

SCLC Citizenship Education Program (Mississippi)

Programs trains local housewives, ministers, retired teachers, beauticians, farmers, tradesmen, seamstresses, others who read and write legibly and are interested in aiding in the struggle to gain first class citizenship and will help others to do so. These persons must be willing to give two nights a week for 12 weeks to teach a class in basic citizenship.

The Citizenship Program operates in 12 counties:

LEFLORE	MADISON
BOLIVAR	LEAKE
COAHOMA	LAUDERDALE
SUNFLOWER	FORREST
WASHINGTON	HOLMES
HINDS	OKTIBEHA

The program may be divided into two parts:

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

1. literacy; voter registration
2. Negro history (past and current)
3. government; American history
4. Freedom Movement
5. Nonviolence
6. Citizenship rights and responsibilities
7. conducting business - using a bank, writing money orders, applications, telegrams, income tax forms
8. current events
9. speakers, films, trips, outings, etc.

COMMUNITY (COFO) ACTIVITIES

- voter registration (canvassing, etc)
- Freedom day protests (Greenwood, Hattiesburg, etc)
- Poll tax drives
- cooperate with NAACP and other civic groups
- COFO Staff and State-wide Meetings
- COFO Welfare and Relief Committees
- Block captains
- Citizenship clubs

COFO Summer Project:

1. provide and locate housing
2. recruit students for freedom schools
3. serve as deputy registrars
4. raising funds for "Freedom Campaigns (Freedom Party)

POLICIES:

1. Training people to work in their own communities; to take active role in gaining freedom; to make decisions on their own. To learn to be leaders. Persons must attend Dorchester workshop.
2. Teachers work voluntarily. SCLC provide \$30 a month for operational expense (fuel, electricity, transportation and other costs incidental to the work) Supervisors also receive operational expense.
3. CEP staff are asked to inform Greenwood and/or Atlanta office of SCLC before engaging in any activity which may be known or expected to lead to arrest. (This is necessary in order to ascertain bond available and/or make plans to raise bond money.)

For further information, contact:

Miss Annell Ponder
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708 Avenue N
Greenwood, Miss. 38930
453-7871 (601)

Mrs. Dorothy F. Cotton
SCLC
334 Auburn Ave. N.E.
Atlanta, Ga. 30303
522-1420 (404)

See list (attached) for Mississippi CEP Staff.

DUTIES OF LOCAL WELFARE & RELIEF COMMITTEE

1. Form a committee - choose representatives of all COFO and other civic groups - 6 to 8 persons should be sufficient
2. Decide on committee meeting dates
3. At meetings
 - a. decide on storage and/or distribution place for Welfare & Relief articles
 - b. study welfare & relief application forms
 - c. make plans for interviewing applicants for aid
 - d. review applications and choose by majority vote, if necessary who get top priority for aid (Do this each meeting so that when aid comes in you only need to prepare boxes or packages for these people and let them know the day and time of distribution. We have found that this procedure eliminates the difficulties of crowding, pushing, shoving, stealing, arguments, etc.)
4. Make distributions; in a business-like way (collect boxes and string and keep a good supply on hand)
5. Secure transportation for making deliveries to persons who cannot pick up supplies
6. Conduct drives in your own community among ministers groups, unions, teachers organizations, various clubs and civic groups (money is often needed to pay shipping charges when outside groups send materials collect). Make appeals to friends and supporters outside the state.
7. Keep records of all aid donations received and all distributions made. Send monthly reports to Greenwood office. Send thank you letters to contributors.
8. Keep local COFO office and local Citizenship education staff informed of people you help in order that follow up contacts may be made.
9. Advertise your committee service, policies and procedures in the community

For further information contact:

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453-7871

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