



JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS

DOMESTIC PROGRAM INTERVIEW PREPARATION PACKET – 2016

Thank you for applying to the Jesuit Volunteer Corps! Your application is now complete, and we look forward to accompanying you through the application process. Below you will find materials to help you prepare for your interview. For more information on the steps of the application process, see the chart at jesuitvolunteers.org/howtoapply/.

Please take some time to read and reflect on these materials before your interview (preparation will take approximately 60-90 minutes). Carefully review the [JVC Covenant and Interview Prep Packet](#) before your interview and note any questions that you may have. There will be an opportunity during the interview to ask questions, as this is a mutual discernment process between you and the JVC staff. The placement process occurs on a rolling basis over the course of a few weeks or months. Each applicant is assigned a full-time staff member to accompany you through the process. We welcome input and conversation from all applicants about your desired timelines and any other offers or programs you are considering that could impact your ability to commit to JVC.

We advise applicants to be flexible and to simply seek to serve and to live the values of spirituality, simple lifestyle, community, and social justice. JVC asks you to continually reflect on your decision to be a Jesuit Volunteer. You are encouraged to begin the journey to becoming a JV now—through finding practical ways to live more simply, praying regularly, becoming more intentional in building communal relationships, and continuing to educate yourself on issues of social justice in your local community, the U.S., and around the world.

Good communication with JVC is essential in the coming months. **If you will be traveling or changing your contact information during the placement process, please notify JVC promptly.**

We look forward to discussing your desires for next year and how JVC might help you to achieve them.

Sincerely,

JVC Staff

Prep Packet Contents:

- 1. 2016 JVC Interview Preparation**
- 2. Interview Questions for Review**
- 3. JVC Program Details**

2016 JVC INTERVIEW PREPARATION

The JVC screening and placement process is one of mutual discernment and reflection. The JVC staff engages with you in a dialogue meant to determine whether you are prepared for a commitment to a year of structured community living and the challenge of working at JVC placements in our partner organizations.

The initial video or phone interview typically lasts about 75-90 minutes. It is conducted by a member of the JVC staff or a Former Jesuit Volunteer (FJV) trained to support the interview process who has read your application materials. The interview will focus on your motivation for becoming a Jesuit Volunteer, on your skills that could benefit our placements at partner organizations, on the four values of JVC, and on your desire and ability to live in community for a year. To help you prepare for this interview, consider the following issues and questions ahead of time and voice any concerns or questions during your interview. Visit jesuitvolunteers.org/mission-values/ for more information.

You have likely already heard the term “discernment” several times throughout the JVC application process, and you are likely to hear it many more as you journey with us. This process of discernment, or seeking to understand God’s desire for us, is at the heart of Ignatian spirituality. Ignatian spirituality seeks to find “God in all things,” and so we believe that God is present and speaking through our motives, desires, intellect, emotions, prayers, family and friends.

EXAMINING YOUR MOTIVATION

You may be positively motivated if you are applying to JVC because:

- you want to live and work in solidarity with people who are poor and/or marginalized
- you are comfortable with Catholic Christian spirituality and tradition
- you want to live and grow with three to seven other Jesuit Volunteers in community
- you can make a full-year commitment to JVC, your job placement, and your volunteer community beginning in August 2016 and ending in August 2017.

You may be negatively motivated if you are applying to JVC because:

- you do not have any other plans
- you only want to improve your resume
- you view JVC as a way to move to a particular city
- you want another year of living a college lifestyle
- you would feel guilty if you didn’t volunteer
- you feel pressure from family members or friends to be a Jesuit Volunteer

Take a few minutes to sit quietly to reflect. Engage your imagination; it is an important part of the Ignatian style of prayer. Our imaginations help us get in touch with our emotions surrounding an event or activity.

Imagine yourself as a Jesuit Volunteer.

Invite God to be with you as you picture yourself living the JVC values of spirituality, simple lifestyle, community, and social justice. Imagine yourself working with people who have been made poor in this world, walking on the unfamiliar streets of a new city, riding a bus to work, sacrificing the “creature comforts” to understand better the situation of so many families living on the margins in our society. Imagine you and your community making intentional decisions regarding how much you consume (e.g. energy, food, water), even counter-cultural decisions. Imagine yourself living in a community with many people who express their faith through prayer—with the majority of people sharing a Christian commitment. Imagine yourself living with three to seven other people—laughing, crying, arguing, consoling, and offering support. There will be good times and great memories. There will be conflicts and struggles. Can you see yourself weathering the storms even when relationships get difficult?

After reflecting on these moments, take some time to examine your feelings and your body’s reaction. What did you feel? Name these feelings. Did you find yourself excited by the prospect of becoming a Jesuit Volunteer? Scared? Tense? Comforted? Did you learn about yourself?

Use these insights to guide you in your conversation with JVC staff. Most importantly, do not ignore any of these feelings. They can help you make a positive and healthy decision.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

In addition to the questions on your completed application, please be prepared to respond to the following logistical questions in the initial interview. JVC is a full-time commitment. It is important to be aware of activities or concerns which may need to be held in balance with that commitment. If it seems uncomfortable to answer any of the questions, you will be able to discuss your reasons during the interview.

