SOWER MINISTRY

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Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ.

We would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little something about ourselves. Servants On Wheels Ever Ready (SOWERS) is a non-denominational ministry of Christians, retired and semi-retired, who love to travel in some type of recreational vehicle (RV). Along with traveling, we enjoy serving our Lord and His people in a special way by working on selected projects at various churches, schools, missions, and camps. The SOWER Ministry is a body of born-again, Bible-believing Christians, adhering to the Word of God as it is written. Our aim is to be Christ-centered and our daily goal is to glorify God. Interaction with those we serve is encouraged as the mutual benefit of having fellowship together is a blessing to all.

Applicants for SOWER assistance must be needy, Christian ministries. For clarity, we define a Christian ministry as a church or para-church organization, including those that are training people for service or caring for people, which is governed by traditional, evangelical, Biblical principles and has a purpose to openly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Further, the SOWER Ministry Bylaws state, in part, that "the SOWER Ministry does not support organizations whose facilities, staffing, theology, ideology, or goals are directly influenced by the National or World Council of Churches (NCC/WCC) or its member organizations."

Some of our project hosts require volunteer workers to have a clear background check in order to work at their facility; many do not have that requirement. We have taken the position that our members need to have background checks "just to be sure" however, we have discovered that over time fingerprint ridges become worn to the point they are not distinguishable to the fingerprint readers being used by law enforcement, and many of our members have a lot of time under their belts! Therefore, please consider carefully the question on the application form that asks if you require background checks and, if so, what type. If you require a background check and if that check is fingerprint-based, you may exclude many "seasoned" and willing workers who through no fault of their own, are unable to obtain fingerprint-based background checks. If it works for you to know just that they have tried, we can provide you that documentation.

Our work involves automotive and truck repair; facility construction and maintenance; and such intellectual activities as individual members may be qualified to perform. Some of us are professionals in our field, and some of us are just handy-persons, all willing to help in any way we can. Our most valuable contribution is a life dedicated to serving Jesus Christ! All of our labors are gifts of love. We do not solicit funds, as we are strictly a self-supporting, voluntary, not-for-profit ministry, relying upon our Lord to supply our needs.

Now is the time to get all the paper work done in order to be considered for SOWER Ministry assistance. Enclosed are the necessary forms to complete and return to the SOWER Office. It can take from 6 to 12 months to complete the application review and approval process and the SOWER Office is scheduling work projects approximately one year in advance.

We work a six-hour day, a four-day week and a three-week month for a total of 72 work hours per month. Many projects are scheduled for more than one three-week month. Some hosts request SOWERS from one month to six months and some longer. *For one week following each project, our members have that time off for rest and relaxation, to sightsee in the area, or to travel to their next project. Their RVs may remain parked at your facility for that week at no cost to them. If there is more than one week between projects, and the SOWERS who just completed work wish to stay longer than their allotted week, they may do so with your permission if they agree to reimburse you generously for their hookups or if they agree to work a regular SOWER schedule for the extra days they stay. The group of SOWERS who just completed a project should be out in time for the next group to come in.*

You will need to provide the SOWER volunteers with a place to park their RVs with FULL hook-ups (electric, water & sewer). At times PVC pipe can be run above the ground from the RVs to a sewer outlet or you may elect to use a "honey wagon" to pump holding tanks at no cost to our members. Some SOWERS have large rigs and it is difficult for them to move every time their tanks have to be emptied. We also need to know the size of the rigs that you can accommodate. Our project hosts supply all the materials needed for the work including any specialty or heavy equipment that would be necessary. Most of us carry our own hand tools.

The monthly groups can be as small as one couple or as large as necessary to meet your need based on the combination of work load and your ability to set aside RV spaces specifically for our use. There is usually one married couple per RV, although the SOWER Ministry does have some single folks, and you will have opportunity to tell us if you have work for single men or women.

Your project, if approved, will be placed on the SOWER Project Listing Schedule that goes out to the membership every month. The members study the schedule prayerfully and decide where they will to go according to the prompting of the Holy Spirit (and the skills that are needed). Since SOWERS is strictly a voluntary ministry, it does take time for the members to see the projects scheduled and signup. About one month prior to the start work date for each month your project is assigned SOWERS, you will receive copies of the volunteers individual “Skill Sheets.” This will allow you to plan your work for each month based on the skills and abilities of each work group. If no one signs up for your work project, the SOWER Office will endeavor to notify you at least thirty days before your project starts.

If you are requesting construction assistance, ALL your permits MUST be on hand when the SOWERS ARRIVE. The SOWERS are not contractors, so you must have someone in that capacity working along with them to provide direction. SOWERS will have a Group Leader to act as liaison between your work supervisor and the SOWER Ministry volunteers.

We trust that SOWERS can be of help to you sometime in the near future.

Yours in His service,

The SOWER Ministry Board of Trustees

Ray Arthur
Sower Office Manager

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