

Greenfield Hill Church Appalachia Service Project Trip June 29 to July 6 2024

Information Packet

*Registrations accepted from
November 1 - 6*



Introduction to Greenfield Hill and ASP:

The 2024 Appalachia Trip (through Appalachia Service Project, Inc) is a mission trip sponsored by the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church for participants in the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF) program at Greenfield Hill. Any community youth are welcome to participate in SPF, and thereby to register for the ASP trip! Please do note that SPF participation is a requirement for the Appalachia trip.

Greenfield Hill's history with ASP: Since 1978, the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship (SPF) has participated each summer with the Appalachia Service Project, a home-repair mission organization designed especially for high school youth. This summer will be SPF's 46th ASP mission trip!

ASP was originally a program of the United Methodist Church. Now an independent non-profit, it is a Christian ministry open to all participants, encouraging teens to understand their home repair work as "faith in action." In their own words: *"ASP provides vital housing services to low-income families living in Central Appalachia as well as transformational life experiences to those we serve, volunteers offering their service, congregations involved with ASP, and entire communities."*

ASP runs its summer program for eight weeks each summer, at work centers throughout Tennessee and Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia. Teens come from all over the country to do their week of work. The work the teens do is basic, simple home repair, appropriate for teens. **Note that this is a week of significant physical labor:** our aim is to repair homes for families in need, and this very rewarding work is the centerpiece of our trip!

Please also note that the trip participants will be assigned to (at least) four different Appalachian counties during our week of service. While every effort will be made to keep in mind request for center placements, each center is a mix of ages, schools and genders - it's essential to enter into this experience with an openness to meeting new people!

To learn more about ASP, visit their site at www.asphome.org

What are the requirements for ASP participation?

Any 9th through 12th grader who is an active member of SPF is welcome to register for the Appalachia trip (Details about registration are at the end of this info packet). Those participating in the trip are required to do the following:



- **Attendance, as able, at SPF meetings....** we meet on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30
- **After successful registration, sign up for a meeting with Alida** (sign up dates will be offered over the course of the year).
- **Attendance at FOUR trip preparation meetings:**

These meetings will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28; Sunday Feb. 27; and Sunday, April 28 -- all at 7:00 p.m. (There will be 'make up' meetings on the Tuesday evening following, for those who can't make it on Sunday) The fourth meeting will be on Saturday, May 18, when we'll have practice construction sessions offered in the morning and afternoon.

- **Fundraising events:**

(1) **Dogwood Festival:** Festival proceeds are contributed to the ASP effort; all youth participate in helping! More info later! (May 11-12, 2024)

(2) **'Evening for Appalachia' auction fundraiser, taking place March 15, 2024** (live and online!). Our most significant fundraiser, the Evening for Appalachia depends on all ASP families to provide support through contributions of auction items, and attendance at the event.

(3) **Other spring fundraiser - TBD**

What Does the Trip Cost?

Our total trip will cost us approximately **\$230,000**. Of this, over \$95,000 represents the costs of transportation, including the travel to Appalachia and the vans used throughout the week. The remainder is what we pay to for housing, meals and building supplies.

Each youth participant is asked to contribute \$725: a \$125 deposit with the registration, and the remaining \$600 by May 1. If plans change, the deposit can be refunded up to March 1; the final payment can be refunded before June 1. Because youth payments do not cover all of the total trip cost, families are also asked to participate in the fundraisers (listed above), which raise the remaining costs.

What actually happens during the trip?

On Saturday, June 29, we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Fairfield University. Coach buses will take us to **James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA** where we spend the first night of the trip in the college dorms.

On Sunday, June 30, after morning worship together, we break into our work crews, each with its own transportation (see more below) and travel to three or more separate counties in West Virginia.

From Monday to Friday (July 1 to 5), we will begin every day with breakfast and devotions, work on our homes from 8 to 4, and then be back together in the evening for free time, dinner, chores, and 'evening gathering.:

On Saturday, July 6: Around 7 a.m., we will leave our work centers in the morning, return to JMU to catch the bus home ... arriving in Fairfield around 10:00 p.m.

Sunday evening, July 9: "Welcome-home" dinner at Greenfield Hill Church!

A note about transportation:

Although we have historically rented all our crew vans, post-Covid realities mean that vans are simply not as available to rent anymore, due to the pandemic supply chain disruptions. We will be looking to ASP participant families and our community to help us with our transportation. If you have a minivan or SUV that could make the journey to West Virginia with us, please let Alida know: we will be assembling a list of vehicles that we can call upon if needed!

Where does everyone stay?

ASP County Centers are based in whatever space the communities make available to ASP. Normally, that's a middle or high school. ASP participants sleep on the floors of classrooms or the school gym, with each person bringing an air mattress and sleeping bag to sleep on! Meals are provided by ASP, and prepared by cooks from the community. Showers are either the school showers, or a shower trailer brought in by ASP.

It's not luxurious! - but even an air mattress starts feeling really comfy after a hard day's work!

What's the actual work like?

ASP has always included a little bit of everything! painting ... ditch-digging... roof repair roof construction... plumbing ... adding a new room... fixing rotting floors... building a porch

You will be expected to work hard, for sure! But you will be able to do it. ASP chooses its projects with teens in mind; unlike other home-building ministries, ASP has always been geared toward teen participants. The tasks selected are those which young teens can do, and do well.



Are participants placed with their friends?

Because our group is so large, we will be divided into as many as five different county centers. The center groups are divided to ensure a mix of ages, schools, and ASP experience at each county. You are given the chance to let us know some names of people you would hope to be with ... and we will bear these in mind. But please note that **each center is a mix --- it's essential to enter into this experience with an openness to meeting new people!**

Each participant is assigned to a particular work crew, a mix of age, gender and experience. A crew is made up of 5 youth and 2 adult advisors ... and you are guaranteed to make new friends!

How many adult chaperones are there, and who are they?

The adult/youth ratio on the trip is quite intense: 2 adults for every 5 youth. With an anticipated youth participation rate of 220 kids this year, we will need at least 8 adult advisors to accompany them. These adults come from the church community and the community as a whole: we especially welcome interested parents to participate, as well as older siblings, teachers, and others who have an interest in serving others side-by-side with our teenagers. *Interested adults: please take a look at our ASP page to read up on Adult leader expectations and information.*

How to Register your interest in the trip:

Please go to the Greenfield Hill Church ASP page at www.greenfieldhillchurch.com/asp from Nov. 1 to 6. You will be able to submit a registration form online only between November 1 and 6. This will include basic information, as well as a statement about your interest in ASP. You will also be asked to make a deposit of \$125, also online. Registration will close at 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 6.

Please note that submission of a registration does NOT guarantee a spot on the trip! If we receive more registrations than spots available, past participants in the trip and youth confirmed at GHCC will receive priority, as well as active participants in SPF. If we do not have a spot available right now, your name will be placed on the wait list, and your deposit will be refunded. Registrations received after Nov. 6 will be added to the end of the wait list.

Registered youth will be required to meet with Alida personally, attend ASP meetings, AND participate regularly in SPF.

Final payment of \$600 will be due by May 1, along with the 'Friend Request Form' and a waiver form for GHCC. ASP will require everyone to register online in mid-June, once our county assignments are known.