1. Did you read the JVC Covenant? Do you have any questions or need clarifications? If you become a Jesuit Volunteer, are you willing to live out the commitment described in the Covenant?
2. Did you read the JVC Interview Prep Packet? Do you have any questions about the JVC Program Details as outlined in the packet?
3. Orientation retreats are held across the country in early August. The location of the retreat is based on your city of service and details will be shared throughout the screening process. The commitment lasts until August 2017. Do you see any reason you cannot be at all of Orientation or complete the full year in JVC?
4. Are there people (e.g. significant other, ailing parent or grandparent) that you're concerned about being away from for a year? Who are they and what is the concern?
5. Are there employment or education opportunities you're planning to pursue during the year (MCAT, LSAT, GRE, interviews)? Do you know when these take place and what kind of time commitment they will require of you?

In light of the information on this sheet and in this packet, you may have questions that will help you make an informed decision about the commitment required of a Jesuit Volunteer. You will have time to address these questions during the interview.

JVC PROGRAM DETAILS

Length of Commitment to JVC

Domestic program placements require a one-year commitment that begins in the first weeks of August with an orientation and ends the following August. JVC will ask you to commit both to the program and your placement before you report for orientation, so we ask you to be prepared to make the commitment while you are going through the application process.

Retreat Program

JVC provides orientation and quarterly retreats and workshops focused on each of the four JVC values. They are opportunities to reflect on the JVC values and how you are incorporating them into your life, your work, and your community.

Vacation Time and Work Schedule

Volunteers follow the vacation policies of their placement agencies and will have at least two weeks plus holidays. JVC does not guarantee vacation time for any specific holidays (e.g. Christmas). Vacation time is approved through the placement agency. JVC retreats and workshops are not counted towards vacation time.

Work schedules depend on the job description; most follow a 40-hour week with weekends off; some jobs require evening, overnight, or weekend hours.

Fundraising (Send Me to Serve)

As a new Jesuit Volunteer, you will be joining a wide network of volunteers, former JVs, Jesuits, donors, and friends, all of whom give generously of their time and financial resources to help sustain the JVC program. Before you begin your service, we ask you to join this network and help fundraise on behalf of JVC. This provides you with the opportunity to share your reasons for becoming a volunteer and to bring attention to the important work you are committing to undertake.

Domestic program volunteers are required to set a minimum goal of \$600, while international volunteers are asked to raise at least \$3,000. We encourage you to reach out to your friends, family, parish communities, and others to share your excitement about JVC's mission. We provide you with suggestions on how to go about fundraising along with plenty of encouragement to aid your success.

Acceptance into JVC is NOT conditional on fundraising. You will not be expected to commit to fundraising until you have been accepted and have agreed to a placement. At that point, we will provide you with materials to help you in fundraising and plenty of resources to help support your efforts. No information or action is needed from you until that point.

Health Insurance

Domestic program volunteers receive medical, prescription, and dental insurance. The plan is administered by the JVC office. The coverage begins on September 1, 2016 and continues through August 31, 2017. Details of the plan will be provided before the start of the volunteer year. With certain limits and restrictions, most co-pay and deductible costs for services covered

by the plan are reimbursed through the main JVC office. Anyone with a pre-existing condition or particular medical concerns may contact the JVC office for further information.

Loan Deferment

Forbearance and deferment are available for most federally guaranteed student loans. Check with your lending institution (especially if you have private loans) to confirm eligibility and obtain the appropriate forms, which must be completed by you and the JVC staff. If your lender is not helpful, call the JVC office after you are placed.

Stipend

As a Jesuit Volunteer, you will receive money each month for rent and utilities (amounts vary based on local cost of living), food, household expenses, and transportation. This includes transportation from Orientation to your JV city, to and from work, and to and from retreats and workshops. Communities will combine these funds to pay rent, grocery shop, pay utilities, etc. In addition, you will receive a small stipend of \$100 a month for personal use.

Financial Arrangements for Travel

Volunteers are responsible for their own travel expenses to their orientation site, and JVC offers financial assistance for this travel for any JV for whom the travel costs present a financial burden. Please speak with your interviewer if you have any financial concerns that are preventing you from making a commitment to JVC. JVC provides travel from the orientation site to the city where the volunteer will work and transportation to and from retreats during the year. Placement agencies (where volunteers work) cover costs for transportation to and from work (could be a bus pass or a bicycle). When the JVC year is completed, you will receive a relocation fee for your travel expenses home up to a certain amount.

Housing

To promote solidarity with people that they serve, housing for Jesuit Volunteer is typically in neighborhoods where their clients and students also live. JVC encourages volunteers to get to know their neighbors and their local community. Depending on the size of the house or the apartment, volunteers may be asked to share bedrooms with other community members. Another housing consideration is relative proximity from the housing location to all of the community members' agencies.

If you have further questions, please discuss them during your interview or at any time during the application process. We look forward to meeting you, hearing about your desire for a future with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and walking together through this discernment process. Thank you for opening yourself to this opportunity to live simply in a spiritual community and work for justice and peace in our world.