

June 15, 2010

ASP Email # 6

**Are you and your folks discussing ASP? ...The purpose, planning, packing, etc. Still lots of folks need to respond to the snack questions.....**  
**Did you respond to the special diet questions? Vegetarians and Vegans ?**  
**Need medical insurance during the week of ASP...Please call me..... 273-7547**  
**Attitude of a Christian servant..... “There is no little “please share your comments - how did we do our job and serve you” card..... YOU are the servant.”**  
**Attitude of following the rules.....**  
**Are you really ready for a week of hard work and being very patient?**  
**We are a group of 82 volunteers..... some new volunteers and some returners..... eleven crews and a support truck.....Breathitt County, Kentucky**

Dear ASP volunteers,

Read all the e-mails - it helps set the tone for our group.... We have to be prepared right down to the guy who says, “I’ve been before, I’ve got it all under control.” Trust me ...this is the person most likely to mess up. We have a great group because we are on the same page. Some groups are a giant mess. Take a group, for example, that drove all day to get to ASP land and found out that ASP does not provide sheets, mattresses and pillows. What a mess.

On the day we leave, wear your ASP t-shirt.....

Good attitude or bad? It’s up to you.....

ASP is a little tricky. We have models of experiences floating around in our mind about what ASP has been like or what it might be like. Best to let those go. Folks come on ASP for the first time all charged up from watching “This Old House”, “The Real Deal” or “Flip This House”. We are not a construction company... we are a group of people who do relational ministry and home repair. If those TV guys came on ASP they would tell you they were having a bad dream. Tim Allen from the old TV program, “Home Improvement,” would show up on ASP and say, “Man, I can relate to all these cool tools, but where’s the budget for supplies? I need more materials for work. What do you mean make every scrap work, be good stewards?” Some folks show up on ASP kind of dreaming they can role play a contractor or a serviceman. What a rude awakening to a dream that provided a nice escape. I’ve always been blown away by stories about folks who come on ASP with the attitude of “I’ve paid my money, now what do I get.” Here’s a famous quote, “What do you mean wash dishes; the ASP staff ought to be washing dishes. I came to work on houses and paid for the opportunity to do it.” Or the one “What do you mean each volunteer crew has chores to do around the school each night. Don’t we get anything for our money?” or “The rest of my crew can do the chore. I’m going to slip away and visit with a friend”. Or, “My I-pod got stolen today while everyone was away at the homes of our families. Who’s going to pay for it?” or, “I don’t care that lights out is at 11:00 p.m. I came to help folks, but I also came to have fun.

Everyone can be just like me and stay up a couple of more hours and still work hard tomorrow. I'll catch a nap tomorrow before supper so I can stay up late." or "I don't care that our staff has eleven crews to manage. Why are we sitting here waiting on supplies? I'm tired of visiting with the family and doing little chores with them. I came on ASP to work, not do relational ministry. I'm tired of hearing those excuses that the staff has to drive into the next county on little mountain roads to go to a lumberyard for us. I don't care that the lumber yard doesn't open until 7:00 a.m. and the staff was there waiting on them. I want our supplies now." These are examples of volunteers that are messed up and causing stress for everyone on ASP.

Servanthood.....

The attitude of Christian servanthood ..... First of all there is the bottom line...It's not about you. . It's about giving from our Christ like personhood that we work hard to nurture everyday. It's about bunches of stories from the Gospels, the examples and stories that Jesus shared with the disciples and the people. What's that story about Saint Francis and a student walking into town? This is not a direct quote – it's from memory. After going into town and showing care to the people and visiting with the sick and others on the street the student turned and asked Saint Francis, "Well, when are you going to preach and share with the people?" Saint Francis replied, "We just did." The opposite attitudes like - "Well, I'm off to the camp ASP – I wonder what they'll do for me." That's a good way to spend a week of summer all confused.

Lost on ASP....

There is always one poor, misguided, can't read their ASP stuff kind of person who shows up and doesn't have a clue. Attitudes of consumerism will ruin ASP just as easily as attitudes of folks trying to get around the rules. We not only have a purpose; we are a purpose. If you are with it – that's cool – if you aren't - skip the trip. There is no shame in saying – I'm not going to be in ministry to the family. I'm not into the ASP way. Just let it go. Folks who have needs that out weigh the group need to stay home; it's okay. We are not consumers going to Camp ASP.

