

About Yakima

Yakima, jokingly referred to as the Palm Springs of Washington due to its semi-arid desert climate and 300+ days of sunshine, is a city of 94,000 nestled under large arid rolling hills. It has a typically short history of white settlement and a rich Native tradition (check out the Yakama Nation Museum in Toppenish). Located at the junction of two river valleys which are lushly irrigated and feature orchards and vineyards, Yakima is notable for its vistas of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams, its significant Latinx and Native American populations, and its active network of former Jesuit Volunteers. JV service placements afford JVs the chance to serve alongside dedicated local staff to help meet the needs of a very diverse population. The population of Yakima is 46% Latinx, and the city is bordered by the Yakama Indian Nation. JVs have served in Yakima continuously since 1984.



Yakima, Washington

Joys of Yakima

The JV house is close to a number of resources like the library, downtown Yakima, performance venues, brew pubs, various shops and restaurants, and is also close to the Yakima Greenway, which runs 16 miles along the Yakima and Naches Rivers. JVs have taken advantage of the natural beauty of the area to go hiking, camping, rafting, skiing and snowshoeing and, in the Fall, have picked apples at area orchards. Support people help JVs connect with local resources like movie theaters and White Pass Ski Area at low/no cost and with families who offer their mountain cabins for JV community retreats/ get-aways.