



## **COLLEGE SERVICE PROJECT**

### **What is Appalachia Service Project (ASP)?**

ASP is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair in Central Appalachia. ASP provides one of the most rewarding service opportunities in the nation, annually bringing thousands of youth and adult volunteers to rural Appalachia to serve low-income families. ASP's mission is to eradicate substandard housing in Central Appalachia, and that everyone who comes in contact with this ministry is transformed.

ASP was founded in 1969 at Union College in Barbourville, KY by the Rev. Glenn "Tex" Evans who set out to make homes "warmer, safer, and drier", particularly in rural Appalachia. Since then, nearly 360,000 volunteers from across the nation have repaired 16,693 homes for Appalachian families in need. Today, ASP hosts about 17,000 volunteers annually, and although it remains a home repair program, it is so much more than that. ASP provides a unique framework that fosters transformational experiences for volunteers, staff, and families served. It is not uncommon for significant life changes to occur because of one's experience with ASP: families often find their faith renewed, and young adults involved often choose a career in service or dedicate themselves to Christian leadership because of the impact of their ASP experience.

### **What is College Service Project (CSP)?**

College Service Project inspires students to lives of Christian service and leadership through home repair for low-income families in Central Appalachia and back in their home communities. ASP's founder, Tex Evans, always said "We'd love for each of our volunteers to come back every summer, but if they don't because they've started this in their local community, that is even better". CSP seeks to provide young adults with a chance to continue and share the transformational experience they've had in Appalachia back in their home collegiate community.

Now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, ASP has relied on college-age young adults to operate its Summer/Youth Program by guiding groups of volunteers through their home repair service project and providing Christian leadership. These students gain significant skills in organization, leadership, and construction volunteer management. Not only will the community surrounding the college or university benefit from the home repair services of CSP, but students involved will gain valuable skills that will benefit them the rest of their lives.

### **How Does It Work?**

CSP is a student-led, campus based organization. Each chapter is nationally affiliated with Appalachia Service Project, and follows ASP's model for completing home repair projects in their community. Students will:

- Distribute CSP Home Repair Applications in their local communities (ex, Department of Social Services, Goodwill Stores, other local not-for-profits, etc.).
- Conduct initial assessment visits with families whose applications have been received, select homes and projects to be completed, and carry-out project planning.
- Recruit volunteers from within their college and community to work on these projects.
- Host fundraisers and gain community sponsorships in order to raise the funds necessary to complete their project goals.

### **What Does a Chapter Need for National Affiliation?**

For a CSP chapter to be affiliated with Appalachia Service Project, each prospective college or university chapter will need to complete a "College Service Project Affiliate Application," and commit to send at least one group of student leaders and participants to volunteer at one of ASP's four year-round centers. Groups can choose to volunteer in Guyan Valley/Brenton, West Virginia; Jonesville, Virginia; Chavies, Kentucky; or in Johnson City/Tri-Cities, Tennessee. Trips with ASP's year-round program can occur at any time during the year, including fall, winter, and spring breaks. Trips can be weeklong, weekend, or for two or more days. For additional information please see [ASPHome.org/adult](http://ASPHome.org/adult).

### **How Do I Get Started?**

First and foremost, each CSP affiliate must follow any guidelines for starting a student-led organization that have been laid out by their college or university. Appalachia Service Project's Assistant Director of Advancement, Margie White, will help students through the process of becoming nationally affiliated with Appalachia Service Project. ASP will provide Home Repair Applications, access to construction manuals and other construction training material, and any other information or assistance needed to get College Service Project started at your school.

### **Contact**

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