Selfish and messed up .....

I'm sure we have a great group, but I have to go through the process and share this information. It's kind of sad but necessary. For me this is like eating grapes and really enjoying them. Then you hit a sour one. What do you do? You spit it out. On ASP that would be part of my job, releasing folks to go back home. It's not a happy moment. I don't want to have to do this task. Driving back to meet parents isn't fun. I'm sure we have a good group but .... A few years ago when our group was small and we were paired with volunteers we didn't know, this was way before we grew to 11 crews, I watched an adult leader from another church basically do time out for these high school guys that broke the rules. They thought ASP was all about them. Those guys ruined that group leader's life and the life of their group for the whole week. That's why I have the policy in place. Break the rules and you are out of the group and physically away from the center within 10 to 30 minutes after the occurrence or discovery. Try again next year..... There are a lot of people to be helped and lots of work at stake. Here's a little horror story. An ASP volunteer walks away from the ASP center where his group is

staying, walks a couple of blocks down the street and meets a couple of local guys. The volunteer says, "Do you have any pot or do you know where I can buy some?" The local guys reply, "No." A little while later the guys, their mom and the police arrive at the center. The volunteer is arrested. (An out-of-town, out-of-state bring your checkbook kind of legal event). The event ruins ASP for everyone who came with him. The adults feel really bad; the group feels bad, even though the volunteer was taught the rules. The by-product of this giant mess was ASP was not allowed back into the county for several years. ASP finally was allowed back to help people in that county. Our trip is not going to become about you and your needs. If you are a rising high school freshman, a college age volunteer or a 90 year old volunteer, understand where I'm coming from. ASP is not about fixing you – It's not about you – you may be helped a great deal, but it's a wonderful God given by-product of the week. Remember it is about Jesus and what we can do for others. It's not about your wants, needs, comfort, level of satisfaction or happiness. There is no little "please share your comments - how did we do our job and serve you" card. YOU are the servant.

"EYES ON THE PRIZE –RACING TO SERVE " Based on I Corinthians 9:24

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Read the ASP daily devotional.....

You may have noticed I haven't written much about tools. Tools come last after safety, spirituality/purpose, relating to the family, pretty much after our heads are packed then comes the tools. Besides it will be more than a week before we hear what we will be doing. We are ASP week three.

Today is the second day of volunteer work at our center. Please pray for the success of the folks at our center.

The staff has completed two weeks training then set-up week in the county which includes cleaning and getting the center ready for the volunteers, making signs, planning evening gatherings, meeting the school and community contacts, setting up accounts, meeting with the cooks, planning a menu that feeds each volunteer on \$23.00 for the week, ordering food, taking merchandise inventory, setting up the office, reading applications, visiting homes, selecting and planning projects, making decisions about who can be helped and who can't, sometimes building showers, and much more. Coordinating the first two weeks of home repair and construction is a big responsibility. By our week 3, the staff is ready to see tasks moving along. We will be helping them in many ways.

Looking for a packing list? Looking for the devotional? Need our ASP information – click on this address:

<http://www.hinshawumc.org/asp/>

Hit reply and let me know you are getting the e-mail.....

Yours in Christ,  
Jim Waynick

Already posted on the website.

<http://www.hinshawumc.org/asp/index.htm>

- [Your Week with ASP](#)
- [The ASP Summer Staff: Your Partners, Facilitators, and Co-Workers](#)
- [Volunteer's Daily Schedule \(Motives behind Logistics\)](#)
- [ASP's 3-Ss Sensitivity, Safety and Stewardship](#)
- [Expectations, Rules, and Regulations](#)
- [Sensitive and Sensible Communication](#)
- [Individual Packing Suggestions](#)
- [Video Equipment, Cameras, and Cell Phones / Computers at ASP?](#)
- [Guidelines for Writing an Article](#)

Email #1 Begin the Journey

Email #2 Region, Poverty, ASP History

Email #3 Working on ASP

Email #4 Snacks, Drinks, ASP Devotional, Spending Money

Email #5 Packing, Hydration, and Food