



RHUMC: SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT INFORMATION FOR SUMMER 2022

What is Sierra Service Project (SSP)?

Sierra Service Project is an ecumenical Christian non-profit organization providing life-changing experiences through acts of service repairing homes in rural and urban communities. They invite middle school and high school youth and young adults to experience the profound power of serving people who have a culture and life experience different from their own.

In SSP's statement of theology they state that SSP: "We respond to God's invitation to open ourselves up to the possibility of a transformational experience. In community, we begin to recognize our dependence on God and inter-dependence with each other. As a community, we strive to grow being led by the Spirit. We choose to serve believing, that through our humble acts of love, we can learn about God's character and love for us. We seek to accept people, as they are from the moment they stand before us, as the first step toward relationship. We seek to remain open; an openness of hand and of heart that we might give, receive and understand."

Founded in 1975, Sierra Service Project was inspired by, and modeled after, Appalachian Service Project. Originally founded by several United Methodist Church ministers, SSP is now an independent non-profit organization. They maintain a close affiliation with the United Methodist Church, but also draw participants from a number of other denominations.

RHUMC will send two teams this summer, one middle school team and one high school team.

Middle School Trip (Youth entering 7th or 8th grade in the fall of 2022)

- Programming at SSP will be Sunday afternoon to Friday morning.
- RHUMC is attending Week 4 in San Diego, CA.
- **The team will depart July 24 in the morning and return July 29 in the late afternoon.**
- The site is about a 3 hour drive from RHUMC, but we will take our time driving down for team bonding.
- This is a "combined" site. Other groups may be bringing middle or high school aged youth.
- Projects include carpentry work, community revitalization work, and painting.
- All participants are required to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination AND a negative test**

Cost \$425 (\$200 deposit, final payment \$225 due April 1)

High School Trip (Youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2022-graduating seniors)

- Programming at SSP runs Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning.
- RHUMC is attending Week 5 in Smith River, CA.
- **The team will depart July 30 in the early morning and return August 7 in the evening.**
- The site is about a 13 hour drive from LA (We'll stay overnight near Sacramento).
- This is a "High school only" site. Other groups may only bring high school aged youth.
- Projects include carpentry work, community revitalization work, and state park maintenance.
- All participants are required to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination AND a negative test**

Cost \$455 (\$200 deposit, final payment \$255 due April 1)

Please contact Rev. Kristin Reksc at Kristin@rhumc.org or 562-234-0161 with any questions or to register.

****Please review Sierra Service Project's "Guidelines for COVID-19 Safety" included on the back of this form.**

SSP's Medical Advisory Council's "Guidelines for COVID-19 Safety"

As part of SSP's commitment to improving the lives of those we serve and enriching the lives of our volunteers, SSP is taking steps to minimize the risk of transmitting the COVID-19 virus to our partner communities and among our volunteers and staff.

While federal, state, CDC, and local guidelines are likely to change in the coming months, at this time SSP plans a **multilayered approach to COVID-19 safety**:

- 1. All SSP staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.** We know this dramatically reduces the risk of COVID-19 infection and spread. We are aware some individuals wishing to volunteer may have medical or religious reasons for not being vaccinated, but due to the voluntary nature of SSP activities, we cannot expose our participants or partner communities to the additional risk from unvaccinated participants. The communities we serve with are also vastly medically underserved, and requiring vaccination for all participants adds an extra layer of protection to those without robust access to medical care.
- 2. Masks further reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 and will be required for all indoor activities except sleeping, actively eating and drinking, and times of personal hygiene.** Eating will be outdoors whenever possible. Sleeping will be separated by group, without mixing among groups. Some outdoor sleeping arrangements may be available depending on the site.
- 3. A negative COVID-19 test is required within 3 days of departing for your SSP experience.** This further reduces the risk to your fellow volunteers and partner communities. You will need to arrange the testing: both antigen and PCR testing are acceptable. Bring a copy of your negative test result with you when you check in with staff upon arrival.
- 4. People with a new cough, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or fever during the week prior to their planned SSP session must not participate** unless they have a physician's note with an alternate diagnosis, including a negative PCR test for COVID-19.

Stay tuned for site specific details and plans related to work teams. To ask a question about SSP's COVID-19 safety plans, you can email the Medical Advisory Council at MAC@SierraServiceProject.org.

Prepared by SSP's Medical Advisory Council which consists of these individuals:

- **Sue Elam, NP**, nurse practitioner at Kaiser Permanente's Department of Medicine subspecialty of Infectious Diseases
- **David Herbert, MD**, President and CEO of Sutter Independent Physicians (present), Chief of Infectious Diseases, Director of Critical Care, Assistant Physician in Chief at Kaiser Permanente (1989 to 2015)
- **Sophia Larriva**, graduate of Emory University Physician Assistant Program
- **Kelly Shriver**, second-year medical student at Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School Of Medicine
- **Katie Strong, RN**, registered nurse at Michigan Medicine