

Sierra Service Project

First UMC Santa Monica 2026 SSP Team

August 1-8, 2026 | Teec Nos Pos Chapter of the Navajo Nation

Wonderfully Made & Wildly Connected



Trip Overview

business Organization

Sierra Service Project (SSP)

location_on Location

Teec Nos Pos, Arizona

calendar_today Dates

August 1-8, 2026

groups Team Size

15 adults from First UMC Santa Monica

auto_awesome Theme

"Wonderfully Made & Wildly Connected"

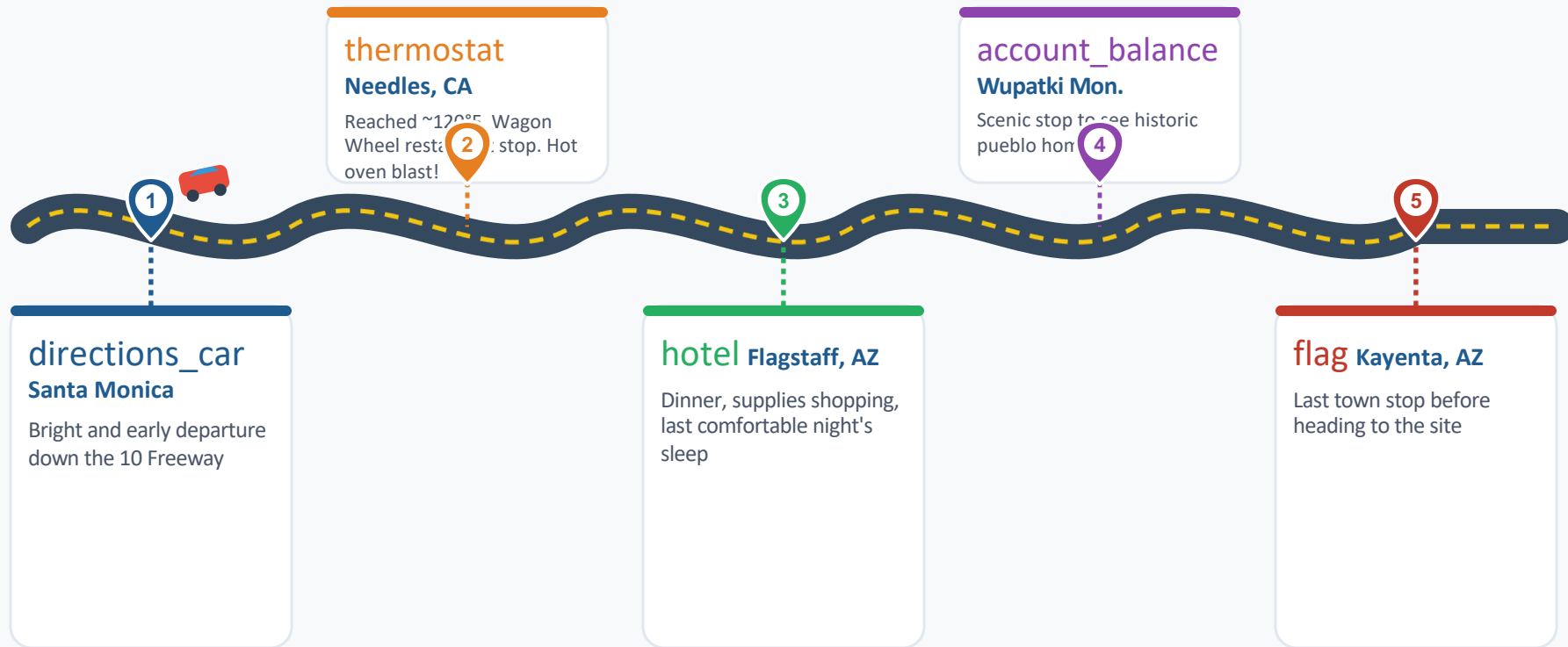
Team Members



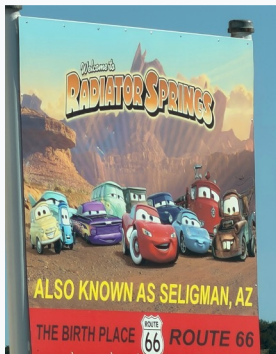
Jim Kirtley, Jim and Jill Dodd,
David and Ann Wilson,
Shalimar, Kendra Gorlitsky,
Alejandro Quintana, Ashok
Kanagasundram, Karen Ing, Art
Dodd Jr, Char Smith, Cassie
Williams, Helen Mansfield,
Adam Guerrero



The Journey Begins



Roadtrip: Santa Monica to Flagstaff



Wupatki National Monument



Wupatki National Monument was established by President Calvin Coolidge on December 9, 1924, to preserve Citadel and Wupatki pueblos. People have lived in the area for over 13,000 years. Today, 13 different Tribes officially recognize the area within Wupatki National Monument as culturally significant.



Welcome to Teec Nos Pos

Base Camp: Teec Nos Pos Chapter House

- Local government office serving as home base
- Tools, showers, and sleeping arrangements for all teams
- Intergenerational week with teams from multiple states:
 - Girl Scout team from Maryland
 - 2 families from Northern California and Oregon
 - Adult work team from Phoenix, Arizona
- Theme exploration: 'Wonderfully Made & Wildly Connected'



Work Sites & Teams

Four active work sites with mixed teams of adults and youth:

Jimmy's Ramp

Team: Adam, Karen, Art

Complete the bottom half of the ramp · Team of 9 (3 adults, 6 youth)

The Merry Rammers — Mary Lou's Ramp

Team: Jim, Cassie, Alejandro, Ashok

Complete half-finished ramp. Team of 12 (4 adults, 8 youth)

Beverly's Busy Bees — Beverly's Ramp

Team: Jill, Char, David, Ann, Kendra, Shalimar

Ramp build with a crew of about 10, guided by an engineer on the team

Ella's Toppers — Roof Project

Team: Jim Dodd, Helen

Rolled-roof replacement over five workdays, finished by staff Friday

Jimmy's Ramp



