



## First Round Interview Questions

For the 2025-26 Service Year

At JVC Northwest, the 60-minute first round interview is a chance for mutual discernment. It's a place for us to get to know you better, as well as an opportunity for you to learn more about if a year of service with JVC Northwest is right for you. This conversation will be a reflection on the important topics you will be engaging with deeply throughout your Jesuit Volunteer (JV) year.

This first interview focuses primarily on your relationship to our four core values (community; simple living; social and ecological justice; and spirituality/reflection); your perspectives on diversity, equity, inclusion, and racial justice in volunteer spaces; and your motivations, expectations, and hesitations when it comes to full-time service and community living.

Remember that 60 minutes can go by quickly, so prepare to keep your answers succinct (no more than 2-3 minutes per response on average).

### Introduction

- 1) *To get us started, I'd like to invite you to briefly introduce yourself and share what is drawing you to a year of service with JVC Northwest.*

**Simple Living:** Simple Living includes valuing relationships over objects. Simple Living invites us to be mindful of how our decisions, both big and small, impact our relationships with our environment, our communities, and our deepest self.

- 2) *With that perspective in mind, what were moments of simple and intentional living for you this past year, or practices where you intentionally centered relationship over material objects?*
- 3) *As a JV, how might you engage intentionally with people, material objects, time, or your environment?*

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social/Ecological Justice:** In this section we focus on how engaging in the struggle for justice moves us towards a more equitable and inclusive world.

- 4) *Tell me about a social or ecological justice issue of particular importance to you. How are you responding to this issue now?*
- 5) *At JVC Northwest, we ask all members of our community (volunteers, staff, and board members) to be engaged in personal work for intercultural competency, inclusion, equity, and anti-racism.*

*What is an area of learning or unlearning you are actively working on? How do you educate yourself in pursuit of this learning and unlearning?*

The next two questions are going to ask you to recall particular situations or experiences you've had that are rooted in conscious or unconscious bias. Examples include racism sexism, homophobia, or similar prejudices.

- 6) *First, I'd like you to think of a recent situation (in the last couple of years) where you have personally heard someone make a sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise prejudiced remark. Describe the situation. What was your reaction in that moment and upon reflection, would you act the same or differently if a similar situation arose again?*
- 7) *Now let's self-reflect. Think about a time in the past year that you realized you had said or done something rooted in conscious or unconscious bias that caused harm to a member of your community. Describe the situation. What was your reaction in that moment and upon reflection, would you act the same or differently if a similar situation arose again?*

**Community:** JVs live together in communities typically ranging from three to eight individuals. These individuals may have very different backgrounds, lifestyles, experiences, or understandings of the four values. Living in intentional community often looks and feels very different from living with roommates or housemates. JV communities pool their individual resources to pay for groceries and utilities. If you are placed as a JV, you would be expected to plan and participate in weekly community activities such as Community Nights, check-ins, business meetings, and communal meals.

- 8) *What are your expectations, hopes, and apprehensions about living in a JV community?*
- 9) *Each community of JVs must navigate meeting the needs of its members, their individual differences, and conflict. How would you communicate your needs to community mates and listen to the needs of others? What does it look like to you to find compromise and balance the needs of many?*
- 10) *Interpersonal conflict is a reality of any intentional community. JVC Northwest uses restorative justice practices to repair harm, restore relationships, and individual accountability for harmful actions, regardless of intention. Tell me about a conflict you've been a part of including how you approached the conflict itself, as well as its resolution.*
- 11) *This question is about our Dry Month of Discernment. JV communities use the first month of their JV experience to commit to forego alcohol consumption in a Dry Month of Discernment, or in certain communities, remain dry for the entire year. Knowing this, what concerns, excitement, hesitation, or questions come up for you as you imagine engaging in a Dry Month of Discernment at the start of your service term?*

**Self-Care and Stress Management:** We touch on these topics because we recognize a JV year is often challenging or destabilizing for folks. We find that JVs who are aware of their needs and how to manage them are better able to navigate the challenges of the year.

12) *How has stress manifested itself in your life? When you are faced with these stressors, how do you cope?*

13) *What might you notice in yourself, your reactions, or your behavior that would indicate you could utilize more support during your JV year? How do you communicate when you need additional support? What steps would you take to seek support and build resiliency to successfully complete your service term?*

**Spirituality/Reflection:** JVC Northwest grounds itself in the Jesuit Catholic tradition and creates inclusive communities of all faith and reflective practices. During the year, we expect JVs to actively reflect on their experiences. We expect communities to co-create and participate in weekly spirituality and reflection activities together. These activities can take many different forms because how each JV understands and engages with spirituality may vary widely even within one community. Your community could include people with a range of spiritual or religious expressions, practices, and beliefs, as well as people with no belief or beliefs that change throughout the year.

14) *Please share a key moment or formative relationship in your own spiritual or reflective journey that has led you to consider service in a program with a spiritual foundation.*

15) *Please tell me about a specific time when you lived or regularly interacted with someone whose religious or spiritual beliefs and expressions differed from your own. This should be someone with a different religion than you, like Buddhism, any denomination of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, or an agnostic, atheist, or perhaps another religion that you have encountered. Please begin by naming your faith tradition and theirs. What were the joys and challenges of building a relationship with that person?*

Note: If you are Christian (or if Christianity is your faith tradition), please choose an example or relationship with someone who is non-Christian and/or doesn't come from a Christian faith tradition.

16) *Finally if you are placed as a JV, you will be expected to commit to weekly spirituality and reflection activities such as Spirituality Night, blessings at meals or on retreats, and personal reflective practices. JVs in a community take turns planning Spirituality Nights for their community. Imagine it is your turn to plan a Spirituality Night for your community- what would that activity look like?*