**PEACEMAKER REGISTRATION FORM**

Record of Conscientious Objection to War and Military Service

*[Based on Selective Service System Form 22]*

It is important that you document your conscientious objection to war and military service. Read the instructions below, read the instructions & guide for the form, and save copies of the completed form for yourself and your pastor.

In preparation for filling out your Peacemaker Registration Form please read the following:

1. The Peacemaker Registration Form is not an official claim for CO status, however, it contains questions which are similar the Selective Service System Form 22 required for all CO status applicants.
2. Take time to study the Bible--focusing on passages that focus on peacemaking:

* *Matthew 5:38-48*
* *John 18:36*
* *Romans 5:5*
* *Romans 12:18-21*
* *1 Corinthians 6:1-8*
* *2 Corinthians 10:3-4*
* *James 2:8*
* *1 Peter 2:23; 4:1*

1. Study "*Article 22: Peace, Justice, & Nonresistance"* of our Mennonite Confession of Faith.

www.mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/what-we-believe/confession-of-faith/peace-j justice-and-nonresistance/

Discuss your beliefs with your pastor, youth leader, family, and/or a congregation member.

1. Keep your statements personal. This is about your beliefs. You may use scripture verses or references to church statements, but always be sure to connect them to your life and faith.
2. Keep your statements focused on your objection to participate in war/military service. You don't need to explain the nature of God or resolve the problems of violence and suffering.
3. It is important to show your beliefs are deeply held, not just handed down to you from your parents or your church.
4. Question #1 asks you to describe, in some detail and as honestly as possible the principles by which you guide your life. Describe those values which are of utmost importance to you, such as God, live, truth, life, etc., and why these beliefs are in conflict with participation in war or the military. You should begin by saying that your are conscientiously opposed to participation in war, and then describe the beliefs that lead you to its opposition.

The second part of this question seeks to determine whether as a draft registrant you claim noncombatant status in the military or a full exemption from military service. You should specify what it is about noncombatant service that would violate your conscience if you are seeking this exemption.

1. Question #2 asks you describe how you came to believe what you now believe. Include anything of significance which helped to form your beliefs. Mention any religious training you have had if you feel such training has helped you arrive at your position (like Faith Exploration / Baptism Class). If you feel you arrived at your beliefs with no formal training, there is, of course, no need to mention any. The influence of pastors, teachers, family members, church members, books, social media, movies, videos, podcasts, membership in organizations, and experiences in your life should be listed. Be specific. You need to show that strong influences in your life have stimulated you to think clearly and seriously about participation in war and military service.

Specific incidents can be mentioned, such as seminars or assemblies you have attended, courses taken, trips taken, contact with refugees, demonstrations, to show that your beliefs had substantial formation beyond merely an "academic interest." Obviously, if you have experienced war, be sure to reflect on it. Take care not to give the impression that your belief is primarily a matter of political considerations, expediency, or merely an arbitrary, personal moral code unrelated to high values. Unconventional beliefs to qualify, but they will require careful statement.

1. Question #3 allows you to demonstrate the sincerity with which you hold your beliefs. Select the best illustrations of your convictions. Think about community service, church participation, clubs, sports, or relationships with friends. You can always discuss how your future plans are strongly affected by a commitment to those beliefs. Describe kinds of employment you have had or plan to have which reflect your commitment. Discuss any public expression, written or oral, you have given to your beliefs. Describe your lifestyle, mention your life's goals as you have set them, and show how they are an outgrowth of your beliefs Don't forget to mention movies, video games, and other aspects of our violent culture in which you DON'T participate, if that is the case.

* BuhlerMC_LH_C
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* Type your written responses to each of the three questions below. If you wish, you may attach longer answers on extra pages and also attach letters from persons who know you or any other information you would like the local draft board to consider.
* **QUESTION #1:** *Describe your beliefs which are the reasons for your claiming*
* *conscientious objection to combatant military training and service,*
* *or to all military training and service.*
* **QUESTION #2:** *Describe how and when you acquired these beliefs.*
* **QUESTION #3:** *Explain what most clearly shows that your beliefs are deeply held.*
* *You may wish to include a description of how your beliefs affect the way you live.*
* **Because of the beliefs I have explained above, I am a conscientious objector to participation in war in any form.**
* Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Witness \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_