

## Volunteers' Daily Schedule (Motives behind logistics)

NOTE: The general schedule is consistent throughout ASP, but will vary slightly from county to county depending on things such as when the hardware store opens or when the cooks arrive at work or when the cafeteria is available...there are so many factors.

### 6:30 - 8:00 a.m.: Devotions, breakfast

#### Why does ASP have devotions?

ASP was founded by a United Methodist minister and is a Christian non-profit. Because of our identity as a Christian ministry, we understand the importance of starting the day by gathering to give thanks to God. The activities of the entire day are "faith in action," but devotion time is a time of meditation and prayer to get ready for "action."

### 8-8:30 a.m.: Make and pack lunches, load supplies, go to work sites

#### Where do the supplies come from?

One aspect that makes ASP's program successful in the communities served is the economic investment over the summer months. Each night, the staff has a meeting after the volunteers have "lights out." They discuss the construction at each worksite and formulate plans for the next day. They also compose a hardware supply list. While some supplies come from the warehouse and are on hand at the center, other supplies must be purchased from hardware stores. Each morning, one staffer will go to the hardware store. (This task is shared by all staffers.) The store might be neighbors with the center or can be located up to an hour away. Hardware stores can open as early as 6:30 a.m. or as late as 8 a.m. Sometimes there are four or five employees helping the staffer load things in the lumber yard, and sometimes the staffer is on his/her own. It is always our intention to return to the center in a reasonable amount of time, but this part of the schedule potentially changes with the circumstances of each center and each new day.

#### Why are some work sites next to the center and others miles away?

When the staff chooses the sites to work on, they take into consideration where the site is located in comparison to the center. Some families are not helped because they live too far from the center. However, poverty is not always convenient and your worksite may be up to 45 minutes away. ASP Field Coordinators try to secure schools (volunteer housing) in parts of the county with the most need. Occasionally, though, school boards only offer one school in the county and it may or may not be closest to the need. ASP tries to help people who are impoverished and have no place else to turn. Sometimes that need is not next door to the center; sometimes it is.

### 9-4:30 p.m.: Work hard! Eat lunch at worksite

#### Why are some supplies delivered to the worksite in the morning and others in the afternoon?

The staff is provided with two vehicles, typically a truck and a van, for their use during the summer. These vehicles belong to ASP. Each day, the staff splits what sites they visit - some go to one part of the county and some to another. The order of houses they see depends on many things: the demand for materials, the skill of the group, the specifics of the materials needed, or the needs of the family and volunteers. Ideally, each home is visited each day unless otherwise

worked out with the group leaders. Additionally, sometimes the hardware store visited in the morning does not carry the materials that are needed at a certain site. This complicates schedules, as then the staff must either compensate with another material or travel to a farther store. It is the staff's goal to deliver supplies to worksites in a timely manner. Volunteers can help the staff and possibly accomplish more in a shorter amount of time by carrying many of their materials out to the worksite with them. Sometimes groups bring an extra volunteer or two to assist the staff with delivering materials. Be sure to check first with the staff in JC.

**Why do the volunteers eat lunch at the worksite?**

This is probably one of the most important and influential activities in an ASP week. If volunteers eat lunch at the worksite, they have time to have fellowship with one another in a new environment. They also can, and should, take the time to talk and possibly share their lunches with the family they are serving. (We discourage you from accepting lunches from the family. They are in a financial bind and we do not want to burden them with taking their precious food resources.) "Breaking bread together" is an awesome way to show Christian love to each other and to the families of Appalachia.

Occasionally volunteers run into a situation where the family is away during the day or during lunch. It remains important to eat lunch at your worksite, as there are still valuable lessons to be learned. The families, regardless of their presence during the lunch hour, live at the worksite. It isn't a place where they spend some time – it is their *home*. They sleep and eat in the conditions volunteers see each and every day. It is a humbling and sensitive experience to eat at the there.

**Why does ASP ask/expect each crew to put in five, full work days? Why isn't there a day off in the middle of the week?**

One lesson that ASP teaches is that of stewardship. The volunteers and staff are here for the families, and we need to be good stewards of our time for them. It is possible, and encouraged, that the construction portion of the work be accomplished in conjunction with spending time getting to know the family. We ask volunteers to commit to 5 days of work and recommend that any play time or sight seeing be done either before or after your ASP experience.

**5-6 p.m.: Clean-up, plan supplies for next day, relax**

**6-7 p.m.: Dinner**

**Why is it important for the volunteers to eat the dinner provided at the center?**

The volunteers have paid for this meal in their fees. Secondly, the staff and cooks have planned and budgeted for a certain number of volunteers and group leaders, which means cooking certain amounts of food. One of ASP's goals is to be good stewards; taking only what we can eat and eating all we take. This is also a good time to unwind and get to know other volunteers.