Work site 1 · Adam Guerrero, Karen Ing, Art Dodd Jr · Team of 9

The Team

- First UMC: Adam Guerrero, Karen Ing, Art Dodd Jr
- Joined by 6 others — 3 adults and 3 youth from the other SSP teams
- Mixed intergenerational crew, assigned Monday after tool training

The Work

- Wheelchair ramp for Jimmy's home
- As the final week of the summer, our task was to complete the bottom half of the ramp
- Framing, decking and rails to finish what earlier weeks had started



Canopy Tents

The Dodd family bought canopies for every team — in 100°+ heat they were essential!



Jimmy's Ramp — On Site



Shade was strategy

Art's canopies went up first thing every morning. In 100°+ heat, the shade over the work area was what kept the crew moving all week.



The Merry Rammers



Work site 2 · Mary Lou's Ramp · Jim Kirtley, Cassie Williams, Alejandro Quintana, Ashok Kanagasundram

The Team

- First UMC: Jim Kirtley, Cassie Williams, Alejandro Quintana, Ashok Kanagasundram
- Joined by 8 more team members — about 12 on site, adults and youth mixed

The Work

- Wheelchair ramp at Mary Lou's home
- Arrived to a ramp that was only about half built
- More framing and decking to build than the other ramp sites



The Merry Ramblers



Beverly's Busy Bees



Work site 3 · Beverly's Ramp · Jill Dodd, Char Smith, David & Ann Wilson, Kendra Gorlitsky, Shalimar Carducci

The Team

- First UMC: Jill Dodd, Char Smith, David and Ann Wilson, Kendra Gorlitsky, Shalimar
- A crew of about 10, including an engineer and all-around handyman who guided the build
- Kendra took the camp job of hydration sergeant — cold water and a hand mister at every break

The Work

- Wheelchair ramp at a trailer home for a resident with limited mobility
- Planks varnished in the one patch of shade beside the storage shed, where any breeze came through
- Char ran the power sander down the long boards; Dave picked up the framing fast
- Finished the last of the drilling on the final workday — the whole crew got a turn on the tools



Beverly's Busy Bees — On Site



From Kendra's reflection

"Perhaps the most significant thing I did all week was locate a patch of shade at the corner of a storage shed that seemed to garner any breeze."

