

Appendix



PEACE CORPS/PERU DESCRIPTION OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Jessica Smith

Peace Corps I.D. No. 10055215

Perú

Jessica Smith was invited to be a member of the fourteenth group of Volunteers to serve in Peru since Peace Corps' return to the country in 2002. On September 11, 2009, Jessica began a ten-week training program at the Peace Corps training center near Lima. Training consisted of intensive Spanish language instruction, an overview of Peruvian culture and society, and technical training in grassroots development and in water and sanitation issues and interventions in rural Peru.

On November 21, 2009, Jessica was sworn in as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Water & Sanitation program. Smith was assigned to work with local authorities in the community of Palpa, a rural community in Ica in southern Peru. She lived in a district capital of Palpa, with a population of 10,000 families. Jessica worked on projects in coordination with her municipality, health posts, potable water representatives, schools, and mothers of villages. Jessica's primary responsibilities and activities included the following:

Healthy Families/Healthy Homes and Cocinas Mejoradas

- Worked with Vaso de Leche mothers to facilitate a "healthy families and healthy homes" project that included the construction of 75 cocinas mejoradas for families in 5 villages.
- Facilitated workshops with health representatives to improve health and hygiene in five ways: educating participants on germ theory and open defecation, how to structure a balanced diet, how to prepare safe potable water, how to protect yourself from HIV/AIDS, and how to dispose of trash in a sanitary manner and recycling.
- Obtained \$3,000 in funding from PCPP – World Connect, managed cocina mejorada construction, and worked closely with over 75 direct beneficiaries.

Healthy Community and Cocinas Mejoradas for Community Centers

- Worked with Vase de Leche and Comedor Popular representatives in 4 villages to build 5 local cocinas mejoradas for industrial sized pots used in the local community cooking center for the free food programs.
- Obtained \$300 in funding from ECPA, and managed cocina mejoradas construction.

School-based Recycling Campaigns

- Coordinated a series of presentations on the importance of recycling in three primary schools and one secondary school, reaching more than 1,000 students.
- Distributed five to ten recycling bins in each school.
- Conducted community cleaning activities with members of the local Health Post over six months.
- Coordinated with the secondary school a Recycled Clothing Model Show for the schools anniversary in 2010 and 2011. A total of 16 outfits were made, one for each classroom.
- Obtained grant funding from Kids to Kids

Potable Water

- Worked closely with the local *Salud Ambiental* representative to check water chlorination in the four systems in the district.

- Gave presentations to the local groups on how to better maintain chlorination, cleaning, and changing pipes for a better working system.
- Additionally, World Water Day presentations were organized with the local Hospital and Municipality for the entire town in 2010.

School-based Hand Washing Campaigns

- Coordinated presentations on the importance of hand washing at two primary schools.

HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention

- Worked with local Hospital doctors to give presentations to a group of 25 secondary school students on different sexually transmitted diseases and how to prevent contracting them.

Local Yoga Classes

- Conducted weekly yoga classes for four months to different groups of people – mothers, and youth – to incentivize exercise.

Instructor

- Taught English to 25 students between ages 8 to 15 years old for 7 weeks, twice a week.
- Helped plan and teach English at one secondary school to students in second, third, and fourth grades with the local English teacher for 7 months.
- Taught music classes – piano and guitar – to 20 students between 8 and 15 years old for 7 weeks, twice a week.
- Taught art classes for 10 primary school students twice a week for 6 weeks.
- Taught teachers in the secondary schools English once a week for two months.

Environmental Club

- Organized an Environmental Club with teachers from the school in the two secondary schools for students to get together after school and work on different environmental projects – recycled wallets, solar ovens, learn how to use a theadolite – for three months.
- Funding for materials came from a Kids to Kids grant.

Translator and Volunteer for Medical Campaign

- Volunteered for one week to translate for doctors with had come from Michigan with Mercy Missions to do surgeries.

Baños Ecológicos – Tambo

- Coordinated with the Palpa Municipality to allocate \$11,000 of funding from the Presupuesto Participativo (government) for 18 household baños ecológicos in the village Tambo.
- Helped with initial surveying, provided the technical plans for the project, and coordinated with the construction workers on the execution.
- Organized a series of presentations for the families to teach them about maintenance (completion of this project will be done by the replacement Volunteer).

Baños Ecológicos – Arenales

- Coordinated with the Llipata Municipality to allocate funds for the construction of 10 household baños ecológicos in the village of Arenales.
- Helped with the initial surveying, provided the technical plans for the project, and did the initial presentations on baños maintenance (completion of this project will be done by the replacement Volunteer).

Construction of an Irrigation Canal

- Served as Lead Engineer for the design and initial construction of a 38km canal to be used for irrigation in Santa Cruz.
- Created a webpage for the project to serve as a means of seeking donations and spreading information.
- Formally recognized and registered the project association with the Peruvian government – ONG Acequia Mil – and opened a Banco de la Nacion project account.

- Helped secure many sources of funding – the Peruvian government, Shougang mining company, private international donors, the Spanish NGO Ayuda en Accion – of over S/.152,000 for development of the *perfil* and *expediente técnico* for the project.

Local Radio Program

- Organized a radio program called *Las Gringas Lindas* on a local radio program with one other volunteer for 8 months about once a week. They would give us between half an hour to one hour to talk.
- Covered topics that seemed important for people to hear such as health, environment, jobs, typical food in America, types of music, World Water Day, Womens Rights Day, etc.
- The radio station would reach all the people in the Province of Palpa, about 15,000.

Renewable Energy Committee Initiative

- Member of the newly founded Renewable Energy Committee Initiative with Peace Corps.
- Researched and created a manual for the construction of the three-hole cocinas mejoradas manual and industrial sized cocinas mejoradas to be used by volunteers looking to build ‘carbon credit approved’ models.

Over the course of her 2 years of service, Smith was an active member of the community who supported and participated in a variety of activities including town festivals, ceremonies, and religious events. She cultivated personal and professional relationships with authorities, community members, and his host family. She also served as an ambassador for the United States and continuously shared and promoted cross-cultural exchanges and increased understanding between the United States and Peru.

Pursuant to Section 5(f) of the Peace Corps Act, 22 USC 2504(f), as amended, any former Volunteer employed by the United States Government following her Peace Corps Volunteer service is entitled to have any period of satisfactory Peace Corps service credited for purposes of retirement, seniority, reduction in force, leave, and other privileges based on length of Government Service. The service shall not be credited toward completion of probationary or trial period of any service required for career appointment.

This is to certify, in accordance with Executive Order No. 11103 of April 10, 1963, that Jessica Smith served successfully as a Peace Corps Volunteer. His service ended on December 20th, 2011. She is therefore eligible to be appointed as a career-conditional employee in the competitive civil service on a noncompetitive basis. This benefit under the Executive Order extends for the period of one year after termination of Volunteer service, except that the employing agency may extend the period for up to three years for a former Volunteer who enters military service, pursues studies at a recognized institution of higher learning, or engages in other activities which, in the view of the appointing authority, warrant extension of the period.

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December 20th, 2011