

SALKEHATCHIE SUMMER SERVICE

This information is for each volunteer! Everyone who plans to participate in the Salkehatchie Summer Service Project should read and study this information. This includes counselors, workers, and pastors.

With all due sensitivity we ask each applicant to consider our philosophy to see that he/she can relate to us and to the project in a positive and creative manner. Otherwise, he/she should seek other activities.

We come to serve the people of South Carolina in the Christian sense of the word. When we commit ourselves to service we are making a covenant with God to put our own needs and desires aside in order to share our talents, love and concern with our sisters and brothers. If we do come with our own selfish desires (i.e. to be appreciated, to erase guilt, to practice our own construction skills) we may as well stay home. We do not work on empty buildings, but rather on homes where real people live. People who need love, a sense of ownership, an avenue for creativity, and a desire to belong. The women of one family once asked, “Is it okay if we help paint our new kitchen?” They were struggling to develop a sense of ownership and to be creative. We believe in encouraging the development of those qualities. At the same time, it is not our purpose to change life styles or rearrange value systems and customs for local people. Our purpose is to extend a helping hand out (not down) to our fellow human beings in the spirit of love and acceptance. We may encounter a family who seemingly does not appreciate the work we have done, but we are not there to be appreciated. We are there to give – totally – unselfishly.

What is Salkehatchie Summer Service?

Salkehatchie Summer Service is a pioneering servant ministry at selected sites in South Carolina including high school and college age youth, adult community leaders, and persons of different cultures who are engaged in upgrading housing and motivating community cooperative efforts by helping people to help themselves, while providing all participants with opportunities for personal growth and service. Salkehatchie Summer Service is a program of the South Carolina Conference Board of Global Ministries. A Steering Committee composed of youth and adults give guidance to the program.

Why Salkehatchie?

Our neighbors in South Carolina live in homes needing repair and Jesus has called us to love our neighbor (Luke 10:29-37). The teachings of *The Bible* and *The Discipline of The United Methodist Church* challenge us to respond to the needs of all:

Luke 9:23: *And he said to all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

Matthew 25:40: *And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’*

Micah 6:8: *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Social Principles (*The Discipline*, par. 76, page 110-111): “We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the good of themselves and others, and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.”

It is our hope that participants will experience discipleship in action as taught by the gospel and that by being open to learning, developing skills and accepting grace, they will continue to be used as instruments of God’s love.

Who is Salkehatchie?

The Salkehatchie Summer Service is you—a community of people who come together for a week of serving and sharing in locations in South Carolina. This community will consist of high school (YOU MUST BE 14) and college age youth, adult counselors and staff. We expect each person in the Project to be willing to participate fully in the program. The Project is not an 8 to 5 job. It is an entire experience. The whole week we serve, grow, learn, and share together.

What do we do?

Specific jobs you might be asked to undertake are repairing a leaky roof, putting up sheetrock, painting (inside and outside), replacing broken window panes, rebuilding porches, building outhouses, digging pits, and stabilizing floors and walls. The work will vary slightly at each site, depending on climate and need. These services are offered at no charge to the families.

Our work camps run from Saturday to Saturday. The weekend is busy with getting acquainted with one another and oriented to the purpose of our camp. On Sunday morning we will wear our Salkehatchie shirts to worship at churches (no shorts, please).

Monday through Friday the work at the sites will take place in the mornings and afternoons. Evening time is set aside for fellowship, singing, sharing and perhaps listening to some local history, folklore or music. The time spent in reflection each night is important to the Salkehatchie experience.

What are our responsibilities?

You are responsible for the payment of all fees by **May 7**. All fees (\$200.00 total) are to be sent to Salkehatchie Summer Service, c/o Mrs. Tammy L. Fulmer, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

You are responsible for returning the enclosed Registration/Medical Form to the Camp Director by **May 15**. You are reminded that each volunteer is responsible for his/her own coverage of medical insurance. Please remember to advise the Director(s) of any unusual medical problems and/or the use of any prescription drugs when you register at camp. You must have a completed medical form to participate in the camp and your tetanus shot must be current. Should you need medical attention while at camp you will be responsible for the cost and your parent(s) or guardian(s) will be contacted.

Each group or individual provides their own transportation to and from the camp. We recommend vans, trucks or station wagons in order that these vehicles may be used during the week for transportation to the work sites. Please notify the Camp Director if your vehicle will be used in the Project. All vehicles should be driven by adults.

Camp Directors will establish rules for each camp to guide the communal life and promote proper behavior. In all camps the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. are set aside for rest. No volunteer (youth or adult) may leave the camp grounds or the work site without permission of the Camp Director(s) or the site leader respectively. You are reminded that you are responsible for your behavior and for your personal belongings. Each volunteer is expected to abide by the rules of the Camp and to participate in all Camp activities.

What to bring?

Linens, pillow, blanket or sleeping bag
electric fan and extension cord(s)
work clothes – for five work days
work shoes – hard soled tennis shoes may suffice
traveling clothes
under clothes and socks, enough for a week
light jacket
bathing suit
towels, wash cloths, soap, shampoo and other personal
toilet items

toothbrush and toothpaste
sunglasses and flashlights are optional
Bible
Chapstick, band-aids, insect repellent, suntan lotion,
Noxzema and Bengay may be useful
Devotional materials and musical instruments will be
helpful, water cooler or ice chest

Required:

Work gloves, hammer, paint brush, tape measure and protective goggles

When packing your suitcase be thinking about a week of dirt, sweat, paint and tar. Don't pack your favorite shirt or best blue jeans for the work. Halter tops and short shorts are inappropriate dress. Leave expensive clothing and jewelry at home. We will be serving the poor, so simple dress is appropriate. Jeans and tennis shoes with the Salkehatchie T-shirt you will receive at camp will be fine for Sunday worship. Also, be sure to consider the fact that the camp does not have laundry facilities. It would be wise to plan a wardrobe that will get you through an entire week.

For Your Information

Our missional project operates on a very limited budget. The registration fee is used to pay for room and board, and construction materials used to repair the homes. Registration fees alone do not cover all our costs. Salkehatchie Summer Service also depends on donations from individuals, classes, and churches. Participants are encouraged to seek contributions to support our mission.

Each participating group or individual is requested to involve their local church in the missional venture NOW. It is hoped that your local church will support you spiritually and financially in your missional venture. You are the missionary of your local church. Their involvement is **IMPORTANT!**

Material donations such as lumber, paint, caulking, plywood, linoleum, paneling, nails, etc., may be brought directly to camp and reported as a donation. However, all pre-camp purchases to be drawn from the camp budget must be approved by the Camp Director(s).

In Conclusion

We do not mean to give the impression that the Project is all drudgery and discipline and hard work! These are included, but basically, the Project is exciting and creative and harmonious and something to be remembered as deeply meaningful and richly rewarding!

The spirit is the important thing. To have a wholesome, creative and loving relationship with other people is a tremendous significance in the overall success of the Project.

One can have the pleasure of knowing that there is not made-work! Whatever one is asked to do – is something which needs doing!

Sending Forth

Ask your pastor to use *The Dedication of Salkehatchie Workers* service on the Sunday before you come to Salkehatchie. This service can be found under “forms” on the website: www.Salkehatchie.org

YOU WILL RECEIVE FURTHER INFORMATION!