ASP FAQ

- What is ASP? Who can go? Where does it take place?

ASP stands for Appalachian Service Project. It is a Christian based group that is dedicated to helping make homes warmer, safer, and drier. The organization is dedicated to showing Christ's love through their work and outreach. They focus on houses in Appalachia including KY, TN, WV, VA, and NC. Youth entering into their 9th grade year and up are eligible to go.

- How long is the trip? When do we go?

The trip is a single week during the summer. We leave on a Sunday morning and return the following Saturday. The week we select is based on several factors including what works best for those interested in going. However, for the past several years, we have selected a week early in summer (in June shortly after school lets out).

- How much does it cost?

The price can vary based on several factors. However, we typically aim for about $750 per person. There is an initial $50 per person registration deposit, a $200 second payment, and the balance is due a few weeks before we depart.

- Is there fundraising? How can I offset some of the cost?

There are several fundraising events that occur during the year. The goal is to minimize the remaining out-of-pocket costs. Participants can earn mission points based on the number of activities they help with. In a perfect situation no one would have a remaining balance after making the first two payments. However, this is a case-by-case basis and is dependent on the success of the fundraisers and involvement of individual participation.

- What are Study Sessions?

The study sessions are a series of four 'classes' we do as a group to help ready the participants for the trip. Topics include - how the ASP staff makes their decision regarding who gets assistance; devotionals; do's and don'ts while on-site; packing and readiness; and tool safety.

- How does everyone get down to the general area? Do you rent vans?

Renting vans will likely be the case. Moreover, each team (5 youth and 2 adults) needs to have a van that they will take back and forth to the worksite each day.

- Does the week/dates include travel time/days?

Yes. We leave on the Sunday around 6:30am and will return the following Saturday. We leave the ASP center on Saturday morning and return to Avon Lake usually in the mid-to-late afternoon.

- Does ASP generally assign a state closest to Ohio?

The state is something we can requests but ASP makes the final decision based on about a dozen factors. In most cases ASP will try to accommodate our first or second preference (e.g. we would like X state as preferred and Y state as secondary). Admittedly, it is possible we could go to a state we didn't expect but in most cases they can accommodate the first or second preference.

- Once you get there how does everyone travel to the work site?

We will use the vans that we traveled in to get there.

- Does everyone go to the same work site?

No. Each site is manned by a team of 5 youth and 2 adults. Assuming we had 14 people go we would have 2 teams that work at two different sites. There are exceptions but one team per site is the norm (on rare occasions a single site may have enough work that it merits having two teams work on it at the same time).

- Is it the same site the whole week?

Yes. (There can be exceptions to this but it's rare. It tends to happen later in the summer when sites are being wrapped up and a team may finish their work and go help another team at their site. I have not heard of this happening during weeks toward the start of summer).

- Where does everyone stay? Hotels? Host families?

We will stay at an ASP Center. This is usually a middle school or high school. The quality of showers and air conditioning vary at each school. Showers are individual units (no group shower rooms). There are also separate shower times for youth and adults (no mixing).

- What kinds of activities go on when not at the work site?

We leave for the work site right after breakfast. When teams get back in the afternoon, it is usually shower and clean up time. Some do devotions. Then we do dinner and a group activity (group activities are coordinated by ASP staff). After that it is free time until about 11pm. On most nights the group will go for ice cream at a local place.

- What about eating/food? I am a vegetarian.

This should be fine. We've had vegetarians go on the trip in the past. ASP will try to accommodate special needs by ensuring every meal has non-meat options. We could also stop by a local store on any given night so you could pick up some food items as a personal stash (in case you don't love the cafeteria offerings).

- What is the boy-to-girl ratio?

This is different each year. It changes based on several factors – what week we go, who brings a friends, etc. Like most things in life, it is probably 55% female and 45% male.

- Who can I contact with questions?

Trip coordinators include Pastor Jeff and Rob Nordman. Eric Mohney has coordinated the trip in the past and is an excellent source of information. Feel free to reach out to any of them with questions.