

**Coalition for Home Repair
Camp-Model Roundtable on April 28, 2022**

Don Taylor (Chesapeake Housing Mission) - Very few campers. Tend to be local, they camp out for a week. They take care of their own lodging. In PA, "COVID is done" is the attitude, still worried about clients so asking them to be vaccinated and volunteers too. No groups coming from out of the area this year. On a good track, hoping don't get a rise in COVID cases. On pace to complete 120 projects, up from 105 last year.

Bob Beggs (Good Works) - Weeks are full for this summer, plus additional one going on right now. Christian school is doing spring break trip, overnight at a local church. Good Works provides food and programs, plus work. Increased rates b/c of food - \$450/person. For 50 people, food is going to cost \$4,000. Limited camps to 60 (they wanted to bring 100).

Megan Taylor (Sierra Service Project) - SSP's [COVID safety plan](#). SSP has 800 volunteers planned for summer, half of 2019 levels. Now have 3 partner communities instead of 6, based on lower levels of interest. Didn't limit participation but some people don't like COVID safety policies, others aren't ready to be in big groups. New host facilities, including an outdoor school campground. About 1/3 way through site visits. Had spring break groups. Had one COVID exposure - person tested positive who participated in outdoor workday. Medical advisory council is making a video, plus 6 hour-long Zoom orientations for volunteers - sharing theme, talking about community. Looking for affordable COVID tests. \$8 is cheapest that Trinity HPSI offers. Got free masks. Staff and volunteers are required to be vaccinated, boosted if possible. Testing 2 days in. Only doing exterior work, not requiring homeowners to be vaccinated. Also seeing delayed 2nd payments due April 1.

Allyson Petry (Nazareth Farm) - Homeless shelter shared COVID tests that they didn't need. In a rural area, where people aren't using - they are sharing tests with nonprofit. Half full for summer, with a lot of people not making final payments although they were requested. Some canceling, not due to COVID. Mostly lack of interest, or not enough adults, etc. Still advertising. One week completely open. Usually mix groups - doing that again. Project waitlist is full - 10-12 months out for new applications. Has full-time staff openings including salaried construction manager. Requiring staff and overnight visitors to be vaccinated. Trying to decide when that might change - not until after the summer. Testing before they come. Hasn't finalized plan yet if someone tests positive. Following CDC guidelines. Volunteer info nights online in advance of trips - 3, hour-long. Not just for youth minister, but for all chaperones. Also recording to those who miss it.

Harold Naylor (Good Neighbors Home Repair) - no COVID protocols - "buyer beware." Summer camp - 2 types - DIY with 20 students is full), other has capacity for 60 but only filled to 40. Has projects picked and leaders.

Karen Frederick (Appalachia Service Project)- Week 1 is June 12. Expecting 7,800 volunteers, 366 groups - 55 of which are new. Last year only had 13 new groups. Hosting monthly forums

for trip coordinators online to ask questions, share plans. Modifying what did last year based on current CDC guidelines. [2022 summer Covid plans](#). In fall and spring, kept last summer's protocols. Not requiring vaccinations, but requiring all to be tested 4 days in advance of departure. Trip coordinator validates and reports status of group at check in. Requiring staff to be vaccinated. Not sure about testing during the week - probably only if needed according to symptoms. Will have lots of tests on hand for each center. Still have several centers not full - looking at those groups, asking them if they would like to bring enough volunteers to fill up center at no cost, or half cost, or whatever they can pay. Started offering that next week. Only offering free/reduced cost to groups already registered and placed at centers with openings. Trying to make up for lost time of last two summers to repair more homes. Leaving option open throughout the summer - can add any time. Being really flexible on payments. Had 5 new groups sign up in the last 2 weeks - one family registered in person. Last year had 4,000 - so almost double that. Before pandemic, 12,000-13,000. Gradually climbing back. Only offering free/reduced cost to groups already registered and placed at centers with openings.

Nicole Intagliata (also with ASP), shared these written notes in advance of the meeting:

- Staff training will be in person with some additional COVID procedures in place for safety. Not as many as last year but we still are trying to do as much outside and distanced as possible.

- Our Covid Advisory Council met and has given us some guidance on our procedures for volunteers. We won't be doing some of the additional things we did last year like using paper products and pre-plating meals but again, we will still be distancing as much as possible. Whether or not we are going to require masks is still up in the air and we will be deciding that as it gets closer. ASP still will not require vaccinations (but strongly encourages them).

- We are definitely conscious of the supply chain issues and will be training our staff on planning ahead and bulk ordering as early as possible.

- We are aiming to do interior work for homeowners but will once again prioritize those that have been vaccinated (but not requiring it).

Beca Davis (Coalition for Home Repair) - Theme of volunteers dropping out. Hopefully next year people will feel more confident and ready to get back.

Allyson - what do high schoolers need - anything special due to lack of socialization over the last year? Always hard to get them off screens to do work.

Karen - every January publish study sessions for groups, finishing study guide for the worksite each volunteer, based on theme. Made a point to get theme going and communicate to all groups so they know what to expect for programming.

Megan - thinking about this too. Spring break group with 40 youth recently - slow getting started, people need to build endurance. Worried about staff burnout.