

Dear Alamosa SERVE Participant,

Welcome to the Alamosa SERVE project. We are honored that you selected the Alamosa, Colorado SERVE and are confident that the Lord has great plans for us to serve Him and the people of the San Luis Valley.

Your residence for the week will be the Alamosa CRC and the Waverly Youth and Community Center. Showers will be available off site at the Alamosa Parks and Rec building (very nice) through the week. Showers will be available on Saturday 3:00-5:00 and again on Sunday morning.

WHEN TO ARRIVE AND DEPART

Plan to arrive in Alamosa during the afternoon of Saturday, June 21. Registration will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Alamosa Christian Reformed Church, 1861 Road 10 South. The week will conclude Saturday morning June 28. Please plan on leaving no earlier than 8:00 a.m. so everyone can clean up the church and youth center.

EXPECTATIONS OF SERVE PARTICIPANTS

Our goal is to serve others, to learn from this experience and to build new relationships and community. Therefore, please do not bring gameboys, walkmen, ipods, CD players or any other electronic devices that would pull you away from the group. Your “down time”, time for yourself, will be much more beneficial without these distractions. In the same way the use of drugs, or alcohol, or destructive behavior will keep us from achieving the goals of our project and will result in participants being sent home at their own expense. Remember also that Alamosa SERVE is a Tobacco free/non-smoking site. This means no smoking at anytime or anywhere for the week. This also includes smokeless tobacco. So make the necessary preparations if this will be a trial for you.

DAY AWAY

We will be going to the Great Sand Dunes National Park for the day and then to the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool for the evening. Come prepared for sun, water and hot sand. Check out the web sites for more info about the dunes www.nps.gov/grsa/ & the pool www.sanddunespool.com

-When coming to Colorado, there are several health considerations that you need to be prepared for. The first is the altitude. We live at 7500 feet above sea level and the sun is very strong. It is important that you bring sunscreen (at least SPF15). Our UV rays are very intense and even though you may already have a tan, you can still sunburn. Sunscreen needs to be worn everyday. You will also need to drink plenty of water while you are here to help your body adjust to the altitude. You may experience a slight headache for the first day or two. Ibuprofen will usually take care of it.

The San Luis Valley has experienced a few rare cases of West Nile Virus and Hantavirus which you may have heard about in the news. West Nile Virus is carried through mosquitoes which are most active in the mornings and evenings. We suggest you bring a light weight long sleeved shirts as well as bug spray that contains deet. (You will find the evening air rather cool so you may be happy to have something warm with you.) Hantavirus is spread from wild rodents. The virus is found in rodent urine, saliva, and feces. The most common exposure is from breathing the dust from droppings. It can also be spread by touching the mouth and nose after handling contaminated materials. These viruses are not spread from human to human. If you would like to read more you can go to the Center or Disease Control web site. You will find the diseases listed in alphabetical order. The site is www.cdc.gov. Please feel free to call with any questions and we will be happy to speak with you about these or any other issues you may be concerned about.

WHAT TO BRING

- Bible
- Money for souvenirs, concessions at the pool
- Sleeping bag and pillow. Feel free to bring a foam mat or air mattress, No full size mattresses, single size only for we have limited sleeping space.
- Small back pack for day away items and for shower items
- Jacket, evenings are very cool here. We will be going to the mountains and it can get cold in the evening. A hat would be good for the day away & for outdoor work.
- Work shoes/comfortable sneakers, no open toed shoes at work sites!
- Work gloves
- Jeans, shorts, old clothes for working in. Casual dress for church. A bathing suit will also be needed but must not distract one's attention from the beauty of your face! We will not allow provocative or two-piece bathing suits-one piece only. We also will not allow any provocative short-shorts or crop tops, spaghetti strap tank tops, or saggy pants, etc. to be worn.
- 2 towels and washcloths
- Personal toiletries (i.e. toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, brush & comb, etc)
- If you have a special talent in music, drama, dance or speaking we are asking that you prepare something for a Talent Show. Please bring along your reading, instrument, or skit for this special night. Make sure it is SERVE appropriate.

SEE YOU SOON!!!

We are looking forward to meeting you and serving God and others with you! If you have any questions prior to the week, please email or call Matt and/or Brandi Beckner at mattbeckner@mac.com or call at 719-274-3332. If there are emergencies during the week and your family needs to contact you or send you a note they can use the email provided which will be checked daily or may call my cell phone at 719-588-1858 or call the church 719-589-3493.

In His Name and for the Alamosa SERVE Leadership Team,

Matt & Brandi Beckner
Alamosa SERVE Project Coordinators
Alamosa Christian Reformed Church
1861 Road 10 South
Alamosa, CO 81101
719-589-3493
719-588-1858 (cell)

Directions:

From intersection Hwy 17 & 160 continue west

Go over bridge, turn left off bridge

Go 1 block to light (Main St.) turn right

Go 8 blocks to 3rd light (Hwy 285 (west ave))

Turn left (south) on Hwy 285

Go approx. 3 mi until Hwy divides into 4 lane shortly after it divides the next road will be Hwy 370 (road 10) turn right

Go 6 miles west to Waverly. Church is on the north side of the road Waverly Youth and Community Center is on the south side across from the church.

