



Greenfield Hill Church Appalachia Service Project Trip June 26 to July 3, 2027

INFORMATION FOR INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS

*Applications for registration accepted from
Tuesday, Nov. 3 through Tuesday, Nov. 10 (6 p.m) ONLY*

Introduction to Greenfield Hill and ASP:

The Appalachia Service Project trip is a faith-based experience of service sponsored and organized 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 note that SPF participation is a requirement for the Appalachia trip.

Our week of service is through the **Appalachia Service Project, Inc. (asphome.org)**. **ASP** is a Christian ministry open to all participants, encouraging teens to understand their home repair work as “faith in action.” Since 1978, Greenfield Hill Church has been a faithful participant in ASP’s summer camp for high school youth wishing to serve God’s people through home repair for families in need. This summer will be SPF’s 49th ASP mission trip!

ASP runs its summer program for seven weeks each summer, at 18-20 different locations (‘centers’) throughout Central Appalachia. These centers are run by ASP camp staff: college students who are trained in youth leadership and home repair skills. The staff review applications and choose the homes that will be worked on.

Church youth groups come from all over the country to participate in their week of service, repairing the homes that have been chosen for service. 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!

One church in four locations! Please note that GHCC participants will be divided among at least four different county centers for the week, due to the size of our group. This means that from June 27-July 3, we will be four separate groups.

Are participants with their friends?

While youth submit up to 4 'friend requests' for people to be in their county center, they are not guaranteed of being with all. **Each county center is a mix of people, so it's essential to enter into this experience with an open mind and heart!**

Crews: Typically, there will be 10-12 work crews in a center. Each participant is assigned to a particular work crew, made up of 5 youth and 2 adult advisors. The 5 youth are different grades, genders and schools - random mixes are our tradition!

What are the requirements for ASP participation?

Any current 9th through 12th grader who is an *active member of SPF* is welcome to apply to participate in the Appalachia trip (Details about registration are at the end of this info packet). Those participating in the trip have the following requirements:

- **Attendance as often as possible at SPF meetings**
- **A personal meeting with Alida** (sign up dates offered throughout the year)
- **Attendance at trip preparation meetings:**
These meetings will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26; Sunday Feb. 28; and Sunday, April 25 -- 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). In addition, construction training specifically for new participants, will be offered on Saturday, May 22 (time TBD).
- **Fundraising events:**
 - (1) **'Evening for Appalachia' auction fundraiser, taking place March 19, 2027.** Our most significant fundraiser, the Evening for Appalachia depends on all ASP families to provide support through contributions and attendance!
 - (2) **Dogwood Festival, May 8-9:** Festival proceeds are contributed to the ASP effort; all youth participate by working at least one 3-hour shift.
 - (3) **Other spring fundraising activities may be added, according to need.**

What Does the Trip Cost?

The fee for each youth participant is \$775 (\$750 if paid by check). A \$175 deposit must be received with the application (paid online), and the remaining \$600 (\$575 by check) is due 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 cover just half of the actual costs of the trip, families are also asked to participate in the fundraisers (listed above), which raise the remaining costs.

What is the itinerary?

On Saturday, June 26, we will meet at 7:00 a.m. at Fairfield University. Coach buses will take us to **James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA** for our first night.

On Sunday, June 27, after morning worship together, we break into our work crews, each with its own transportation and travel to our ASP centers, where we meet our ASP staff.

From Monday to Friday (June 28 to July 2), 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 3: 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 9:00 p.m.

Sunday evening, July 4 - *normally we have a 'welcome home gathering on this day - this year we may need to adjust for 4th of July!*

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.

Where does everyone stay?

ASP 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!

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

ASP requires two adults for every five youth. This year, we will need at least 84 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***

(greenfieldhillchurch.com/asp) to read up on Adult leader expectations and information. Note that parents are normally placed in the same center with their child, but never on the same work crew!

Important: Behavior expectations on the trip:

The Appalachia Service Project is a faith-based Christian ministry. Participants are expected to behave accordingly! Youth must be prepared to live responsibly in community for a week, respecting ASP's theology of service, respecting the ASP staff, and respecting all other participants in the trip.

If students on the trip violate ASP/GHCC's codes of conduct, parents will be contacted, and, if the situation warrants removal, parents will be expected to arrange for their child's transportation home.

Parent support expectations:

We rely on parents in a number of ways! We depend heavily on parent participation to reach the required number of chaperones (more on that below). We also look for support of our 'Evening for Appalachia' through donations and participation -- and vehicles for our trip transportation (more below).

Please note that we ask for one parent/guardian from each household to be present for a **parent meeting** on Tuesday, Feb. 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Youth: How to register your interest in the trip:

Applications can be submitted online only between Nov. 3 and 10. Please go to the Greenfield Hill Church ASP page at www.greenfieldhillchurch.com/asp during that time to submit your application. You will be asked for information about yourself, and also asked for thoughtful responses to a series of questions. To submit, you will need to make an online deposit of \$175. The opportunity to submit will close at 6 p.m. on Nov. 10.

Please note that submission of an application does NOT guarantee acceptance on the trip, as spots are limited! Past participants in the trip and youth confirmed at GHCC, as well as active participants in SPF, will receive priority for available spots. Others may be placed on a wait list, and deposits will be refunded. **Registrations received after Nov. 10 will automatically be added to the wait list.**

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