

Appropriate Dress at SSP

SSP seeks to maintain a safe and respectful environment for everyone involved in our programs. To that end, we ask volunteers to abide by reasonably modest guidelines for dress, for the following reasons:

- To ensure **volunteer safety** on the work site.
- To be **respectful** of the homeowners and community organizations we work with.
- To foster a **safe, comfortable, and affirming** environment where everyone feels welcome, regardless of body type or the type of clothing they own.

The following is encouraged at SSP:

- Clothing that is safe at the worksite **is required**. Sleeves, hats, and long pants reduce the risk of sun damage.
- Simple clothing that does not detract from our ability to serve. Typical attire includes T-shirts and jeans.
- Program activities require clothing that allows for ample mobility.
- As guests of our host communities, modest dress such as covered shoulders is one way we can show respect.
- Clothing that promotes positive self-expression! Many sites have fun daily dress prompts, which the Site Director will communicate prior to your arrival.

The following is not allowed:

- Any clothing that is offensive or displays slogans or artwork referencing alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or obscenities.
- Any clothing that exposes undergarments or does not cover the body well. This includes covering the stomach, chest, back, and upper legs.
- Using gendered biases and/or body-shaming language when enforcing dress guidelines.

Our goal is to focus on community building and developing in our faith journeys. Our guidelines for dress are in place in order to minimize situations which might detract from the service experience. We ask that all volunteers use affirming language if any instance arises which requires coaching any individual on their attire. If you are unsure how to address a situation related to maintaining the appropriate dress guidelines, talk with an SSP staff member.

Please remember to bring swimsuits for water day and showers. As a time of relaxation and play in the sun, water day is an exception to typical SSP attire. While the minimum standard is that swimsuits should sufficiently cover the body, we ask that group leaders set the expectation for their own volunteers on what your group considers appropriate dress for water activities.

At many sites we use group locker room showers, and most youth feel more comfortable wearing swimsuits. Every site's shower setup is different, but SSP can provide private showers as needed for non-binary and trans volunteers.

Electronics

The SSP week is electronics free (other than digital cameras) for youth, to build community and focus on service. Adults collect youth's electronics upon arrival, and SSP staff keep them secure for the week. Adults should keep their cell phones for emergency use. After the week, we youth and adults are encouraged to follow SSP's Instagram accounts and use the hashtags **#ExploreBuildGrow**, **#SierraServiceProject**, and **#volunteerSSP** when posting photos online.

Packing List

Required:

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Air mattress, pad, or cot for sleeping on the floor
- Sweatshirt and windbreaker
- Long-sleeve shirts
- Short-sleeve shirts (should cover the shoulder for sun protection)
- Long pants; multiple pairs (jeans or canvas recommended)
- Shorts (keep length appropriate; mid-thigh is great)
- Socks, multiple pairs
- Close-toed shoes (work or hiking boots recommended)
- Additional pair of shoes for wear at home site
- Hat, bandana, and sunglasses (sun protection)
- Toiletries
- Towel and swimsuit (showering and water day)
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito repellent
- Backpack for personal items
- Water bottle

Encouraged:

- Shower or water shoes
- Work gloves that fit the user (SSP provides for anyone without)
- Musical instruments
- Disposable or digital cameras (youth phones are collected & stored)
- Bible, journal, and writing instrument
- Camp or hiking chair for adults (we sit on the ground a lot)
- Gatorade powder canisters (drink supplements for the work site)
- Healthy snacks (to be added to a shared community snack area)

Do Not Bring:

- Unhealthy snacks or drinks
- Clothing which does not align with SSP's guidelines for dress
- Electronics (other than adult's phones and digital cameras)
- Prohibited items listed in your volunteer paperwork, which do not align with SSP's Safe Community Policy (drugs, alcohol, weapons, pyrotechnics, tobacco, etc.)

Protective Garments at the Work Site

- Closed-toed shoes and clothing that protects from the sun are required.
- Long pants are more comfortable and protective. Clothing at the work site should be of sturdy material.
- Brimmed hats, sunglasses, and bandanas help with sun protection.
- **Smith River:** The Northern California coast can be quite cold. Layers, rain coats, and knit hats are encouraged.