

## About Sierra Service Project

Sierra Service Project is an independent 501(c)(3) corporation. It is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

SSP was founded by several United Methodist ministers and maintains an affiliation with the United Methodist Church. However, groups participate from many different Christian denominations.

The Sierra Service Project budget is approximately \$700,000 annually. Eight-five percent of income is from participant fees; the remainder, approximately \$100,000 annually, is donated by individuals, churches, foundations, businesses and Indian tribes. SSP is audited annually by an independent auditor.

To enable as many youth as possible to take part in the SSP experience, we have two different scholarship and financial support options available to youth and groups from low-income communities.

*"Our entire church has been blessed by this entire experience."*

*- Adult volunteer, 2007*

## Why Give Young People Service Experiences?

When young people volunteer their time to serve others, they grow in immeasurable ways and develop a life-long commitment to community service. When young people serve others selflessly:

- They experience joy!
- They learn that they can make a difference in the lives of other people.
- Their self-esteem grows in amazing ways.
- Their faith becomes deeper and stronger as the Gospels come alive through their actions.
- They gain valuable social skills.

*"I came to help yet I got blessed with so many wonderful people. I'm going home with lots of joy in my heart!"*

*- Teenage participant, 2007*

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# Sierra Service Project



*Empowering Young People to Serve*



Sierra Service Project provides life-changing, challenging community service experiences for teenagers and young adults.

Founded in 1975, SSP is an interdenominational nonprofit organization affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

## Summer Programs for High School Youth

The cornerstone of Sierra Service Project's programs is our week-long summer programs for youth.

A week at SSP is filled with hard work, rustic conditions, exhilarating fun and new, positive experiences of service and worship with new friends. Each week throughout the summer, 60 youth and adult leaders assemble at one of our project sites. Teams spend their days doing home repairs for community members in need. Evenings are spent in celebration, study and worship.

Our project locations are on Indian reservations throughout the western U.S. and in South Los Angeles.

Each summer, over 1,600 youth and adult chaperons from over 100 churches participate in this program.



## Young Adult Programs

Sierra Service Project offers Spring Break service experiences for college-age young adults each year.

These programs take place at our South Los Angeles project site and include service work, learning about the city of Los Angeles and the communities of South LA, as well as fellowship and worship.

These programs are offered in cooperation with campus ministry groups and provide a forum for young adults to deepen their faith in the company of other committed young people and supportive adults.



## Who We Serve

Common to all SSP programs is service to the elderly, poor and marginalized. Our service is offered without strings attached and is done with an attitude of respect and humility.

## SSP Honduras!

Sierra Service Project has entered into a partnership relationship with the United Methodist Church in Honduras and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission organization to provide service experiences for youth and young adults in Honduras.

Currently, three teams of 12 volunteers spend two weeks in Honduras building houses. Living with the poor of Honduras, they learn about the country, meet local young people and explore the meaning of faith and justice in the Third World.

This program offers mature young people an opportunity to "step up" their service commitment to a new, higher level.

*"Kate and Jeff had such a marvelous experience, sometimes there were not words! What a life-changing experience for them. We are so grateful."  
- Parents of two participants in SSP's 2007 Honduras program*

## Future Programs

Over the next two years, SSP will evaluate and possibly pilot a program for junior high youth and a cross-border experience in northern Mexico, as well as several other initiatives.