

TYPICAL SUMMER WEEK WITH ASP

Below is a basic weekly outline. Daily schedules may vary from center to center.

Sunday

- **2* - 3:30 p.m.** Arrive at your center, register, meet other groups.
- **4 - 5 p.m.** Staff meets with group leaders to:
 - **discuss the center and community**
 - **explain the home assignments**
- **5 p.m.** Evening Gathering
- **6 p.m.** Dinner
- **7 p.m.** Group leaders/staff travel to meet families
- **11 p.m.** Lights-out; rest for a wonderful experience

Monday - Friday

- **6:30 - 8 a.m.** Rise and shine, devotions, breakfast
- **8:30 - 4:30** Work day with lunch break at noon at the site.
- **5 - 6 p.m.** Clean up and make an inventory of supplies needed for the next day.
- **6 - 7 p.m.** Dinner
- **7 - 10 p.m.** Center clean-up; Evening Gathering (a time of fellowship, reflection, sharing, singing, playing, sometimes with a guest speaker, local musician, artist, or other special event); **team time**; staff and group leaders discuss details of the day's work; free time.
- **10:30-11 p.m.** Quiet time; settle in for a well-deserved sleep.
- **11 p.m.** Lights-out; make sure your group understands the importance of getting enough sleep.

Saturday

- **7 - 10 a.m.** Groups depart. No breakfast provided

***New Groups Arrive at 2:00**

Volunteers' Daily Schedule – Q and A about the week

NOTE: The general schedule can vary slightly from county to county depending on things such as when the hardware store opens or when the cooks arrive at work, etc.

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

Why does ASP have devotions? Founded by a United Methodist minister, ASP is a Christian non-profit. We understand the importance of starting the day by giving thanks to God. The devotion time of meditation and prayer helps get ready for “faith in action.”

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

Where do the supplies come from? ASP’s program successfully invests economically in the communities served. After “lights out”, the staff meets to discuss construction at each worksite and formulate plans for the next day. They compose a hardware supply list. Each morning, one staffer will go to the hardware store (close by or not). Hardware stores can open at 6:30 a.m. or 8 a.m. Sometimes employees help the staffer load their truck and sometimes the staffer is on his/her own. Our intention is to return quickly, but this 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 homes to work on, they consider where the site is located in comparison to the center. Some families aren't helped as they live too far away. While poverty is not always convenient, your worksite may be up to 45 minutes away. Program Managers try to find volunteer housing in areas with greatest need.

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

Why are some supplies delivered in the morning and others in the afternoon? The staff has 2 or 3 vehicles to use during the summer. Each day, they split what sites they visit. The visitation order depends on: 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. Sometimes the hardware store does not carry the materials needed. Then staff must either compensate with another material or travel to a farther store. It is the staff's goal to have the majority of materials out at the worksite before volunteers even arrive, although we recognize this cannot be the case at every center due to cost, time, manpower, etc. Volunteers can help the staff and possibly accomplish more in a shorter amount of time by carrying any additional materials out to the worksite with them. Sometimes groups bring a floating volunteer or two to assist with delivering materials. Check with the staff in JC.

Why do volunteers eat lunch at the worksite? This may be the most important activity of a week. Volunteers have time to fellowship with one another as well as to share their lunches with their family. "Breaking bread together" is an awesome way to show Christian love. (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.)

Occasionally volunteers serve an absentee family. It remains important to eat lunch at your worksite, as there are still valuable lessons to be learned. The families live at the worksite, regardless of their presence during the lunch hour. This is not a place where they spend some time – it is their **home** where they sleep and eat in the conditions volunteers see each and every day. It is a humbling and sensitive experience to eat 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 **stewardship**. 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 play or sight seeing be done 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? Volunteer fees paid for this meal. Secondly, staff and cooks have planned for a specific number of diners. Again, we want 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 volunteers from other places.

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

Why do we have Evening Gathering (EG)? This is one part of the ministry that founder, Tex Evans, really stressed. He created ASP not to solve poverty issues in Appalachia but to change lives. Each EG strives to teach a lesson. Staff spend significant time creating the EGs provided for the volunteers with a goal of quality programming: mixers, singing, sharing, story-telling, teaching and learning, scripture, and prayer.

Do we need to bring money with us to the center? There may be some cases where cash will be helpful during the week. Some examples of these include: ice cream purchases, fundraising opportunities, buying snacks, drinks. Many places in the counties we serve do take credit cards; however, it can be good to have a small amount of cash on hand for those places that don't.

Will there be fundraising at the center? While our staffs work very hard to find the lowest prices and be good stewards of our resources, sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that require the need for fundraising above and beyond the families we serve. We ask that our staffs do not fundraise unless they absolutely have to. If there will be fundraising going on at the center, the staff will address this during the first contact call and will talk to you about reasonable fundraising goals, which fundraisers sound best for your group, etc. ASP recognizes that there is already a large financial commitment on the part of all groups, which is why we try to limit fundraising to only when it is absolutely necessary.

What do we do during Team Time?

Team Time is set aside so that you and the members of your group are able to be together for the purpose of reflecting upon the experiences of the day.

Why are chores important? Each autumn, Program Managers visit counties served 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. These people open their doors to 500+ volunteers during the summer months, causing wear and tear on a building. We need to leave the center in better than we found it so that we will be asked to return. Although school is not in session, the manager or principal etc. are in and out of the building. We must keep the building clean at all times.

What can we do during free time? Volunteers may have the opportunity to play basketball, football, run, or just hang-out. The staff knows of local ice-cream parlors. Getting ice-cream is a great way to boost local economy, bond with your group, and meet local folks. 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 best to refer them to the staff. 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 “lights out” time? The primary reason for “lights out” is because volunteers need sleep for a productive week. The staff meets after 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 volunteers! After the staff meeting, which is usually fairly late, the staff locks the school for the night. If anyone is outside, they would be locked out for the remainder of the night.

Schedule Variations:

Tuesday Culture Night: Why do we have culture night? ASP takes place in Appalachia – a region rich in culture, from the coal mines of WV and KY to the history of flooding in VA, or the struggle with factory work in TN.

Appalachians have a special perspective, fueled by tough situations and incredible music. The area’s history is complex and disturbing, intriguing and inspiring. It’s worth learning about and taking those lessons home.

Thursday night Picnic: The ASP picnic is a time of fellowship for the volunteer groups, families, and community members. Volunteers can not only introduce “their” family to their friends, but families can see the others who are served by ASP. After the last ASP groups leave, the families can process their experience with others going through the same things.