



## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest engages individuals in a transforming year of full-time service. Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) in the Northwest examine and act on the causes of social and ecological injustice to promote peace and structural change. We recognize that addiction has been and continues to be a destructive force in families and communities around the world; therefore, we ask that serious reflection and action in line with this covenant be taken in terms of alcohol use and that JVs abstain from drug use during their service year. We view our policy on drugs and alcohol as consistent with the intentions in our Covenant: to live healthily in community, simply and sustainably, as spiritual persons committed to justice.

It is the intent of the JVC Northwest staff to challenge all Jesuit Volunteers to:

- \* be aware of, reflect upon, discuss among themselves, and act intentionally with respect to the use of alcohol in relation to the JVC Northwest values
- \* explore ways of socializing that do not involve alcohol
- \* recognize abusive use of alcohol as contrary to living the JVC Northwest values
- \* think critically about the relationship between living in solidarity with the communities JVs serve and how drugs and alcohol currently impact these communities

**The policy of JVC Northwest regarding drugs and alcohol is as follows:**

- \* The use, sale or possession of any illegal drug, marijuana, drug-related paraphernalia, or other illegal substances by a JV during the JVC Northwest program year is unacceptable.
- \* We acknowledge that marijuana is legal in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington states, but not in Idaho and Montana. All JVs, regardless of where they are placed, commit to not using marijuana during their service year.
- \* Alcohol, marijuana, and/or non-prescription drugs will not be present at Orientation or retreats.
- \* JVs will consider the effects of alcohol consumption not just on themselves, but on their community members. JV communities will decide together if and how they want alcohol to play a part in their year and will use it with consideration and intentionality, if at all.
- \* JVs will not spend community money on alcohol or drugs.
- \* Alcohol use by a JV which impairs judgment and/or illegal drug or marijuana use are is unacceptable in JVC Northwest.
- \* JVs living in/near Hays, Ashland, and St. Xavier, Montana will commit to a dry community, which means refraining from purchasing or consuming alcohol in or near their locale.
- \* JVs living in Omak, Washington and Bethel, Alaska will commit to a dry community for the first three months of the program, during which they will engage in a discernment process to determine their alcohol policy for the rest of the service year.

If a JV engages in behavior that is in violation of this drug and alcohol policy and/or abuses alcohol or drugs in a way that is destructive to themselves and/or their community, the JV may be required to comply with one or more of the following: agree to a drug and alcohol assessment conducted by a professional identified by JVC Northwest, which may include a urinalysis, and agree to release the information to JVC Northwest; agree to and follow through with the recommendations of the assessment, entering into substance abuse counseling, if necessary; abstain from alcohol and drugs for the remainder of the JV year; be dismissed from the JVC Northwest program.

JVC Northwest has adopted this policy because it conforms with federal law and because of our belief that the use, sale and possession of illegal drugs or abuse of alcohol has harmful effects upon the JV, the JV community, the JV's neighborhood, JVC Northwest, and the partner agency and clients.

**I have carefully read the Drug and Alcohol Policy. I agree to abide by this policy during my year of service with JVC Northwest.**

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_