



Appalachia Service Project
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Appalachia Service Project finalizes weekend schedule for Race to Build event at Bristol Motor Speedway prior to the Food City 500 Race.

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (April 9, 2018)—Appalachia Service Project (ASP) will hold its third annual Race to Build event during the Food City 500 Race Weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway, April 13-15, 2018 to build three homes for local Tri-Cities families. ASP will host college programs from Iowa State University, Middle Tennessee State University, and Auburn University as each team races to complete the fastest, safest, and most accurate construction on the three new homes.

These three homes will go to Susanna Martinez, Roger Dalton, and Rickie and Penny Fleenor—Dalton and Fleenor are both veterans with currently unstable living conditions and Martinez's house recently burnt down, leaving her with few other places to turn. ASP selects recipients through a careful review process. We are very excited to give back to the Tri-Cities community to provide stable housing to three families during this event.

Race to Build begins Friday, April 13 at 8:45 a.m. as the three teams begin to build these homes, starting with just a floor system. Throughout the weekend they will dry-in as much of the homes as possible with walls, trusses, roofing, siding and windows. Each team will be judged on quality of construction, safety, and speed. Patrons and press are invited to come and watch the teams work from Friday morning until noon on Sunday.

Construction of the three homes will continue Saturday, as well as an event for local students interested in construction. This Construction Career Day, starting at 8 a.m. will allow students to hear from professionals in their field, watch the teams compete, hear from college students studying construction, and attend the Saturday race at Bristol Motor Speedway. ASP is excited to participate in these many different events with the Tri-Cities community.

Construction will end Sunday, April 15 at noon with a closing ceremony beginning at 12:30 pm. The ceremony will recognize the families who will receive the homes, recognize our staff and sponsors who made the event possible, and present the winning school with a trophy. This ceremony will be a great opportunity to hear more about Race to Build, and ASP as a whole, prior to the afternoon race.

After this weekend's activities, the homes will be transported to their final property to be completed by ASP staff, volunteers from the Home Depot Foundation, and local partners. When construction concludes, there will be a final home dedication ceremony to honor the families receiving the home and present them with the keys to their new home.

ASP is partnering with The Home Depot Foundation, Home Depots of Johnson City, Bristol, and Kingsport, Bristol Motor Speedway, Braswell Family Farms, Stanley Black and Decker and Dewalt, Holy Taco, Chick-fil-A, Tupelo Honey, Cootie Browns, Food City, Foster Signs, and local churches to make this event possible by providing financial support, volunteer hours to complete the homes after the race, and community support for the families receiving the homes.

The weekend event at Bristol Motor Speedway will also serve as a time to gather the local community to learn about ASP's work in the area and across the Central Appalachian region. ASP invites race attendees and those from the community to come by the event throughout the weekend, watch the construction take place, and learn more about ASP's work.

Appalachia Service Project strives to eradicate substandard housing in Central Appalachia through home repair and replacement. Each year the home repair program brings over 15,000 volunteers from around the country to complete repairs across 26 communities in 5 states—Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

ASP has been building new homes since 2012 when they responded to the flooding in Washington County, Tennessee. Recently, ASP has extended its New Build program to include disaster recovery efforts. In 2016, ASP launched a multi-year project to help rebuild homes in Greenbrier County, West Virginia and surrounding areas for families whose homes were destroyed by flooding. ASP has already completed the first 60 homes that will be built for low-income families in Greenbrier County and the surrounding area in West Virginia. And in 2017, ASP responded after wildfires swept through the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, and Pigeon Forge in November of 2016. The fire killed 14 people and destroyed over 2,800 buildings, eventually burning over 17,000 acres of land. ASP has committed to the construction of 25 new homes in this effort, 7 of which have been completed.

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ABOUT APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

Appalachia Service Project (ASP), is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. Since 1969, ASP volunteers have been making homes warmer, safer and drier for families in need in Central Appalachia and providing life-transforming experiences for everyone involved. In recent years ASP has expanded its outreach to include building new homes for low-income families whose homes were destroyed by fire or flooding and others whose homes are beyond repair. This year ASP will have over 15,000 volunteers working in 5 different Central Appalachian states helping over 600 families with home repairs and new construction.

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit ASP's Newsroom (<http://asphome.org/newsroom>) for a fact sheet about Appalachia Service Project, downloadable press releases, photos, and other information.