



Jesuit Volunteer Corps Additional Year Formation Program

Statement of Purpose

Serving an additional year in the United States with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps offers the opportunity to continue the transformational experience of living in community while working for peace and justice within poor communities. Through the JVC Additional Year (AY) Formation Program, Jesuit Volunteers will delve deeper into the four values of social justice, community, spirituality, and simple living; providing an experience that is distinct from a Jesuit Volunteer's first year of service.

Four Values as lived out by an AY Jesuit Volunteer

JVC encourages both an increase in the opportunity to challenge oneself and an increase in support to meet these challenges. The hope is that deeper expectations of responsibility and support will speak to those called to live the life of a Jesuit Volunteer for an additional year.

Spirituality: AY volunteers will take part in spiritual direction on a monthly basis. Spiritual direction allows the AY volunteer to engage in meaningful spiritual conversations with a director who can help further guide and support his/her spiritual growth and ability to witness God in all things. Spiritual direction can take place in the faith tradition of the AY volunteer and with a director whom the AY volunteer feels most comfortable. Throughout the course of the year, AY volunteers receive monthly email meditations as an opportunity to pause and reflect.

Community: AY volunteers will arrive at Orientation early to develop a sense of community with other AYs in their retreat cohort during a PreOrientation Retreat. PreOrientation serves as an opportunity for AYs to receive further transitional support from JVC staff. On other retreats throughout the year, AYs may be asked to take on a leadership role through leading prayers, various programmatic sessions, or any other elements in collaboration with JVC staff.

AY volunteers will also have the opportunity to develop a sense of community, reflect, relax, and rejuvenate with other AY Jesuit Volunteers during a national AY Retreat. AYs will be paired as AY Companions and will remain in contact with one another throughout the second half of the year.

Social Justice: AY volunteers will delve deeply into the social justice issues that they encounter on a regular basis. They will be encouraged to ask why systems are unjust and consider how they might contribute to changing these systems. They will be expected to participate in advocacy activities and share what they have learned with their community members, co-workers and others.

Simple Living: AY volunteers will work on making a tangible change in their lifestyles. To assist, AYs will be provided with *The Simple List*, a list of opportunities which offers ideas on to how to commit more fully to the value of living simply. The idea of *The Simple List* is to provide the AYs with options and a sense of freedom around how it is that they are being called to live a more simple life. AY Companions may serve as a helpful accountability resource for this challenge. In addition, AYs will be challenged to commit to making a tangible, personal change in favor of living simply and justly.