

## Safety and Security - PeerCorps Trust Fund

Your safety is of paramount importance and cannot be overemphasized. Becoming a PeerCorps intern entails certain safety risks, which you should be aware of. Living and traveling in an unfamiliar environment (oftentimes alone), having a limited understanding of the local language and culture, and being perceived as “well off” are some of the factors that can put an intern at risk. Some interns may experience varying degrees of unwanted attention and harassment. Petty thefts and burglaries are not uncommon, and incidents of physical and sexual assault can occur but are rare. Most visitors to Tanzania do not experience these events and take away pleasurable experiences. PeerCorps has established procedures and policies designed to help interns and volunteers reduce their risks and enhance their security. These procedures and policies in addition to safety training will be provided once you arrive in Tanzania. At the same time, you are expected to take responsibility for your own safety and well-being.

Being an intern may require certain changes in lifestyle preferences and habits out of respect for host country cultural expectations and in order to minimize security risks. Choices in dress, living arrangements, means of travel, entertainment and companionship may have a direct impact on how interns are viewed and thus treated by their host communities. Navigating differences in gender relations may be one of the most sensitive and difficult lessons to learn, but one which could have a direct impact on the intern’s safety and protection provided by the local community. Mature behavior and the exercise of sound judgment will enhance one’s personal safety.

Safety and security are contingent on the development of close interpersonal relationships between interns and host country community members. PeerCorps recognizes that intern’s daily safety is, for the most part, best assured when they are well integrated into the local community, valued and protected as extended family members and viewed as contributors to development. To this end PeerCorps strives to build and maintain the continued support of local communities for PeerCorps’ presence and the work that interns have been requested to perform. The responsibility of interns is to make an attempt to learn Kiswahili and integrate into the host community. Interns are expected to build and maintain respectful relationships with sponsoring agency representatives, colleagues and other community members. These relationships help interns establish a presence in their new homes, pave the way for many work and social opportunities and become the basis of their new support systems in Tanzania.

For the welfare of interns, PeerCorps’ policy requires that interns notify us of their whereabouts when they travel away from their sites or when they plan to be away for extended periods of time on travel or sightseeing voyages.

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