Expectations of Adults at Alamosa SERVE

You or possibly you and another adult will lead a group of 5 or 6 teenagers during the SERVE project. If you are uncomfortable leading a small group alone please contact us soon as you get this letter because we will be dividing the groups up soon.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE!

The kids will be watching you. Our goal is to build community and relationships.

You need to emphasize safety at all times. Most injuries result from falls. Coach proper use of ladders and scaffolding and monitor their use. Take the time to make it safe. Make sure each person knows how to use the tools they are using by demonstrating its use and watch the person to see that they understand how to work safely.

An often neglected safety issue is water. More water is needed at this altitude. Make sure everyone takes a break and drinks lots of water. Also Sunscreen will be very important. Please just ask if everyone has it on when they are working outdoors.

NO ONE is allowed to leave the worksite or separate from their group. If you are having problems at the worksite call Keith Tolsma the worksite coordinator or Matt Beckner.

Smoking will not be allowed during SERVE and that means adults too. Please come prepared for this if it is going to be a problem by having Nicorette gum with you.

Some of the tools and equipment are borrowed. It is our responsibility to take care of it. You are responsible for bringing back all of the tools and equipment that you take in the morning. You are also responsible for the kids' proper use and care for the tools and equipment.

Small group discussion after evening program

Again, lead by example. If you want the kids to open up, then you should open up. Take the lead. Keep an eye out for underlying problems and privately encourage them to share with you, our speaker or some other qualified counselor. Note that we are required by law to report any evidence of child abuse that we find or if they are likely to be a harm to others or themselves.

Please do not hesitate to email us or call if you have any questions before you come and remember if you need anything during the week, contact someone on the SERVE team and we will be glad to help.

Matt & Brandi Beckner *Host Team Coordinators*

mattbeckner@mac.com

719-274-3332 (Home)

719-589-3493 (Church)

719-588-1858 (Cell)

Keith Tolsma *Work Site Coordinator*

719-589-6716 (Home)

719-588-0577 (Cell)

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SERVANTS

1. You may make one collect call home when you arrive. We ask that no more calls be made without our permission.
2. Remain on the property unless otherwise instructed.
3. Remain in and work with your work crew both during chores and at the work sites. Take turns cleaning out your coolers at the end of the day. Don't expect your leader to do it.
4. Attend all activities, morning and evening sessions, work, games and outings.
5. Arrive on time to all activities. This goes for meals as well as scheduled events and work times. Schedules are posted in all buildings.
6. Dress modestly.
7. PDA ("public displays of affection") is not permitted. You may have come as a couple and leave as a couple, but while you are here, you are part of the group! Whether you've met your match or you're single, remain open to the possibilities of building valuable friendships. God brought you here for a reason; don't get hung up on one person. (this goes for adults as well).
8. No one under the age of 21 is allowed to drive groups around to work sites or anywhere else.
9. At no time are you allowed to be in the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite sex.
10. Be respectful to others and their property in acts, words and deeds.
11. Radios, CD players/Walkmans and cell phones are not permitted. This is because the purpose of SERVE is to interact with other people and these electronic devices are not conducive to building community. You can give them to the Host Team for safe keeping and retrieve them at the end of the week.
12. This is a tobacco, alcohol drug free site and we ask that you respect it as such. Use of any of these substances means a quick trip home at your own expense. In the case of prescription drugs, please let Steve or Jeannie know what you have.
13. Stay out of the kitchen unless it is your duty for the day.
14. Clean as you go. Chores have been assigned to each group. However, things will go more smoothly if you look after your own mess. Keep sleeping quarters clean and picked up. Please respect the building and the facilities as they are here for you to enjoy. Before we leave on Saturday everyone will be asked to help do some cleaning up.

AT THE WORK SITES

1. Remember why you are here, whom you serve, and that you are a guest at your work site. Act like a guest even though you may not feel like one.
2. Be friendly, but be careful. Stay with your groups at all times.

EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH GROUP AT SERVE

- *Remember you are here to help! If asked by a host team member to do a job, please do it.
- *No Motorcycles. They are to be left at home.
- *Driving participants anywhere must be done by someone over 21. They may not ride with you anywhere.
- *You may attend the day away. Dress modestly. A bathing suit will also be needed but must not distract one's attention from the beauty of your face! We will not allow provocative or two-piece bathing suits-one piece only. We also will not allow any provocative short-shorts or crop tops, spaghetti strap tank tops. This is the same rule that the participants have.
- *PDA ("public displays of affection") is not permitted. You may have come as a couple and leave as a couple, but while you are here, you are part of the group!
- *At no time are you allowed to be in the sleeping quarters of a member of the opposite sex.
- * Be respectful to others and their property in acts, words and deeds
- * This is a tobacco, alcohol drug free site and we ask that you respect it as such.
- * Stay out of the kitchen unless it is your duty for the day.
- * Remember why you are here, whom you serve and lead by example.
- *Don't be a show off