

JVC NORTHWEST

# FJV LIAISON TOOLKIT

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# WELCOME!

If you're reading this, we're guessing you're seeking the same thing we are – to build community with others who have been "Ruined for Life." Wonderful things happen when FJVs come together. Lifelong bonds can be formed, communities are improved, and visions of a more socially just world can come alive. Thank you for your interest in being a part of this!

# OUR VISION

To strengthen community among FJVs, we hope to designate FJV Liaisons in cities all over the country. Liaisons are community builders: they provide connection to one another. As an FJV Liaison, you believe in the mission of JVC Northwest and understand that creating a strong alumni network can play an important role in strengthening the future of our movement for social and ecological justice.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN FJV LIAISON?

You are a Former Jesuit Volunteer (FJV)

You are inspired by the four values of JVC Northwest

You want to connect with FJVs in your community

You have interest in organizing FJV events

## WHAT WOULD I BE COMMITTING TO?

- **Serve as a “point of contact”** for FJVs in your area.
- **Host (2) FJV events/gatherings** per year (or more if you like!) They can be anything, including:
  - A Ruined Readers book club
  - A potluck and reflection night
  - An FJV Happy Hour, film screening, or poetry share
  - A service day
  - If you live in a locale with JVs, planning/collaborating on the JV welcome gathering
- **Optional: Recruit at (1) local college.** JVC Northwest will provide you with a recruitment packet. You can:
  - Give a presentation for a classroom, club, Catholic student group, etc.
  - Table at a service fair
  - Share postcards/magazines with people in your community
- We ask that Liaisons commit to **one year** with a flexible start date.

## AS A LIAISON, YOU WILL HAVE...

- Your name on our Liaison webpage
- Access to a Google Drive with resources, including
  - Planning packets inspired by the four values
  - Sample schedules
  - Prayers, examens, and land acknowledgements
- The option to be part of a virtual cohort of other FJV Liaisons across the country

**Ready to get started?**

**Sign up [here](#) or  
reach out to Laura at  
[lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org)**

## FIRST STEPS

If you want to be an FJV Liaison, the first step is to [sign up](#).

Then, we will reach out to you with a starter kit containing:

- A list of local FJVs in your area
- Access to the Liaison Google Drive
- Information on how to be a part of your virtual cohort

## HOW CAN JVC NORTHWEST SUPPORT ME?

### PLAN

For ideas, as well as help brainstorming ways to weave the JVC Northwest core values into your events, Liaisons receive resource packets inspired by each of the four values.

### PROMOTE

JVC Northwest can help share your FJV events with the broader community, including

- Social media
- Roots & Branches Monthly Newsletter
- Communications to local FJVs
- Collaboration with other Jesuit and like-minded organizations



### CONNECT

JVC Northwest can connect you to FJVs who live in your area, including those across age groups that you might not otherwise know.

### INSPIRE

Afterwards, if you share a photo and blurb of your FJV event to [outreach@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:outreach@jvcnorthwest.org), we'd love to share it with our community to inspire others to do the same!

## MORE INFO

### Our Alumni Engagement Coordinator

FJV Liaisons are primarily supported by JVC Northwest's Alumni Engagement Coordinator (AEC). The role of the AEC is to oversee our database of FJVs, as well as organize and support FJVs in planning events and creating community. The AEC also works closely on communications and can help Liaisons spread the word about their events. Our current AEC is Laura Keating – contact her at [lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org).

### Multiple Liaisons

Yes - There can be more than one FJV Liaison in the same area! The JVC Northwest office can see that Liaisons in the same city are connected and collaborating. We encourage you to be a Liaison with friends or other community members who are FJVs. When you register for the role, there is a place to nominate a friend who you'd like to be a Liaison with.



### In-Locale Coordinators (ILCs)

Each of our 16 locales with a JV house has someone called an In-Locale Coordinator (ILC), which was a newly-formed role in 2020. The ILC is a formal support person that assists with orienting JV/AmeriCorps members to their locale. For example, they may provide disaster preparedness or take JVs on a tour of their new town. The ILCs coordinate a Welcome Gathering for new JVs each Fall. FJV Liaisons who live in locales with JV houses are encouraged to collaborate with ILCs on the welcome gathering, which would serve as one of the two Liaison events throughout the year.

### Ruined Readers

Hosting a Ruined Readers book club serves as one of a Liaison's two FJV events. Find more info at <https://jvcnorthwest.org/ruined-readers-book-club/>

## Community Building Through All Life Chapters

Many FJVs who become parents have shared that it becomes more difficult to be involved in FJV community. As they plan events, we encourage Liaisons to consider ways to be more inclusive of FJVs with children. For example, you might consider if the space you're gathering in is kid-friendly, or if childcare could be coordinated for FJVs who need it.



# AFFINITY GROUPS

## Affinity Groups

If you find that FJVs in your community share a major commonality, you may consider forming an FJV Affinity Group. Affinity groups may choose to gather separately from other FJV groups in your area in order to dive deeper into the complexities and advantages of being a member of a particular community. Examples may include:

- FJVs who are parents
- BIPOC FJVs
- LGBTQIA2S+ FJVs
- FJVs affiliated with a particular movement

Affinity groups may be local (in person) or virtual. JVC Northwest can provide Zoom access if needed.

If you would like to start an FJV Affinity Group, please contact Laura at [lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org).



## FJV RETREATS

<< Pictured left: The 2022 New England FJV Retreat

There is a long history of FJVs coming together to plan simple weekend retreats.

Two examples of great retreats in the FJV community are the New England FJV retreat, which convenes every Fall in New Hampshire, and the Whidbey Island Retreat, which is a summer gathering of FJVs in the Seattle area.

FJV retreats are typically put together by a planning committee of 3-5 FJVs. If you would be interested in learning about what it would be like to plan an FJV retreat in your area, you can:

- Attend our upcoming [FJV retreat-planning workshop](#)
- Reference this [retreat-planning toolkit](#) created by FJVs (link available soon)
- Reach out to the JVC Northwest office!

Note: JVC Northwest now has a small amount of funding available to help get FJV retreats off the ground! This funding typically goes towards covering the cost of the retreat for younger FJVs, but can be used for other startup expenses as well.

These cities have strong FJV connections and would be great locations for a retreat!

- >> Portland, OR
- >> Chicago, IL
- >> St. Louis, MO
- >> Spokane, WA

# THANK YOU!

For carrying on the legacy of  
FJV community

Whether you already have a strong connection to FJVs in your area or are brand new to a city, we hope the FJV Liaison model will build and strengthen communities of FJVs across the country devoted to the values of community, social & ecological justice, simple living, and spirituality/reflection.

Thank you for your commitment to community!

If you have more questions, reach out to our Alumni Engagement Coordinator below.

## Contact our Alumni Engagement Coordinator

Laura Keating  
lkeating@jvcnorthwest.org  
971-353-6776

Or sign up!

[Become an FJV Liaison](#)

