

WORK CAMP HANDBOOK



Work camp serves two purposes in conjunction with our ministry here in the Laurel Fork Valley of Southeastern Kentucky. First (and primarily) it serves as an opportunity to educate the church in the area of missions in particular. Loving and serving are mission concepts that work more effectively when there are faces and names to go with them; when stereotypes and prejudices are broken down; when we realize how fortunate we are; when our world and culture collide with another, different world that is just as real and just as valid. Loving and serving quickly replace sympathy and pity when there is personal, intimate contact. Come to learn, to love and understand our people.

Secondly, work camp often serves as the bridge between dreams and reality for mountain families. A roof that doesn't leak, floors without holes, running water, hot water, steps, decks and porches for entry access and a way to escape the heat from the house during the late afternoon, windows that will keep out the cold winter wind...all these and more are problems that many have no resources with which to deal. Work camp extends this vital service to the community through adopting projects and raising the money to purchase the materials over and above registration fees for the week. Projects on the Settlement campus can also be adopted and funded to enable us to accomplish what needs to be done within a very limited budget. The key words and concepts for our Work camp are serving and learning-learning by serving. Let me tell you ahead of time what we are not. We are not a Christian Coney Island or Disney land with attendants at every ride to supervise your every activity and ensure a "good time". We are not a summer Youth Camp where recreation is a priority (although our facilities provide ample opportunity for volley ball, basketball, tennis, hiking, and horseshoes). We are not a "spiritual retreat" in terms of organized Bible studies, group discussions, or structured classes.

Your week here is a chance to experience a different culture and its people and hopefully gain insight into the definition of mission. We are here to accept the community people as they are and minister to them within the context of their culture and needs. This is not to imply that we are rigid and heavy-handed with the program. We enjoy different, sincere questions meant to gain understanding. We are open to suggestions – many of our recent changes have been based on input from groups. Our emphasis here is on the attitude that your group brings with it. The attitude you come with will determine the type of week you have. We offer learning by serving. Learning comes in many forms – through good times and bad, frustration and joy, success and failure, questions and answers (incomplete answers sometimes), trusting and giving of yourself. We don't plan pain and frustration for you, but sometimes it happens, whether it's the heat or rain or the family you adopted or the food or whatever. These are still opportunities to learn about your mission agency, the community and you. We welcome you as you come to learn through serving.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

We welcome youth, adults, college, intergenerational, district and conference groups. We discourage groups from bringing children under 13 (unless prior arrangements have been made). Accommodations permit us to house up to 200 people per week. Most groups average 15-20 people but smaller or larger groups are welcome. **ONE ADULT LEADER IS REQUIRED FOR EVERY FIVE YOUTH.**

LEADERS

Please prepare yourselves and your group for the week you will spend here. The ride on the way to Henderson Settlement is NOT soon enough. As soon as you know you are coming, start preparing. Read books and/or discuss missions. (Night comes to the Cumberlands by Harry Caudill is excellent reading on Appalachia. A trip to the library for information about your type of work project is a good idea, too.) Watch films; set up possible situations that can occur in a cross-culture setting. Try to determine why you want to make this trip (to keep an eye on a boyfriend/girlfriend, getting away from Mom & Dad, or wanting to grow by experiencing something different?) The leaders are the key to determining the attitude and achievements for the week. (Will you be ambitious and accomplish more than you dreamed, or will you do only as much as you must and lead the group to mediocrity?) Leaders are responsible for their group's behavior and participation in activities. Looking over the past summers it is painfully obvious which counselors prepared and led their groups, and which ones simply acted as chaperones. Your group will rise to the level you set and maintain for them.

Curfew, schedules, activities, rules, registration and covenant are enclosed to be read and signed by all participants (to indicate willingness to comply) and returned to us!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The key to community involvement is to adopt a project in the community. People in the community come to Henderson Settlement to fill out applications for work to be done on their homes. We develop a project list of work to be done in the community (and also on the Settlement) which is then posted on our website. Groups "adopt" a project, raise money for the materials, then come and complete it. While not all groups can do community projects, many can and it is the best way to experience the wonderful people here. Please consider your project in light of our real life situations. A mobile home trailer with 8-10 years of life left doesn't need a 20-year roof. We don't have 1-2 foot snows and thus don't need to frame to those specs. Consider the budget of the project – funds are limited.

Nevertheless, do your best. Part of poverty, other than waiting, is having to make do with what you have. Do as good a job as you would on your own home even if it isn't the way you'd do it. An important part of our ability to do missions work and serve as a ministry within this community are the facilities which exist here on the campus of Henderson Settlement. These programs and facilities depend heavily upon workcamp groups, which choose to minister to the community through improving or repairing facilities here on campus.

We recommend that first time groups (with regard to work programs) take a serious look at this option in their initial year.

FREE DAY

Wednesday is our Free Day. Options include a tour of Henderson Settlement facilities and a host of local parks and recreation areas. A list of area attractions is also available on request. Any group leaving Henderson Settlement should return before 10pm.

Breakfast is served to work campers on Wednesday. Lunch and supper are also available if group is here on campus. A tally board in the dining hall is provided for you to let us know how many of you will be eating lunch and supper that day.

