What is Appalachia Service Project (ASP)?
ASP 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 service opportunities in the nation, annually bringing thousands of youth and adult volunteers to rural Appalachia to serve low-income families. ASP’s main hope 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 16,000 volunteers annually, and although it remains a home repair and replacement 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 see the world in a whole new way and even choose a life of service or dedication to Christian leadership because of the impact of their ASP experience.

What are ASP’s College Programs?
Appalachia Service Project's College Programs connect young adults across the United States with opportunities to enact change in both their collegiate communities and the Central Appalachian region through advocacy, education, and service, all while equipping students with skills of leadership, entrepreneurship, management, organization, and volunteerism.

The two main branches of ASP’s College Programs are (1) Campus Chapters, which are student-led, collegiate-based organizations. Each Campus Chapter is nationally affiliated with Appalachia Service Project, bringing the mission of ASP to their campus, while also creating opportunities for students to serve in Appalachia and experience the culture first-hand. Students involved with Campus Chapters will primarily work to serve, advocate, and raise funds. ASP Campus Chapters provide students with the opportunity to grow as impactful leaders through experiences outside the classroom and to build relationships with ASP volunteers and other campus chapters across the country.

And (2) Immersion Trips, which provide college students the opportunity to spend their time away from campus in an impactful and purposeful way with our Year-Round home repair programs throughout Central Appalachia for Fall, Winter and Spring Breaks that will truly make a difference. Students that serve with ASP will do construction repairs for low-income families in Appalachia, but they will also connect with and learn about the Appalachian community they are serving in and will be part of a long-term effort to eradicate substandard housing in the region. Students will be engaging in programing each evening to discuss, learn and engage with the issues of social justice, poverty alleviation, and addressing substandard housing. We seek to inspire college students to find a love of service by discovering where their gifts and talents intersect the existing needs in the world. All backgrounds and points of view are welcome.
How Does it Work?
Appalachia Service Project’s Campus Chapters are on-campus student organizations, recognized by both their university and ASP. These chapters will complete meet regularly with its members to plan and execute fundraisers, advocacy and education events, and various opportunities for service with their peers.

SERVE

- Serve their collegiate community through existing organizations to promote service and social justice with their peers
- Coordinate a minimum of one trip to one of ASP's Year-Round centers over Fall, Winter, or Spring Break

ADVOCATE

- Host events on campus and in the surrounding community to raise awareness of substandard housing, Central Appalachia, ASP, and other related social issues
- Identify potential summer staffer applicants for Appalachia Service Project
- Share ASP volunteer opportunities with other potential, local groups (e.g., churches, high schools, other student organizations, etc.)

RAISE

- Fundraise for organizations addressing substandard housing, including ASP
- Leverage community partnerships as a means for fundraising, in-kind donations, etc.

How Do I Get Started?
First and foremost, each potential ASP Campus Chapter must follow any guidelines for starting a student-led organization that have been laid out by their college or university. Appalachia Service Project’s College Programs Team will help students through the process of becoming nationally affiliated with Appalachia Service Project. ASP’s College Programs Team will then be a resource for Campus Chapters to help recruit, fundraise, train, and organize their group’s operations. ASP is also willing to provide any other information or assistance needed to get your Campus Chapter up and running in your community, and organizes events for Campus Chapter leaders from across the country to gather together, share ideas, and collaborate together.

Contact
Our College Programs Team at College@ASPhome.org for more information or with any questions, and be sure to Like and Follow @ASPCollegePrograms on Facebook and Instagram!