Ella's Toppers

Work site 4 · Roof replacement · Jim Dodd, Helen Mansfield ·

The Team

- First UMC: Jim Dodd and Helen Mansfield, SSP board member and retired Methodist minister
- Ben Poff and his daughter Lily; Cooper, nephew of the site director
- A Girl Scout troop family from Maryland — Sophia, her younger sister, their mother and grandfather
- Shalimar joined from the ramp crews on Thursday
- Home of Ella and Richard, with their son and daughter

The Work

- Rolled-roof replacement; the western half was finished the week before
- Drip edge and metal flashing set along the eaves and the rakes
- Replaced broken 1×12 boards and pulled the flue to reach the old underlayment
- Laid roofing up from the eaves; SSP staff nailed the final crest strip Friday



Ella's Toppers — Day by Day



Sunday

Scouted the site and pulled the tarp off the mostly bare-board eastern half. The western half was finished the week before.

Monday

Set the drip edge — L-shaped metal flashing — along the eaves and the rakes. New 1×12 boards on hand for the holes below.

Tuesday

Cooper finished nailing the side drip edge. More tarp off, more boards needed; the first rolled roofing went on from the eaves up.

Wednesday

Pulled the large flue to reach the old underlayment, replaced broken boards, and kept layering roofing around the flashing.

Thursday

Shalimar joined from the ramps. Measured out the last of the roll and set a half width along the crest for the final strip.



Week of Service & Fellowship

Monday Morning

Tool training and departure to work sites

Spirit Walk

Scenic overlook in desert location. Staff testimonials, reflection time, and art projects exploring the SSP theme

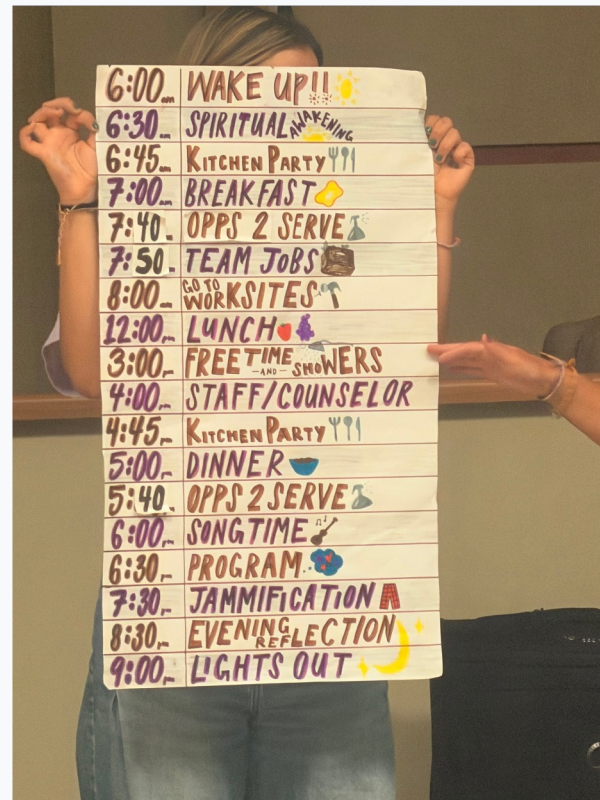
Water Day

Trek to muddy river for brave team members

Daily Work

Building ramps and completing roof project (Last week of summer - final push!)

