



Jesuit Volunteer Domestic Program Covenant

Aspiring to create a more just and hopeful world, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps engages passionate young people in vital service within poor communities, fostering the growth of leaders committed to faith in action.

With respect to individual freedom and growth, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps is committed to certain common values. We are called to support and challenge one another to grow in the areas of Spirituality, Simple Living, Community, and Social Justice.

As a Jesuit Volunteer, I agree to uphold the following, to the best of my ability:

Spirituality: Spirituality is both the awareness of and our reaction to God's presence in the world. JVC is rooted in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition and invites volunteers to explore and deepen their relationship with God and their spiritual lives, both individually and communally. The Ignatian emphasis on being "contemplatives in action" guides us on the journey.

- I will regularly spend time in personal reflection or prayer in order to grow in my relationships with God and others.
- I will attend all weekly Spirituality Nights and other community times of prayer or reflection, by contributing my own gifts and cherishing the gifts of others.
- I will participate fully in JVC retreats and formation opportunities, by being on time, following all policies set in place, and being wholly present to the larger JVC community of volunteers.

Simple Living: Honoring simplicity allows us to free ourselves from that which keeps us separated from others and commit to a life focused on people, not possessions. Commitment to a simple, sustainable lifestyle contributes to the flourishing of all humanity and all of God's creation. As a sign of solidarity with those in my communities, I will live on the JVC stipend of room and board, in addition to my personal monthly stipend. I will not accept funds from family and friends, work second jobs, or seek other sources to supplement this amount.

- I will strive to live life focused on people and relationships, rather than objects and acquisitions.
- I will seek simplicity in my use of time, energy, and resources, and thereby avoid distraction, busyness, and materialism.
- I will socialize and recreate in ways that emphasize creation over consumption. I agree to continually reflect on and thoughtfully limit my use of objects and technology.
- I will consider the toll alcohol takes on the people I serve when making decisions about alcohol. Aware of the personal, social, and economic costs of illegal drug use in under-resourced neighborhoods, I will not use illegal substances during my JVC year.

- I will reflect on economic privilege and the power it affords individuals in an effort to understand the impact of my actions in this world and in an attempt to lead a simpler life.

Community: Communal life allows for mutual support and encouragement of each other in our work and in living out the four values. It challenges us to be open, compassionate, and willing to grow. We learn that our lives are interconnected and that we have responsibility toward all members as they do to us.

- I will be open and honest with my community members, willing to share my joys and struggles, and listen with care to the experiences they share.
- I will participate fully in community activities, including but not limited to Community Nights, meetings, shared meals, and reflection.
- I will strive to cultivate ever-greater awareness of myself and my own inherent biases in order to be more fully vulnerable and open in community.
- I will evaluate my behavior and decisions in light of their effects on my community, the agency and locale where I serve, and the JVC program. I will not make decisions affecting my community, the agency where I serve, or JVC without appropriate consultation.
- I will commit to the numerous communities I am part of—households, neighborhood, and city. I will work to gain a greater understanding of these communities throughout the year.
- Recognizing I am part of a larger JVC community, I will regularly communicate my needs, concerns, and joys with the JVC program staff and local formation teams.

Social Justice: In order to work for justice we must become aware of our role in society. We are called to challenge attitudes and structures, both personal and societal, which create poverty and oppression.

- I will labor in a spirit of solidarity with the poor and marginalized toward the goal of personal and structural change that promotes the dignity of all.
- I will strive to be just in my thoughts, language, and actions so that my work for justice will have credibility.
- I will embrace the commitment of JVC to engage in anti-racism work which seeks to recognize and stop perpetuating racial injustices.
- I will actively seek to know the truth of situations, rather than relying on prejudices, assumptions, rumor, and incomplete information.
- I will honor my commitment to work at my agency for a full year.

I have carefully read the above covenant and, in a spirit of solidarity with other volunteers, I enter into this year-long commitment.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____