



First Presbyterian Church
OF HADDONFIELD



2023 FPCH Youth Mission Trip Appalachia Service Project June 25-July 2, 2023

Who is Appalachia Service Project (ASP) (taken from <https://asphome.org/>)

Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia.

ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families.

Since 1969, we've made homes warmer, safer, and drier for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers. Each year, more than 15,000 volunteers serve with ASP, providing critical repairs for more than 350 families.

FPC has partnered with ASP for three previous mission trips and is very excited to be working with them once again.

Why Home Repair? Why Central Appalachia?

ASP believes all people should be able to live in affordable, safe, and sanitary housing. Shelter is a basic human need impacting all areas of life for families. ASP addresses this basic need so families no longer need to worry about leaky roofs, soft floors, or unsafe porches and stairs.

2018 census data shows 11.8% of families in the United States live in poverty. However, Appalachian families experience poverty at a rate of 16% according to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC.gov).
[ASP organizes mission trips for thousands of youth and adults each year to lend a hand to our neighbors in need in this beautiful region.](#)

Where will we be staying?

From June through August, ASP works in 20-30 communities across Central Appalachia. ASP leases schools, churches, and community centers to act as summer centers for volunteers and staff.

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

What can I expect on a Mission Trip?

We love Youth Mission Trips here at FPC! You can expect to work hard—mission trips are not for the faint of heart and everyone is expected to participate in the building and home repair—no one is sitting on the sidelines! You can expect to disconnect for a week, both mentally and physically, from the pressures and schedules of everyday life. Cell phones are put away and replaced by laughter and conversation and play with other students and adults. Luxuries we so easily take for granted are set aside for a week as we reflect on what it is that we really need and really don't need in life. You can expect to be challenged—challenged by the work, but also by the circumstances we will face as a group. It is a transformative experience to spend a week with those less fortunate—to know them, to know their stories—you can expect to be changed. And you can expect to learn more about yourself and more about God. It is a week to explore your faith more deeply and to know more abundantly the love that God has for you. You can expect to feel safe and welcomed and loved. You can expect to be cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually by one another and by the adults who will spend the week with you. You can expect to have an awesome week!

Who are the adults that will be going with us?

Adult chaperones will be chosen to create the best adult leadership team. Adults could range in age from 22 to 75 and all of them deserve your trust, respect, and thanks. Many of them take vacation time from work in order to participate and all of them have a heart for service and a heart for working with young people at FPC. Rest assured that among the team of adults, there will be adults who can care for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs that may arise during the trip. They are adults who take their leadership role very seriously and who enter into these trips not from selfish motivation, but from a place of love and care for the youth of FPC. We take this selection process very seriously and want to ensure, to the best of our ability, the safety and well-being of our students. Background checks will be completed for each chaperone on the trip.

Are scholarships available for the Mission Trip?

Yes, there are need-based scholarships available for the Mission Trip. If interested, please contact the Mission Trip Committee.

Is there a dress code on the trip?

Yes. ASP has set forth some rules regarding dress code and we will abide by those rules in every capacity. We also believe it's important to keep in mind that when we are participating in a Youth Mission Trip, we not only represent ourselves, but we also represent the church that is sending us (FPC), the broader global church, and its head, Jesus Christ. Therefore, we believe it is important to demonstrate the utmost respect for ourselves, one another, and those whom we will serve through our words, actions, and appearance.

- Shirts with sleeves (T-SHIRTS) must be worn at all times (both on the work site and at the housing center)! T-shirts should not be form-fitting, cut, torn, or contain any images or words that are explicit, inappropriate, or advertise alcohol or drugs.
- Long pants and closed-toed shoes must be worn at all times on the work site!
- Shorts are permitted at our home base but must be AT LEAST mid-thigh in length. Most ladies sports shorts will not be permitted. Leggings/tights will not be permitted.

How much does the trip cost?

Each person will be required to contribute \$450 which includes the \$225 deposit (needed to reserve your spot). This cost covers ASP fees, transportation, meals, fun day activity, etc. This cost is significantly subsidized by the fundraising we will also do throughout the year. This is why availability to participate in our fundraisers is crucial.

When do I have to pay?

A \$225 non-refundable deposit is due by Sunday, January 15, 2023 to the church office (Attn: Mission Trip Committee) to reserve your spot on the trip. Be aware that spots are available on a first come first serve basis. Deposits will not be accepted without a completed registration form (signed by both student & parent). The remaining \$225 non-refundable balance is due to the church office (Attn: Mission Trip Committee) by March 1, 2023.

What if I have to miss a fundraiser?

We understand that you may encounter a conflict or two with fundraising/group events that are scheduled throughout the course of the year. However, everyone is expected to participate in the fundraisers for the Mission Trip. If, after looking at your family calendar, you realize that you are not going to be able to help with many fundraisers or participate in pre-trip meetings and activities, perhaps you should reconsider going on the trip this year. Going on this trip is more than just a week-long commitment in the summer—you are committing time and energy toward this trip well before we ever leave for ASP.

Do groups stay together during the day?

No. During the work day we will split into groups of about 5-6 students and 2 chaperones. We will be working on different houses in the area we are serving.

What projects will we be working on?

ASP projects cover a wide range of construction skill sets, so they can find something for our group regardless of experience. They'll pair our crew with a project that fits our needs and comfort level. In the past this has included roofing, drywall, siding, floors and foundation, porches and ramps.

****FPCH Youth Mission Trip Tentative Schedule****

Sunday, June 25th

- Depart church early and drive to Activity Site
- Arrive at ASP between 4:00 and 5:00 PM

Monday, June 26th-Friday, June 30th

7am Rise and Shine, Devotions, Breakfast, Pack Lunches

- 8:30am-4:30pm At the Work Site (with lunch eaten on the worksite)
- 5-6pm Crew Check In
- 6pm Dinner
- 7:10pm-10:00pm Chores, Evening Gathering Time, Free Time
- 10pm Rest Time
- 10:30pm Lights Out

Saturday, July 1st/Sunday July 2nd

- Depart ASP and head home to NJ

A few more important notes...

- **Each student will need to be up to date on his/her TETANUS SHOT**
- **Fundraising is essential to the success of the trip and everyone is expected to participate! Sponsor Letters will be required of every participant!**

Please note the following dates for fundraisers and meetings:

- **December 11, 2022 - Mission Trip Interest Meeting**
- **January 15, 2023 - Applications/1st Deposit Due (\$225)**
- **January 29, 2023 - First Parent/Student Meeting**
 - The first portion of the meeting will be going over paperwork, upcoming fundraising events, sponsor letters, medical needs, etc.
 - Students will then break apart for icebreaker activities while
 - parents can stick around to ask Larissa and I any questions they may have.
 - The meeting will last about an hour.
- **February 19, 2023 - Sponsor Letters Due**
- **March 1, 2023 - 2nd Deposit Due (\$225)**
- **March 12, 2023 - Mission Trip Extravaganza (TBD)**
- **Other Fundraisers TBD (Raffle Baskets, Dine and Donates, other TBD)**
- **June 4, 2023 - Mission Trip Retreat (5-8)**
- **June 25 - July 2, 2023 - Mission Trip**
- **July 16, 2023 - Mission Trip Sunday Service**

Due to issues in past years, you will forfeit your spot on the trip if you miss 2 or more fundraisers. You risk losing your spot if paperwork or payments are past due, unless there are extenuating circumstances that have been previously discussed with the Mission Trip Committee.

****Subject to Change****