A Busy Week



Fellowship, Food & Fun



Evening Programs



SSP Week 6 - All Together!



Monument Valley



Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park sits on the Arizona–Utah border within the Navajo Nation. Its sandstone buttes and mesas rise 400 to 1,000 feet above the valley floor, including the iconic East and West Mittens and Merrick Butte. Known to the Navajo as Tsé Bii' Ndzigaii, “valley of the rocks,” the park was established by the Navajo Nation in 1958 and covers nearly 92,000 acres. It is still home to Navajo families today and is recognized worldwide as the backdrop of countless Western films.

Monument Valley

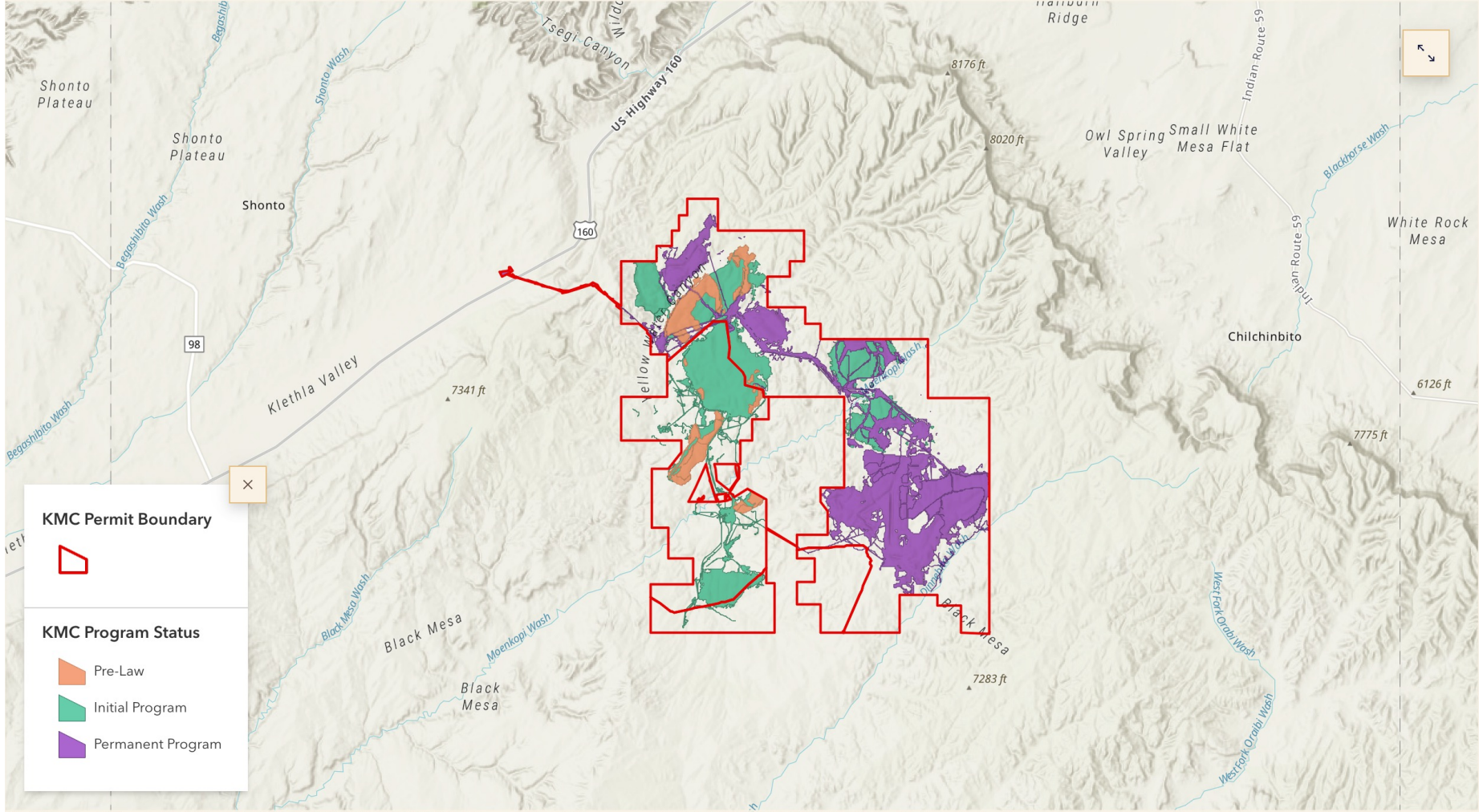


Our group at the overlook, with the Mittens and Merrick Butte behind us.



BACK-UP SLIDES



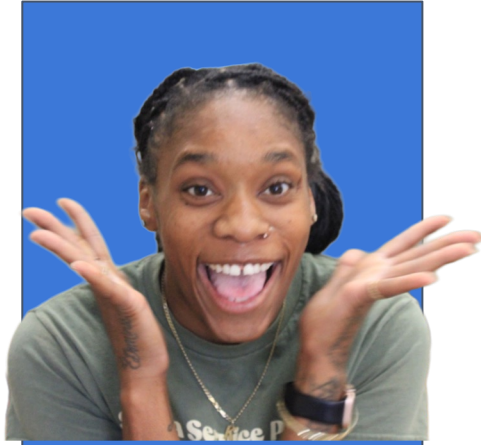






Navajo Nation
2026!!!!!!

Meet Our Team!



Host Facilities - Teec Nos Pos Chapter House



