

What is ASP?

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a 40-year-old organization that works in rural Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier for families who cannot afford to make such improvements on their own. Each summer groups of youth and adult volunteers travel to ASP centers in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina and are assigned to do repairs and improvements on a home for one week. ASP centers host groups from all over the United States.

How is our community involved?

People from the Swarthmore-Wallingford area have been participating in Appalachia Service Project for over 15 years, sponsored by both Swarthmore Presbyterian Church (SPC) and Swarthmore United Methodist Church (SUMC). ASP promotes many of the values that our community cares about: respect for our fellow human beings, regardless of station in life; service to each other, and; working toward a better world. We welcome team members from any faith and belief background, and those who claim none: there is strength in diversity!

In 2019 our group will include about 30 students between the ages of 14 and 21, and about 14 adults. This provides for six full work teams of 5 students and 2 adults each, going on one of two different weeks.

How much does it cost?

We ask for a \$100 deposit from each person who is going with us for the first time. If you are a returning ASPer, no deposit is required. Fundraising generally covers all the expenses, which total about \$735 per participant. Learning about fundraising is an important aspect of our ASP experience.

To learn more about ASP, contact SPC at Linda.-
McCullough@swarthmorepres.org or call 610-543-4712;
contact SUMC at office@SwarthmoreUMC.org or call
610-544-3876.

The ASP website is www.asphome.org



Cutting stair rails in West Virginia, 2018.

Swarthmore United Methodist Church
129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081

Swarthmore Presbyterian Church
727 Harvard Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081



Returning from West Virginia 2018.

Join your friends and make new ones with a

Summer Service Opportunity In Appalachia

What happens at ASP?

On Sunday we drive in a caravan to our assigned center at Chavies, Kentucky. During this day-long trip we get to know each other and start building our team spirit. On arrival we are assigned sleeping areas, and start to get to know the other groups who arrive from across the country. Sunday dinner is the first meal served at the Center. Even though we're excited we try to get a good night's sleep to be prepared for our first work day.

On Monday we are introduced to our host family, whose house we will be working on. We'll have a great time getting to know them, and starting the work. Often we are picking up where last week's team left off.

Our work week runs Monday through Friday. The typical work day starts with a morning gathering and then breakfast. We collect our tools and materials, and pack a lunch before driving out to the work site. The projects are already planned and the materials are usually right there, waiting for us. Late in the afternoon we pack up and head back to the Center for showers, dinner, an evening gathering, and then some free time. Our Swarthmore group loves to find the nearest Dairy Queen for a late night snack. Then to bed. We return home on Saturday.

What else do I need to know?

To prepare for our trip we have about three organizing meetings beginning early in the new year, usually on weekends and with lots of advance notice. We learn about the place we are going to go, basic tools skills, jobsite safety, and other details of the trip.

We also do the fundraising to pay for the trip as a group. In the Spring we participate in the Swarthmore Fun Fair, selling hot dogs. We also have a letter-writing campaign to solicit friends and family to support our work through donations and "buying stock" in our trip. You might be surprised at how generous people can be if you just ask! We always make sure to thank donors with another letter and with public presentations of photos and our experiences after our return.



Working on a home in Kentucky. In 2017



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please include me on your mailing list for ASP 2019

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

In June 2019 I will be:

14 to 17 years old

18 to 21 years old

Over 21 years old

My preferred week to go:

June 23 to June 29 (register with SPC)

July 7 to July 13 (register with SUMC)

Please return this to
Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, 727 Harvard Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081.
Swarthmore United Methodist Church, 129 Park Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081.