

## Helpful Tips

1. Plan early. Many of the project sites use multiple groups of mission volunteers throughout the year. Call and secure your date as soon as possible.
2. Be flexible. The needs in Appalachia are great and the resources limited. Work closely with the requesting church, association, or ministry center. Ask them how you can assist them in what God has called them to do.
3. Call or email the contact person on the project you are interested in doing. Call and talk to the contact person listed with the project. Discuss their needs and your group's abilities. Also, if they indicate the project has been filled or they do not return telephone calls or emails, please let me know at [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org) or 606-316-4298. Usually the contact person should return your telephone call or email within 24 to 48 hours.
4. Read carefully the Project Planning Guide and the Top Ten Items.
5. If you need assistance in finding a project, please email Bill Barker at [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org) or call 606-316-4298.
6. Brochures and information about Appalachian Regional Ministry are available. Please email Bill Barker at [bbarker@arministry.org](mailto:bbarker@arministry.org) or call (606) 316-4298 and share the number of brochures you need, a name, and a street mailing address.

## The Top Ten Items in Planning Your Mission Trip

1. **Pray** - involve the whole church in the process through prayer from the dream stage to the celebration.
2. **Discover** - What are your skills? Where do you feel God is leading you to go? What is your interest? What is the size of your volunteer missions group? Read through the project requests, which are attached, and select one or more that fit what you feel God is calling you to do. If you do not find the area and or project you are looking for, call ARM at 606-316-4298 or email ARM at [information@arministry.org](mailto:information@arministry.org)
3. **Read** - Take time to read the Pre-Project and Mission Trip Planning Guide.
4. **Contact** - One you have selected one or more projects, call the contact person listed, and ask them

about the project. Be sure and ask if the project has already been filled. Also, ask them the questions that are essential for your mission volunteer group. Talk about the dates you have chosen to make sure that it is acceptable for all parties concerned.

**5. Visit** - Successful mission trips include a pre-site visit to review the site, to secure the housing arrangements, to discuss with the contact person the project, and to pray. This is an excellent time to do a prayer walk or a prayer drive.

**6. Goals** - what would you like to see accomplished through and on this mission trip. Write it down and share it with your prayer partners. Ask yourself this question, "What do we feel God wants to accomplish through us on this mission trip?"

**7. Planning** - Using the Pre-Project Planning Guide, will help make your mission trip a positive experience. Be sure and involve the church or ministry you will be serving in your planning. For example, if you are going to a small church in Appalachia to do a Block Party, involve their youth and adults in the activities you have planned. Let them work alongside your missions team. Be sure and ask what Bible Translation is acceptable for you to use in the area you are planning to take your mission trip.

**8. Missions** - Enjoy your volunteer mission trip. Let this be the mission trip where God uses you in a marvelous way to see many come to faith in Jesus Christ.

**9. Report** - Take a few moments, email ARM at [information@arministry.org](mailto:information@arministry.org), and tell us about your trip. Be sure and tell us how many youth and adults participated in the trip, where you went, what you did, and how many decisions were made. Also, please tell us how we can improve and help make your mission trip next year another exciting adventure for Christ.

**10. Celebrate** - Work with your pastor and plan a time to share with your church about your mission trip.

## START THE PROCESS ALL OVER AGAIN

Any church or persons desiring to make a financial gift to a church in Appalachia should send this gift to the State Convention of which the church is a member or to ARM, designated for the specific church for which it is intended.