

2023 ASP Overview

It was one of the best weeks of my life. - Charlotte P.

What is ASP?

The Appalachia Service Project (ASP) was founded in 1969 with the mission of making homes warmer, safer, and drier for families living in this region of the country and providing transformational service experiences for volunteers. In order to do this, ASP volunteers help repair roofs, walls, floors, foundations, and bathrooms, in addition to making homes accessible through porch and ramp repairs or additions. More than 15,000 volunteers serve with ASP each year, serving more than 25 communities and 350 families.

We are excited to lead this adventure and hope to take 35 youth and 15 adult volunteers with us this year on our 25th trip as a congregation!

Why volunteer with ASP?

This mission trip fundamentally lets us put our Christian and Methodist traditions in action. So much of this trip involves *fundamentals* of these traditions...e.g., love God, love your neighbor as yourself and John Wesley's challenge to live this relationship by performing acts of piety (worship/study) and acts of mercy and justice. ASP is "walking the walk" of these. It gets us out of our comfort zone and our daily routines, levels the playing field for all, and challenges us to form community, learning about our differences, our similarities, with a focus on accomplishing ASP's mission set forth for us. It involves the joys of making new friends, completing tasks, connecting with adult leaders, learning about another culture and making someone's life a little more humane by making homes warmer, safer and drier. - *Jim Hagedorn*

Key Dates

- October 16 - ASP Mandatory Information Meeting for Youth & Families
- February 5 - ASP Training, 3-5 p.m. in Room M
- March 11 - ASP Dinner & Silent Auction
- March 19 - ASP Training, 3-5 p.m. in Room M
- April 2 - ASP Training, 3-5 p.m. in Room M
- June 4 - ASP Training & Form Finale, 3-5 p.m. in the Dining Room
- July 16-22 - ASP Trip



Training Expectations

There are a total of four ASP training sessions. These sessions are meant to learn about the community we will be serving with in Appalachia and to understand the mission of ASP. This training also creates community amongst all volunteers, adults and youth. We are striving to make these sessions fun, informative, and a way to get to know one another in an intentional way.

Volunteers must complete **all** four training sessions. **All must attend at least two training sessions in person.** If necessary, volunteers may attend training sessions via Zoom. And if volunteers are not available to attend the training in real time, they will be able to view the Zoom recording and complete a short reflection on the content via a Google Form.

Participation in the ASP mission experience is a commitment for youth, their families, and the adult volunteers.

We welcome all questions about this adventure and look forward to our 25th year!

Kelsey, Jim, and Krys

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