



**Appalachian South Folklife Center**

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Dear Workcamp Coordinator,

Thank you for your interest in the Appalachian South Folklife Center's Workcamp Program. As part of our mission, we have hosted a variety of volunteer groups who visit our area to provide much needed assistance to local individuals, communities, and the ASFC for over 45 years. In addition, Workcamp provides an opportunity for your group to learn about the cultural, historical and recreational aspects of Appalachia. We will work with your group on an individual basis to tailor our programs to your needs and expectations.

Work projects your group will participate in will be predetermined based on your group's skill level(s), local needs, your expectations, and the weather. The types of projects include home repair, painting, maintenance, yard work, cleaning etc. Your group can expect to work 6 hours each work day. All projects are screened and prioritized by Center Staff prior to your arrival. Many of those served are senior citizens or families who have a low income and have no other source to provide the needed assistance. This is due to economic conditions that have caused many younger people to leave the state in order to find employment in other states.

We believe that it is very important for everyone to learn something about our culture and history while they are here. Please plan to schedule at least one evening cultural program while you are here. Two are included in your fee. Most groups schedule at least two programs although more can be arranged for an additional fee.

Recreational and educational opportunities abound in our area. Your schedule can be tailored to include time for white water rafting, rock climbing, swimming, horseback riding, sightseeing, hiking, skiing etc. Information about recreational opportunities is available upon request.

The ASFC is available to you year round although service opportunities and number of individuals that can be accommodated are limited during the winter months. Workcampers generally arrive on Sunday evening and depart the following Saturday. The fee for the 6 days is \$205 per person and includes housing, worksite supervisors, materials, and 2 evening cultural programs. This fee does not include food or food preparation. Workcampers are welcome to use our commercial kitchen to cook and store food.

The enclosed packet of materials contains important information about the Workcamp Program. To ensure that your experience is rewarding and enjoyable, please review each item carefully. One month prior to your arrival, one half of the balance of your fee, individual registration forms and individual medical release forms are due. Your remaining fee will be due no later than your arrival date.

Both ASFC and the people with whom we work deeply appreciate your interest in sharing your time, talents and resources with us. We are very interested in providing your group with a unique, rewarding, educational, and enjoyable Workcamp experience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or write.

Best wishes,

Crystal Atwell  
Tim Mainland  
Directors

## **Expectations: Answers to commonly asked questions**

Ø ASFC has a 65-acre campus with room to house 49 people. We have a dining hall, three dormitories, chapel, a fire pit, classrooms, an outdoor lit stage, a picnic shelter, and outdoor recreation including volleyball, and basketball. We are very close to several waterways from a large lake to a secluded waterfall with a great swimming hole.

Ø Minimum group size is ten. We accept workcampers over the age of thirteen. Workgroups are not permitted to do any work without an ASFC staff member's knowledge and direction unless prior arrangements have been made.

Ø It is not usually necessary for workers to bring personal tools; however if personal tools are brought they should be clearly marked.

Ø To ensure the best work project for your group, be sure to return the enclosed Workcamp Reservation Form no later than one month before your arrival. Back up projects are always determined in case of inclement weather.

Ø Dorm housing is rustic. Two of our three dorms are heated with LP (the other has electric heat). All dorms have electricity and running water. Participants can expect to have access to 2-4 bathrooms with showers and two additional without. A.S.F.C. does not provide laundry facilities.

Ø Our kitchen has plenty of storage space, utensils and cookware. For environmental and trash control reasons disposable dishware for every meal is discouraged. Groups need not bring the following: basic spices, cooking oil, dishtowels, toilet paper or dish soap.

Ø The nearest grocery is approximately 20 minutes away. There are convenience stores located nearby as well as a produce stand. Major airports are located in Charleston, WV and Roanoke, VA. Both located about two hours away. Van rental is located nearby although van arrangements should be made in advance because of limited availability. Hinton train station is about 20 minutes away.

Ø Groups should plan to arrive early enough (ideally before 9:00 p.m.) so an orientation can be given the evening before the work begins. Late arrivers can be accommodated although this makes acclimation difficult. During the orientation session the weeks work and evening programs will be discussed.

### **Packing Checklist**

- Sleeping bag and pillow (ASFC does not provide linens)  rain gear
- towels
- two pairs of solid shoes (no sandals on jobsite)  outdoor sports equipment
- camera and film
- sunscreen
- swim suit
- water bottle or canteen and coolers  hat
- extra socks
- musical instruments
- long and short sleeved shirts
- shampoo and soap
- flashlight
- work gloves
- a jacket (nights in the mountains can get chilly)

### **ASFC Donation and Wish List**

- paint brushes
- chop saw
- nails and drywall screws
- gift cards (Lowes)
- small lawn and garden tools tables etc.)
- shower curtains and bath rugs
- dish towels
- AA, AAA, D and 9V batteries
- hardware and hand tools
- shovels, rakes, spades
- curtains
- cleaning supplies
- drills
- toilet paper/paper towels
- outside furniture (lawn chairs, picnic
- flashlights to share
- building materials and paint supplies
- basket/soccer/volley balls
- fans and adjustable screens
- liquid hand soap (refill size ok)

