

ROCK-A-THON 2020

INSTRUCTIONS for Our Biggest, Most Important, and Most Fun Fundraiser!

Saturday February 8 – 9am to 9pm @ St. Luke's Parish Hall

What is it? Why do it?

You rock in rocking chairs for 12 hours, with 5 minute breaks on every hour. Between breaks you rock, play games, get to know each other, watch movies, eat, and learn more about the ASP trip. Believe it or not, people will pay you lots of money to do this. Last year we raised over \$47,000 with the Rock-A-Thon. You also receive 1 hour credit per 2 hours rocked, so you can get up to 6 fundraising hours credit.

It only works if you do these things:

- 1) **Go out before the Rock-A-Thon and get sponsors.** Go and ask people – Family members as well as parishioners at both First UMC and St. Luke's will practically throw money at you. Ask your relatives. Ask your neighbors. Ask your friends, scout troop, glee club, anyone can be sponsors. Tell them what you're doing, why you're doing it, and ask them to pledge. Use the sample letter to send to folks near and far! See www.westboroughasp.org/RAT to download editable copies of the letter, printable pledge sheets and more information.
- 2) **Collect money.** It's a lot easier if you collect when people pledge and bring the \$\$ with you to the RAT. If your sponsors want you to participate first, then you'll have 1 week to collect the money after the RAT. Donors can send checks to you, to FUMC or donate online in your name.
- 3) **Find a rocking chair.** Beg or borrow. In a pinch, we will help find one. If you need help getting your chair to the event, let a group leader know.

It's Simple, really! This is the easiest money you'll ever make, but you do have to go out and get it. All rockers should strive to have at least \$300 in pledges at a minimum.

I can't stress enough how easy this is compared to most of our other fundraisers. If every youth rocked and got about \$800 in pledges, we'd be done fundraising for the year. That may sound like a big number, but the average collected per person is over \$400 for this event, with several people collecting over \$1,000!

WHAT? CAN'T GO TO THE ROCK-A-THON?

Come, even if you can't be there the whole time!! But even if you can't rock at all, you can still use this as an opportunity to get sponsors – you just need to be clear with people what you are doing, so if you're not rocking or if you are only rocking part of the time, just tell people that. Ask them to support you and our fundraising anyway. Use letters, email, text messages or phone calls to explain your story and why this is important to you.

WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING??

- **A copy of your sponsor sheets and the money you have already collected**, even if you haven't collected all the \$\$ yet. We will make a copy at the church if you don't have access to a copier. Checks should be made out to FUMC. Write "ASP-*your name*" in the memo line of each check to make sure you get credit for it. **The money needs to be collected and turned in by 3 weeks from the event – March 1st.**
- Rocking Chair - Arrive around 8:30-8:45 am so we can get everything set up, because the **rocking starts promptly at 9 am.**
- Things to do - This year, about 70% of the time we will have planned activities and 30% is "free time" for movies, games, homework, etc. If you bring DVD movies to watch they must be **rated G, PG, or PG-13** because we have participants under 17. Feel free to bring video games (**rated T or lower**) – Xbox, Wii, whatever but bring everything you need to play it – controllers, TV, extension cords and power strip. Bring homework, etc. We will also have a block of time for non-electronic entertainment, ("Rock-a-Thon unplugged") so bring a favorite card/board game.
- Mug/water bottle - Meals/snacks are provided but please bring a mug or bottle for water/soda so we don't use a million cups.
- Mark everything – put your name/initials on everything you're bringing. This includes chair, movies, games, mug, controllers, wires etc. so you get it back again.

Now get excited and get those pledges! See you there!

SAMPLE LETTER OR EMAIL

Dear Family and Friends,

I am excited to tell you that I have signed up to participate with the Appalachia Service Project in the summer of 2020. Our mission team will rebuild roofs, fix porches, insulate homes and provide other work to make homes warmer, safer and drier for folks in need in Appalachia. But more than this, we will provide hope and assure the people we work for of God's love for them.

This will be my __ year participating, and my family has been involved for __ years. I will be volunteering in the Appalachian region this summer from July 11-19. Our group must raise approximately \$1,156 per youth. This covers costs for building materials and supplies, food and lodging for nine days, gas, and the transportation to bring us the ~900 miles to where we're headed in Appalachia. We will be driving down in rented vans and will be staying in schools or community centers in the region in which we will be working. In the next six months, we will be conducting fundraisers and I will participate in several training events.

Our upcoming major fundraiser is the Rock-a-Thon. I am writing to ask you to sponsor me. I will rock in a rocking chair for a 12-hour period, with just a 5-minute break each hour. Some of my rocking time will be devoted to watching movies about the Appalachian region, learning about the culture there and doing activities that will deepen my understanding of the issues the people of that region face. I hope you can support my participation in both this service project and the fundraiser with a gift.

Here are some things your generosity would cover:

- \$1,100 rents a van for the week
- \$ 500 buys enough material for a tin roof
- \$ 200 buys a box of vinyl siding
- \$ 100 buys enough OSB to replace the subfloor in one room
- \$ 25 buys a roll of insulation
- \$ 10 buys one gallon of roofing tar

Last year, I helped (*your family, what you did for them, why it was important*) _____. **OR**
This is my first year and I am excited to participate in the program because _____.

If you decide to give, you will be helping us in making these family's houses warmer, safer, and drier. You will also help me in my effort to make a difference in the world.

If you would like to make a pledge, please make your tax-deductible check payable to **First United Methodist Church** with "ASP - *my name*" in the memo for tax credit and send it to me in the return envelope enclosed. You can also learn more about ASP and/or make an online gift via our web site: www.westboroughasp.org (be sure to put my name in the "Specific youth to credit" field and "Rock-a-thon" in the event field).

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Your name