RHUMC: Sierra Service Project
Information for Summer 2026

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 youth 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 and secular organizations.

High School Trip (Youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2026 - graduating seniors)

- RHUMC is attending Week 5 in Tsaile, AZ.
- **The team will depart RHUMC on Saturday, July 25 in the early morning and return the evening of Sunday, August 2, 2026.**
- The site is about a 13 hour drive from LA. (Transportation logistics are TBA).
- Programming at SSP runs Sunday afternoon to Saturday morning, working Monday through Friday.
- Projects include carpentry work, community revitalization work, and home repairs.
- All participants are required to submit a negative COVID-19 test upon departure to SSP. COVID-19 vaccinations are no longer required but strongly encouraged. **

Cost $550 ($250 deposit due upon registration; final payment $300 due April 1, 2026.) In addition, youth are required to participate in our letter writing campaign and attend four fundraising events.

Scholarships are available through RHUMC, please complete an application by February 1, 2026.

Please contact Rev. Kristin Sutrave at Kristin@rhumc.org or 562-234-0161 with any questions. To join the team, submit a completed registration form and deposit (checks should be made payable to "RHUMC").

****Please review Sierra Service Project's "Guidelines for COVID-19 Safety" on their website for additional information: https://www.sierraserviceproject.org/covid-19-safety/**

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT 2026

For youth entering 9th grade - graduated seniors

July 25 - August 2, 2026
Tsaile, AZ
Cost $550**

Youth's Name		
Date of Birth	Grade Fall 2026	T-Shirt Size
Youth's Email	Youth's Cell Phone Number	
Parent or Guardian's Name(s)		
Parent or Guardian's Email(s)		
Parent or Guardian's Phone Number(s)		

Deposit of $250 due upon registration.

☐ Cash
☐ Check # _____

Date Received _____

**Scholarships are available

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sierra Service Project
Fundraising 2026

Fundraising is an essential part of the SSP experience. Youth and their families pay tuition to Sierra Service Project, however, the rest of the funding for travel and transportation (transportation, rental cars, gas, accommodations, meals, etc.) is paid for with the funds raised throughout the year.

As a youth attending SSP with Rolling Hills UMC**, you are required to participate in the letter writing campaign, and four additional fundraising events.** Youth can sign up for these events in the "Sign-Up Genius" by scanning the QR code.

November 22, 2025 (Saturday) 5:30 - 8:30 pm
All Church Thanksgiving Meal: Help set up, serve, and clean up the meal.

February 11, 2025 (Wednesday) at 5:00 - 6:00 pm
Letter Writing option #1: Bring names and addresses for seven family members, coaches, mentors, or friends who would be potentially interested in financially supporting our SSP mission trip. All the materials will be provided; however youth are responsible for assembling the letters (Youth only need to attend one of the letter writing events). Youth must complete their seven letters by April 1, 2026 or "buy out" with a $200 donation made to RHUMC.

February 15, 2026 (Sunday) at 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Letter Writing option #2: Bring names and addresses for seven family members, coaches, mentors, or friends who would be potentially interested in financially supporting our SSP mission trip. All the materials will be provided; however youth are responsible for assembling the letters (Youth only need to attend one of the letter writing events). Youth must complete their seven letters by April 1, 2026 or "buy out" with a $200 donation made to RHUMC.

March 1, 2026 (Sunday)
Donation Board #1: The donation board will have a picture covered in small envelopes. The picture will slowly be revealed as envelopes are removed and filled. Youth can help collect donations following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

March 8, 2026 (Sunday)
Donation Board #2: The donation board will have a picture covered in small envelopes. The picture will slowly be revealed as envelopes are removed and filled. Youth can help collect donations following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

March 15, 2026 (Sunday)
Donation Board #3: The donation board will have a picture covered in small envelopes. The picture will slowly be revealed as envelopes are removed and filled. Youth can help collect donations following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

April 1, 2026

Letter Writing Due: All letters must be submitted by this date. If letters are not completed youth families are required to make an additional donation of $200 to RHUMC as a "buy out" for this mandatory fundraiser.

Final Payment Due*:* All payments must be submitted by April 1.

April 26, 2026 (Sunday)
Pre-sell Mother's Day Flowers #1: Youth will collect orders for Mother's Day Flowers following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

May 3, 2026 (Sunday)
Pre-sell Mother's Day Flowers #2: Youth will collect orders for Mother's Day Flowers following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

May 9, 2026 (Saturday) 10:00 - 11:00 am
Assembling Mother's Day Flowers: Youth will participate in creating the Mother's Day flower arrangements. We will gather on the RHUMC patio to assemble the flowers.

May 10, 2026 (Sunday)
Distributing Mother's Day Flowers: Youth will distribute on the church patio Mother's Day flowers to those who pre-ordered, and will sell any remaining arrangements following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

June 7, 2026 (Sunday)
Bake Sale: Provide baked goods and help sell the desserts following the 8:30 am, 10:00 am, or 5:30 pm services.

If you are unable to attend one of the letter writing events as well as four of the options listed above, please reach out to the Director of Youth Ministries, Kristin Sutrave, at Kristin@rhumc.org and she can provide alternative means for participation.

Thank you all for your participation and willingness to help make this trip possible!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
Scholarship Form

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church strives to make it possible for all youth to participate in programs, retreats and service projects, regardless of their personal financial situation. These scholarships take the form of discounts and partial scholarships. In order to be eligible to receive funding, you must fulfill the following requirements:

- Submit this application before February 1, 2026.
- Participate in personal and group fundraising efforts
- Be present at all mandatory events/meetings
- If awarded a scholarship, write thank you letters to the donors and/or the church

Youth's Name: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Date of Application: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Scholarship Request:

I am requesting assistance with $_____ of the total price of $_____

Please have **youth** answer the following questions on an additional page(s).

1. Would you be available to volunteer during special events or contribute to RHUMC in other ways? If yes, please describe.
2. How are you involved in your school?
3. How are you involved in your community?
4. Which church do you consider your home church?
5. How are you involved in your church?
6. What organizations and extracurricular activities do you participate in?
7. How will this experience benefit you as a person?

Deadline: Please return this form to the Rolling Hills United Methodist Church or email to Kristin@rhumc.org by February 1st, 2026.

Please sign the form below to indicate that you understand and agree to the principles of our scholarship program.

Signature: _____