L. 98-497) and the regulations for the public use of records (41CFR 10561), the Library Director is responsible for developing and carrying out a program for the acquisition of archival materials. The Director establishes the parameters of the RPCV collection development policy in consultation with the Supervisory Archivist and the RPCV Archivist. This collection policy also provides guidance on local administrative and technical matters that may not be defined in the Presidential Libraries Manual 1401.

The objective of the RPCV collection development policy is to ensure the acquisition of original records that document the personal experiences and official work activities of Peace Corps volunteers from the program's inception through the end of the Kennedy Administration (1961-1963). Materials created and gathered after 1963 will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, subject to the approval of the JFKL Director or Supervisory Archivist. Items accepted into the RPCV Collection include: official reports, correspondence, project plans, memoranda, training materials, and promotional materials; letters home; diaries; notebooks; original articles (newspaper, etc.) written by/about a volunteer's work; and photographic and audiovisual materials (in all formats) that document the volunteer's duties in the Peace Corps.* Materials that document strictly personal activities (social events, trips, etc.) are not accepted. Items such as scrapbooks, which mix official and personal materials, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Printed materials should be limited to memoirs that describe a volunteer's Peace Corps experience.

Oral histories of early RPCVs who served during the Kennedy Administration (1961-1963) are also accepted into the collection, provided they adhere to the RPCV OH program's policies, guidelines, and procedures established by the RPCV Archivist in consultation with the Supervisory Archivist and other program stakeholders. Oral histories of volunteers who served after 1963 will be accepted at the discretion of the Director or Supervisory Archivist.

Materials that do not meet the above guidelines will be returned or disposed of following the donor's wishes. Unsolicited donations that fall outside of the collection policy may be disposed of at the Library's discretion.

**For contextualization, photos and A/V materials must be clearly arranged and described prior to donation.*