

Transforming Lives through Civic Service

Stories from 100 years of Bold Experiments at Home and Abroad

Book Proposal-in-process

by

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A. Audiences:

1. Service-learning programs – faculty & students, high school & college, part-time
2. Aspirants – inquirers, applicants, trainees, those who can't volunteer yet, wannabes
3. Volunteers – in full-time programs, domestic and international, public and private
4. Former and Returned Volunteers – domestic and international, public and private
5. Current and former Volunteers' networks – parents, spouses, children, & friends
6. Savvy citizens – the National Public Radio demographic

B. Their concerns: As young “millenials” scan career choices and older “boomers” plan to retire, and both wonder whether to apply for a service program, they have three big concerns:

1. Would I be plunging in on the right side of history? What is “civic service” and its story? What's this program's sponsorship, track record, and quality?
2. Would I help make a difference for others? Would I be working with friends or others with similar values? Would the work likely be satisfying?
3. Would this experience help make my future career and life significant?

C. Five key questions addressed by this book:

1. *What is the civic service story? Why and how did the idea originate around 1900? How did it grow in stages during 100 years?*
2. *How did JFK's casual 1960 campaign challenge become a formal proposal, a Federal agency (Peace Corps), and a worldwide movement so quickly ?*
3. *How did this risky enterprise, beset by fears and criticisms, succeed in foreign societies? Who were the Peace Corps pioneers? Where did they come from? What made them volunteer? How did they succeed or fail?*
4. *After returning home, how did Volunteers and staff focus their careers and lives? How did many help inspire and start domestic service programs and development institutions – national, state, and local?*
5. *After its early years of approval, growth, and publicity, why did the Peace Corps recede into static obscurity? Why have private international programs grown so dramatically? How might public international programs be renewed and strengthened?*

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Resource guide for study and action [for S-L courses & libraries] ?? [*w bibliog ??*]

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