

ASP is a big undertaking for our youth. They commit time and effort in training and fundraising over an 8 month period. For some, the trip may represent a first extended trip away from home without family. For all, it's a trip out of their comfort zone and into an unfamiliar space where much will be asked of them. Your child needs your support as they prepare for this trip.

The youth need to own their commitments for this trip. But, high school students are all over the map in terms of maturity and responsibility, and you know best what your child needs to help them keep those commitments as they grow into adult expectations.

Our adult group leaders will work hard to make your youth's the trip the best it can be. But please remember, our leaders are volunteers, and this is a huge undertaking. Please help us help your youth have a safe and productive trip!

### **Ways parents can help your youth:**

- Talk to your youth about why they want to do this – help make sure they're doing it for the right reasons.
- We send lots of communication – email/texts/signups. Parents (assuming they opt-in to the text list) will get included on everything. Don't respond for your youth, but make sure they do!
- Calls are made before the Rockathon and the Prep Retreat – Make sure they get answered, and have your youth use the calling GL as a resource for questions.
- Make sure your youth gets to required meetings and events – Especially the Prep Retreat May 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>!
- Make sure they have a plan and are on track to hit their hours and dollars.
  - Hours don't have to be fundraising. We give hours for lots of activities needed to get ready for the trip.
  - Make sure that if they sign up for something, they show up, or notify the GL running the event before the last minute
- Remember that the \$560 minimum is just a minimum. Our average needs to be over \$1000/youth. Please aim for that!
- Volunteer! We have lots of slots where parents can help out. You can earn up to 4 hours for your youth.
- Support our fundraisers - Come yourself and invite family and friends!
  - Save your cans!
- Make sure the ASP GLs know all relevant medical information about your child's situation – medications, allergies, mental health issues, etc.
  - Please remember, we're a long way from home, and it's very hard to get someone home or have them be picked up. Please be honest about whether your child is ready for this.
- Attend the services where your youth is commissioned and where they report back after the trip. They need your support!

Check our website for questions – encourage your youth to bookmark it!  
[asp@firstumchurch.org](mailto:asp@firstumchurch.org), <http://www.westboroughasp.org>