

December 26, 2023

Merry Christmas!

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying the holiday season. I can hardly believe that the time for preparing for the 2024 ASP trip is upon us. This summer will be Faith's 38th time sending volunteers for the amazing experience that is Appalachia Service Project. ASP provides an opportunity for senior high youth to put their faith into action, to be "doers" rather than "talkers" as they respond to the housing needs of rural Appalachia in a tangible way. We are registered for **week 5**, so we will **leave July 6th (Saturday) and return on July 13th (Saturday)**. At this time, we do not know where we will be sent. They typically assign us a location much closer to our departure date.

Because this trip is one where teamwork is integral, the youth who participate will be expected to take an active part in several group fundraising activities, service projects, and study sessions. There will be several opportunities to volunteer. The goal is for each youth to have a total of 6 service hours. This helps us arrive on site ready to do our best to serve those we meet and each other. The cost of the trip is \$250 per volunteer. The costs for participation, including meals, transportation, construction supplies and the annual ASP t-shirt are included. The only other expense would be discretionary spending money for your youth while on the trip. Also supporting the ASP Mission Team are Faith's mission budget, United Women in Faith, and a very generous congregation.

The signed Covenant for the youth and completed ASP Volunteer Statement/Registration form and Medical Information Form, accompanied with \$250 Participation Fee or \$100 (non-refundable) if paying by installments, are due by Sunday, February 25, 2024 to the church office. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist in defraying cost; contact Mieke Blackwell (mieke@champaignfaith.org) for more information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the ASP Leadership Team.

Sincerely,

The ASP Leadership Team

John Storsved, Mieke Blackwell, Harold Adams, Heather Zike, Julee Lee, John Summers, Dana Daugherty-Perez, and Tracy Nugent

Champaign Faith 2024 ASP Calendar

December 31st – Farewell to Pastor Sheryl Luncheon – 11am

Help us wish Pastor Sheryl a fond farewell as she prepares to retire and move to Colorado. Church is at 10am and it will be followed by a potluck luncheon in Worship & Life. We will have an ASP table reserved.

January 7th – Broomball & Ice Skating – 4:15pm – 5:30pm

Join us for a fun afternoon at the University Ice Arena. We will be competing against Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in a friendly game of Broomball.

January 21st - Orientation Meeting, 3:30pm in the Gathering, Leader meeting, 3:00pm in the Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for all that intend to make the trip. Parents, especially those with youth that are new to the trip, are encouraged to attend as well.

February 9th - Parents Night Out Fundraiser, 5:00-8:00p

Parents can drop off their children at Faith and head out for a Valentine's Day date night. ASP Youth earn ASP service hours by serving dinner and leading activities.

February 25th - Registration Deadline and 1st Study Session, 3:30-5:00p in the Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for the entire ASP team. Parents do not need to attend. Study sessions deal with the traditions, customs, and values of the Appalachia people so that our response to the housing needs may be carried out with sensitivity and respectfulness of their culture. This is also a time of team building and bonding.

In order to be guaranteed a spot on the team, all paperwork and the \$100 deposit must be turned in by February 25th. This includes a completed volunteer registration form with tetanus shot date, a signed youth covenant, and a copy of your insurance card. The volunteer registration form should be signed and dated, but you do not need to notarize it. The church office will take care of the notarization. Also, on the back of the youth covenant, all youth should submit a paragraph explaining why they want to serve on the ASP team.

April 7th - Second Installment (\$75) Due

April 7th – Faith's Spring Fling (a great volunteer opportunity)

April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - Penny Bucket Brigade

Youth and Adult Volunteers collect pennies after each Worship service. All youth must serve at least one shift. Additional shifts earn time towards their 6 service hour requirement.

April 14th - 2nd Study Session, 3:30-5:00p in South Sanctuary

This is a mandatory meeting for the entire ASP team. Parents do not need to attend. Study sessions deal with the traditions, customs, and values of the Appalachia people so that our response to the housing needs may be carried out with sensitivity and respectfulness of their culture. This is also a time of team building and bonding.

May 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th - ASP Stock Sales

Youth and Adult Volunteers sell ASP Stock after each Worship service. All youth must serve at least one shift. Additional shifts earn time towards their 6 service hour requirement.

May 5th - Third Installment (\$75) Due

June 2nd – 5th – Vacation Bible School

This is a great opportunity to earn ASP service hours. There are many different ways to serve at VBS. Contact Mieke Blackwell for options.

June 8th - Car Wash, 8:30-2:00 in the East Parking Lot

All youth must serve either the morning shift, 8:30am-11:30am or afternoon shift, 11:00am-2:00pm. Additional time will earn time towards their 6 hour service requirement.

June 17th - Final Parent Letter Mailing

June 22nd - Alternate Car Wash Date

June 25th - ASP Late Night, 5:30-10:30p in the Gathering

This is a mandatory meeting for the entire ASP team. Parents do not need to attend. Dinner will be served at 5:30pm, meeting will start at 6:00pm. Study sessions deal with the traditions, customs, and values of the Appalachia people so that our response to the housing needs may be carried out with sensitivity and respectfulness of their culture. This is also a time of team building and bonding.

June 30th - ASP Commissioning Services

Commissioning will take place during the 9:00 Fusion Service and towards the beginning of the 10:30 Celebrate Service

June 30th- Parent Information Meeting, 11:30-12:30 in South Sanctuary

This is an optional meeting for parents and youth who want more information about the logistics or any other aspect of the trip. We will go over itinerary, packing lists, traditions and more and leave plenty of time for questions.

July 2nd - ASP Picnic, 6:00-8:00p

This is a mandatory meeting for the entire ASP team. Parents do not need to attend.

July 2nd - ASP Adult and Young Adult Leader Meeting, 8:00-9:30p

July 6th -July 13th - ASP Work Week

July 21st - ASP Worship Services

July 21st - ASP Stockholders and Parent Luncheon