COST, ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS

\$275 per person from Sunday evening to Saturday morning. This covers all lodging, meals, supervision, and recreation facilities and programmed evening activities. The Sunday evening meal will be available on Sundays to only those groups, which register for the meal ahead of time. The meal will be cold cut sandwiches only and will be served at 6:00pm. Otherwise groups should plan ahead for Sunday evening meals and snacks before arrival. Groups should also plan to arrive between 2p.m. and 6:00pm. on Sundays, with orientation taking place at 7:00pm Sunday evening.

Lodging for work camp is in the Missions Dormitory, a facility that opened in 1998. There are handicapped bathroom facilities (with showers). Married couples should pack separately since they will be staying in different quarters.

All groups are fed in our central dining hall. Cost for food is included in the total work camp fee. Three nutritious meals are served each day except for Wednesday lunch. A box breakfast is prepared for Saturday morning.

REGISTRATION FEE

\$275 IS REQUIRED AS A NON-REFUNDABLE GROUP DEPOSIT TO RESERVE YOUR WEEK, Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter. One half of the total fee is required by March 15th–April 1st for summer groups registering 25 or fewer people. We will maintain a waiting list in case of cancellations. Confirmation of your reservation will be sent upon receipt of the reservation fee. The total number of participants should be indicated on the registration form and the breakdown of male and female entered if possible. If a group is very one-sided in gender please let us know as early as possible.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

DO NOT BRING alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or fireworks. Phones, electronics and other personal devices used with head phones are acceptable. Do not plan to do laundry while at

Henderson Settlement. Adequate water and laundry facilities are not available except in emergencies. We do not have public washers. Plan to bring an adequate supply of clothing or visit a Laundromat in Middlesboro (30 miles) on your free day.

WHAT TO BRING

Sleeping bag/bed roll, linens, pillow, towels, washcloths, soap, shower shoes, trash bags etc. Work clothes (enough for a week of dirt and sweat), boots (work shoes), gloves, rain-gear, jacket swimwear, (Please bring only modest clothing). Bibles, notebook, pencil, cameras, film, flash light, musical instrument (if desired), insect repellent, large thermos, plus materials for singing and devotions.

HAND TOOLS,

Hammers, saws, drills, masonry tools, and shovels. If you adopt a special project, a tool list will be provided so you can come equipped. Many groups have chosen to donate their tools when they leave and you may wish to consider this also. If adopting a Community Project, it is requested that you bring pickups or vans for transporting people and some materials to your work site. If this is impossible, please let us know well in advance. Charter buses are not much help getting you to a site on a back road.

Note: You may bring your own tools/equipment at your own risk. Henderson Settlement is not responsible for theft or damage of your personal items.

INSURANCE/MEDICAL FORMS

Each group must provide its own medical and accident insurance. Henderson Settlement cannot provide this coverage and is not liable for any stolen or damaged items. Valuables can be stored in the safe upon request. Work campers are not insured to drive Settlement vehicles.

A medical release form is available on the forms list/packet.

Copies should be made for every work camper under age 18 and KEPT IN THE GROUP LEADERS POSSESSION. Do not send them to us. If you have an accident on the way here you must have a release form with you to get medical treatment for a minor. It is recommended that tetanus shots be obtained or date of last tetanus given recorded. All allergies should be recorded.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The Appalachian Mountains extend from Canada to Alabama so there can be no single culture or stereotype of the mountain people. Stereotypes and prejudices fall apart when individuals, families, and communities are experienced personally. As unique as snowflakes and as everyday as old shoes, you will find real people wherever you visit.

We have roads, stores, cable and satellite dishes, school, and even have Nintendo! We also have mass unemployment, water problems minimal health care and isolation. Lack of opportunity to pursue and achieve goals taken for granted elsewhere hangs over the mountains like the morning mist. Many of the people here are descendants of the original

settlers and are fiercely proud, yet are in great need and living in terrible conditions. Often the “poor” are seen as somehow inferior, as though their personal worth determined their “net worth”. Shedding that point of view is sometimes the hardest thing a visitor has to do, much harder than pouring concrete or bailing hay.

We hope that work campers will go home with the understanding of both the diversity and the commonality of all people, and a fresh perspective on their own life situations.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

DEVOTIONS: Morning devotions are held each morning at 7:00am. Groups should come prepared to lead at least one morning devotion during the week.

DIETARY NEEDS: Please let us know well in advance if anyone in your group has special dietary needs (including vegetarians).

GLOVES: You should bring your own gloves. We may have some used gloves but campers should be prepared.

INSURANCE FORMS:

Make copies as needed for youth under 18. **Team leader keeps copies in his/her possession. DO NOT SEND THEM TO HENDERSON SETTLEMENT.**

1. Name of insured person on insurance card, usually father or mother.
2. Address of insured person on insurance card if different than patient’s address.
3. Identification number or policy number from insurance card, usually social security of the insured parent or patient if employed adult.
4. Group number on insurance card.
5. Insured cardholders birth date.
6. Does patient have other insurance coverage, such as coverage under two different insurances by both parents? If so, which is the primary insurer?
7. Please attach a clear copy of both front and back of insurance card. (Make sure that the phone number is legible.)
8. We also need a parent’s signature authorizing release of medical or other information necessary to process an insurance claim.
9. We need a parent’s signature authorizing payment of medical benefits to the physician for services rendered.
10. We need a parent’s signature giving permission for treatment of a minor child (under 18).