Host Facilities - Baptist Church



Host Facilities - Christian Reformed Church



AMAZING community partners!

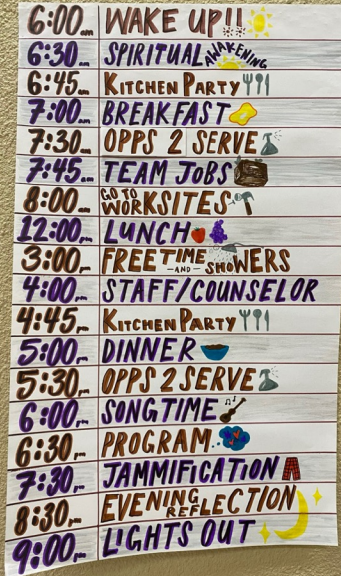
- Chapter staff
- Community speakers
- DJ Ant Dog





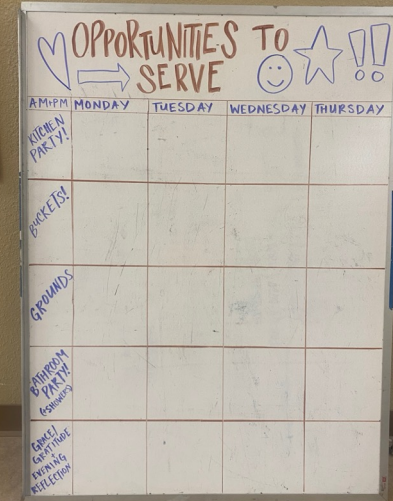
	YOUTH	YAs	ADULTS	TOTAL	TYPE
WEEK 1	37	1	9	47	combined
WEEK 2	15	7	5	27	high school
WEEK 3	37	7	18	62	intergen.
WEEK 4	33	4	12	49	high school
WEEK 5	24	6	12	42	intergen.
WEEK 6	11	3	28	42	intergen.
TOTALS	157	28	84	269	

Scheduling



6:00...	WAKE UP!! ☀️
6:30...	SPIRITUAL AWAKENING 🌅
6:45...	KITCHEN PARTY 🍴
7:00...	BREAKFAST 🍳
7:30...	OPPS 2 SERVE 🧑
7:45...	TEAM JOBS 🧑
8:00...	GO TO WORKSITES 🚚
12:00...	LUNCH 🍴
3:00...	FREETIME AND SHOWERS 🚿
4:00...	STAFF/COUNSELOR
4:45...	KITCHEN PARTY 🍴
5:00...	DINNER 🍲
5:30...	OPPS 2 SERVE 🧑
6:00...	SONGTIME 🎵
6:30...	PROGRAM 🎤
7:30...	JAMMIFICATION 🎸
8:30...	EVENING REFLECTION 🌙
9:00...	LIGHTS OUT 🌙