**7:30-10:30 p.m. Evening Gathering (EG), chores, free time and other activities**

**Why do we have Evening Gathering (EG)?**

This is one part of ASP that founder, Tex Evans, really stressed. He created ASP not to solve poverty issues in Appalachia but to change lives. Whether this is a volunteer's first trip to ASP or a group leader's tenth, each EG strives to teach a lesson. The staff spends significant time

creating the Evening Gatherings provided for the volunteers and it is their goal that they are considered quality programming. There are many parts of an EG: mixers, singing, sharing, story-telling, teaching and learning, scripture, and prayer.

**Why are chores important?**

Each fall, the ASP Field Coordinators visit the counties ASP served that previous summer and they ask the facility managers about the condition of their facilities. ASP is truly blessed to have many principals, school boards, and building owners go "above and beyond" to help support the program. The way these people serve ASP is not as traditional volunteers, but as local people who offer their facility for ASP's use. They open their doors to 500+ volunteers during the summer months. This causes wear and tear on a building. If we, as participants in ASP, do not leave the center in better condition than we found it, we may not be invited back to a school or in the worst case, a county. Although school is not typically in session during the summer and ASP usually occupies the majority of the facility, the manager or principal and other community members are always in and out of the building. It is in ASP's best interest to keep the building in top shape and clean at all times.

**What can we do during free time?**

Free time is also a very important part of the day! Depending on the center facility, volunteers may have the opportunity to play basketball, football, run, or just hang-out. The staff knows of local ice-cream parlors, and restaurants. Getting ice-cream is a great way to boost the local economy, bond with your group, and meet community members. Often, community members will ask volunteers what they do, what ASP is, and where they work. It's great to answer all of these, but probably best to refer them to the staff, and definitely remember to keep the family name confidential! This is when sensitivity is most important.

**10:30 p.m.: Quiet Time**

**11 p.m.: Lights out!**

**Why is there a designated "lights out" time?**

The primary reason why there is a "lights out" time is because the volunteers work so hard! You need your sleep so you can have a productive week. Also, the staff has a meeting after the volunteers are in bed. While the volunteers are awake, it's difficult for the staff to focus on their other responsibilities (like planning construction or re-working an EG) because the staff wants to hang-out with all the amazing people they meet! After the staff meeting, which is usually fairly late, the staff locks the school for the night. If anyone is still outside, they would be locked out for the remainder of the night, until morning.

**Schedule Changes:**

**Thursday night – Picnic**

**Why does ASP have a picnic?**

Similar to why volunteers eat lunch at the worksite; this is a time of fellowship within the volunteer groups and with the families and community members in the county. Volunteers can not only introduce "their" family to their friends, but families can see the others who are served

by ASP. After the last groups of volunteers leave in August, the families can process their experience with others who are going through the same feelings and emotions.

**Tuesday night – Culture Night**

**Why is it important that ASP have a culture night?**

One amazing aspect of ASP is that it takes place in Appalachia – part of the country that many do not have the opportunity to visit. Appalachia is rich in culture, whether it is the coal mines of West Virginia and Kentucky, the history of flooding in Virginia, or the struggle with factory work in Tennessee. The people of Appalachia have a perspective all their own, fueled by tough situations and incredible music. The history of the area is complex and disturbing, intriguing and inspiring. All in all, it’s worth learning about and taking those lessons home.

**Week One Considerations**

Week One is a great week – a blank slate for the staff and the county! At the start of Week One, the staff has just completed their “set-up” week, which includes cleaning and getting the center ready for volunteers, making signs, planning EGs, meeting community contacts, setting up accounts, meeting with the cooks, planning a menu, ordering food, taking merchandise inventory, setting up the office, reading applications, visiting homes, selecting and planning projects, sometimes building showers, and much, much more. Sometimes the staff cannot move into their center until the middle of this week, which makes planning a little more complex and difficult. During Week One, there are still kinks to be worked out, but this is a very exciting time for the staff! They have positive energy and excitement during this time.

**Week Seven or Eight Considerations**

Week 7 in Virginia or Week 8 in most of the other centers are great weeks! This is the final week of the summer. By this week, the staff and the county are used to the routine of ASP. The staff knows their way around, they are close to each family, and understand the difficulties and gifts of the county. One challenge of volunteering Week 7 or 8 is being the “last” group of volunteers. **There is an added bit of responsibility here with both the construction and the closing-down of the center.** It is expected that construction will be completed by Friday afternoon of that week. If it is not, the staff has only a few days to finish the work before they leave the county. It is also expected that the volunteers help to close-down the center, which includes doing **extra chores during the week and participating in a blitz clean on Friday night.** Leaving the center in better condition than it was found is extremely important. ASP has been asked not to come back to a county because of the way centers are left at the end of the summer. Please understand the importance of this and practice sensitivity to the community and the facility.