

June 19, 2010

ASP E-mail # 7

Notes.....

Folks are finally sending me snack requests..... Yea!

Something nice happened yesterday..... Someone called with an ASP question.... 273-7547 Folks are beginning to get ready.

I am assuming that you do have medical insurance..... Call me if you need a short term policy...

Ladies overalls..... For folks who want overalls they have smaller sized ladies overalls at Value Village where the old Rhodes furniture used to be on High Point Rd for those still looking. Sharon

We will depart from Guilford College UMC. Expect an early departure. Departure information will be available next week.

Bring things to do in the evenings.....games and simple items. No gym or pool / river on ASP.

Bring an extra supply of patience. (**Patience** is the state of endurance under difficult circumstances, which can mean persevering in the face of delay or provocation without acting on annoyance/anger in a negative way; or exhibiting forbearance when under strain, especially when faced with longer-term difficulties.)

Expect to enjoy visiting with folks while waiting for everything..... including a shower.

In this e-mail

Safety, Sensitivity and Stewardship

Under sensitivity..... Photo information.... Let's do a good job gathering the ASP story

The Three S's

Dear ASP volunteers,

Everyone needs to wear their ASP 2010 T-shirt on the morning we leave for ASP.

Our ASP web site is <http://hinshawumc.org/asp/index.htm>

This site will help you as you get ready for the trip. Final tasks are moving along. A million copies of information will be made next week.

Let's think about safety. What has gotten folks hurt in the past is not thinking and rushing through tasks - not thinking about what or where you are standing to work, standing on a five gallon bucket that flips over or being in a hurry. Other problems are not holding a cutting tool properly, not looking around and seeing whom you might hit with a board. A big one is not checking roof support and anything that supports your body on the roof. Another problem is not wearing gloves, dust masks or eye protection that you bring with you or not checking how your body is supported on the roof or not watching your step as you get off the roof. Hold a ladder for someone getting off a roof. Don't cut into a wall before checking for electric wires and always have someone with you to help in case you are electrocuted. Remember to speak up if you see a safety problem. How long do we want to make this list? Always think through and look for problem areas. ASP is not a fake experience. It's the real thing. If you skip safety it will catch up with you. Be the crew member to remember at snack breaks to ask folks to look for safety problems involving your work. Everyone needs to participate with safety.

Each van has a first aid kit for the simple stuff. Each van has a family file – the confidential family file has directions to the hospital and each van has a sealed copy of medical information on volunteers. Our county has EMS service. When you go to the home of your family, find out where the closest working telephone is located in the area. Be ready to call for help on the Ham radio that is on each vehicle. Your personal safety is an issue. Terrorism may not be a big deal in Breathitt County but a non-safety conscious person walking off by himself/herself or with one other person from the home or the center at night or whenever is dumb and not safe anywhere including the small town area we'll be in on ASP. Don't make assumptions - think safety first. Don't leave the area.

Sensitivity is a big deal for ASP. Several years ago I was in a pool at Myrtle Beach talking to this couple about my work and about ASP. I told them all about ASP and the school where we stayed. I used simple language that was non-judgmental along with no side comments. I just told them how nice the folks were and what we did on the home where I worked. They wanted to hear everything I said before they let me know that was where they were from and they went to the school where we stayed. Roy Grant has shared in the past that he was wearing his Friendly Mart t-shirt from Panther, WVA and a waitress knew exactly where he had purchased it. She told him she went to the school where we slept. They talked about the community and the work. The use of unnecessary, insensitive language would have been bad in all these cases.

When we stop in the morning or evening at stores for ice or fuel you may be asked questions by clerks and folks at the store. Here is an example, "Where are you working? Whose house?" You would need to answer, "Up the road somewhere – It's a really nice family – I'm not sure of their names – You have a really nice town – beautiful

mountains.” If they push you, tell them to ask the van driver who will in turn let them know that ASP doesn’t allow us to comment on the families we enjoy getting to know in their nice town. Then everyone keeps moving. Sensitivity and confidentiality issues are taken care of all in one fast moment. When they ask, “What are you doing at the house?” Use headings from the phone book yellow pages – “roofing, foundation work, sheet rocking.” Then move on to the “you have a really nice town – beautiful mountains.” Keep moving. Again if anyone were to ever get really super interested in getting information, refer them to your van driver.

When you work at the home of your family – their stuff is their stuff – just like in your house it’s your stuff. Try to imagine a bunch of workers coming to your house and not protecting your stuff. Make you mad? When you talk among yourselves or with your family, use language that is caring and understanding. If the ceiling has collapsed and you are shocked – or a sewer line is open and the smell is really bad – use language like “We’re glad we can help you, I was noticing the view of the mountains from your front porch. It is absolutely out of this world.” Go for or create the positive – a complimentary thought using complimentary language. Don’t mess up and start talking about what you have at home or the really cool vacation your family is about to take to the beach.. Talk about how much you love your family and what fun you had growing up playing in the yard. Use language that is “universal” and in no way paints a picture of anything that has to do with theirs or your socioeconomic position in life. (Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position relative to others, based on income, education, and occupation.)

Take lots of pictures on ASP. Caution....Sometimes the pictures do a great job of showing faces of volunteers but the pictures tell almost no ASP stories. Don’t take pictures on the first or second day at the home. Don’t take before and after shots of the work. As the week progresses take pictures of crew members working and new family friends. We always get pictures of rest time and break time. Plan to take pictures..... Take pictures that show folks working or playing that are not close up pictures of heads and faces. Let the pictures help tell the ASP story. Step back from your subject and include more information about what your crew is working to accomplish. One year on ASP it was hard to show that we even worked except for how hot and dirty the folks in all the rest pictures looked. Don’t take a bunch of vertical pictures as they are hard to deal with on the web-site and on the computer.

Stewardship is easy! Plan not to waste. Many of the hassles folks experience on ASP come from the weeks before your group arrives. Perhaps a group rushed through planning the task. We need to get it right to not waste time or materials. We need to get it right for the next group of volunteers. Get it right so the staff won’t have to redo the work. Math is a big deal on ASP – plan, plan, and plan. Access each other on the crew. At night access the whole large group. As a crew ask questions for each move and how it will relate to the finished task. Access others on our trip who have expertise and knowledge. Check your thinking with others. ASP stewardship rules of thumb are “measure twice cut

once". Use every single scrap of material and waste nothing. There is no money for waste.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Waynick