- EVERYTHING 1 HOUR EARLY!!
- RETURN FROM WORK DAY BETWEEN 2-3PM
- SHOWERS DURING FREETIME EXCEPT AFTER RIVER DURING JAMMIFICATION
- EVENING REFLECTION RIGHT AFTER PROGRAM BEFORE JAMMIFICATION WHEN GROUPS STAYING OFFSITE
- SMEETING DURING JAMMIFICATION!!
- SAME OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN AM&PM



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE				
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
KITCHEN PARTY!				
PACKETS!				
GROUNDS				
PROGRAM				
GO TO WORKSITES				
EVENING REFLECTION				

Construction Coordinator Review

★ JANESEA'S SITES

- MARYLOU'S DECK AND RAMP
- BESSIE'S ROOF

★ TESSA'S SITES

- JIMMY'S RAMP
- ELLA'S ROOF

★ DERRIKA'S SITES

- BEVERLY'S RAMP
- BAPTIST CHURCH STAIRS



Marylou's Deck + Ramp

Before



Marylou's Deck + Ramp After!



Bessie's Roof Before



Bessie's Roof After!



Jimmy's Ramp Before



Jimmy's Ramp
After!





Ella's Roof Before



Ella's Roof After!



Beverly's Ramp Before



Beverly's Ramp After!



Baptist Church Stairs Before

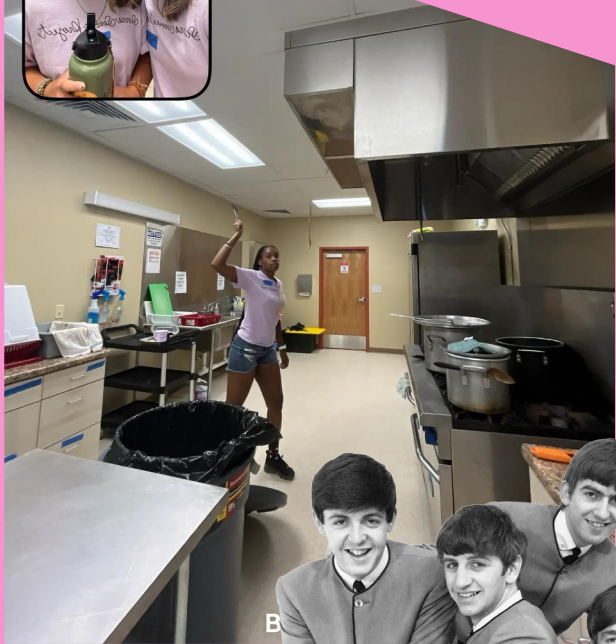


Baptist Church Stairs After!



Food Service Coordinator Review!

Teec Nos Pos Chapter Kitchen!



- 3 LARGE FRIDGES AND 2 FREEZERS!
- MEAT AND DAIRY IN WHITE SMALL FRIDGES
- PRODUCE AND LEFTOVERS IN INDUSTRIAL FRIDGE
- DRY GOODS AND BULK STORAGE IN WALK IN PANTRY



Spiritual Life Coordinator Review



Spiritual Life Coordinator Review



Spiritual Life Coordinator Review



Spiritual Life Coordinator Review



Challenges ... here and there!

- communication with chapter house
- weather! (wind, dust, rain, lightning)
- Location (1 hr away from town)



So many joys!!

Adventure Tuesday:

- Breakfast at Christian Reformed Church
- Four Corners
- Hovenweep
- Mexican Hat Boat Launch



Just Move It!



Thank you all!



