



**Young Adult
Volunteers**



A faith-based opportunity for young adults

A YEAR OF SERVICE FOR A LIFETIME OF CHANGE

@yavprogram
youngadultvolunteers.org

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The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19–30, in over 20 sites in the United States and around the world. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in community with peers and mentors.

Benefits throughout the year of service include a **regular stipend, housing, transportation and student-loan assistance.**

*“Serving in Korea, I kept thinking, ‘**God isn’t calling me; God is calling someone else.**’ I decided to continue this struggle in a second YAV year, this time in New Orleans. A lot of my time was self-exploration and realizing **I am exactly who God created me to be.**”*

–Bennett Alldredge (Korea and New Orleans, 2013–15)

FAQs

What are you looking for in a YAV applicant?

- Young adults ages 19–30
- A commitment to serving in culturally and religiously diverse contexts
- Openness to exploring and deepening one's faith in the context of community
- Flexibility, curiosity, patience and a sense of humor!
- The ability to adapt to uncertainty and ambiguity
- A desire to be present with people and with God

How are YAVs placed?

Volunteers are placed only to sites where they apply. Through our mutual discernment process the candidate's preference, the site's preference and the needs of our partners are considered. Candidates should be open to applying to a variety of sites.



What does it cost?

There is no volunteer fee to serve. YAVs do commit to fundraising a minimum of \$4,000 (national placements) and \$5,000 (international placements) for the year. YAVs fundraise to gather a community of support during the year. While each YAV must fundraise, we recognize different communities have varying capacities to give. There are additional options for financial & spiritual support if needed. Fundraising coaching provided!

Do I get paid?

Volunteers receive a living stipend during the service year. The YAV program also provides housing, transportation to-and-from all events and meal costs. All costs associated with the program are covered.

What about student loans?

Volunteers may receive up to \$250/month of assistance during their YAV year(s) through the Season of Service Loan Assistance Program.

Do I have to be Presbyterian?

No! YAV is an ecumenical program — volunteers from all Christian traditions are invited to serve. While most of our participants are Presbyterian, this is not a requirement, and we welcome people from all Christian backgrounds.



I'm not Presbyterian. Why Participate?

The YAV program is a formational opportunity for young adults interested in practical faith-development and work experience. As a PC(USA) program, YAV seeks to be an open and affirming program celebrating diversity at all levels. We are grateful for the many different voices from various faith-traditions that make our program deeper and stronger, as exemplified in our many partners throughout the country and our world. We fully believe it is **a year of service for lifetime of change.**

What about health insurance?

If YAVs do not have access to health care, the program is able to provide coverage. The program does encourage participants to remain under their current coverage during their year of service if possible.

What about housing?

Most YAVs live with fellow volunteers in a community house. Some sites have a host-family model. All YAVs will be an active member of an intentional Christian community.

What do YAVs do?

YAVs are placed with a partner organization at each of our sites. Their work depends on the focus of the placement partner. Volunteers' interests and skills are taken into account when discerning a site placement. Volunteers engage in direct service, education and awareness, and advocacy

Do I need to know a second language?

No. Speaking another language may be helpful at many placements but is not a requirement. International YAVs may be provided with language classes as available. National site placements require conversational English. All YAV events occur in English.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 1

Applications open

January 1

Round 1—All sites available, early placement

March 1

Round 2—Most sites available, final date to apply to international sites

June 1

Round 3—National sites only, limited spots available



YAV Core Tenets

Every YAV site strives to embody the following values throughout the year of service:

Intentional Christian Community

Simple Living

Cross-Cultural Mission

Leadership Development through Faith in Action

Vocational Discernment

For specific information on each tenet, visit youngadultvolunteers.org.

Common themes

Each YAV site places volunteers with partners focused on a number of issues. Common themes include, but are not limited to:

Antiracism Commitment

Eco-Justice/Sustainability

Global Community (accountability to local & international neighbors)

Homelessness/Poverty/Income equality

Food Justice

Education

Immigration Reform

Interfaith Partnerships

Site coordinators

Each YAV site has a site coordinator — someone to help volunteers understand the culture, context and history where they serve, connect volunteers with work sites, plan retreats and other community engagements, and discern their call and vocation.

YAV Sites

National

Albuquerque
Asheville
Atlanta
Austin
Boston
Chicago
Chinook, MT
Denver
Indianapolis
Little Rock
Los Angeles
Miami
New Orleans
New York City
Washington, D.C.

Binational

Tucson/Agua Prieta, Mexico

International

Colombia
Peru
Philippines
Scotland
South Korea
Zambia



For up-to-date site availability and specific information on each site, visit youngadultvolunteers.org.

*“Working as a community organizer at the U.S.–Mexico border, **it was important to honor and respect the leadership of those most affected** by the injustice of the immigration system. **I learned to be a leader, through faithful witness,** that centers the voice of those often silenced and who embraces the prophetic leadership of the undocumented community.”*

–Stephanie Quintana-Martinez (Tucson, 2012–13)

For more information?

Email the associate for recruitment at yav@pcusa.org, call **800-728-7228, ext. 5300** or visit youngadultvolunteers.org.

Follow us!

One of the best ways to connect with the YAV program and stay up-to-date on program announcements is by following **@yavprogram** on social media:



Make a gift!

Visit youngadultvolunteers.org and click on “Give Now” to financially support the sustainability of this transformational program.

Volunteers are asked to fundraise about 20 percent of the costs to serve as a YAV for one year. The remaining costs are covered by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PC(USA) congregations and individual donors.

Make checks payable to:

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**

Please include **E049075** in the memo line of your check to ensure it is credited to support the YAV program.



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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202