

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SUMMER

Thousands of Americans from all over the Country are interested in joining our STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM. Some are TEACHERS, some are COLLEGE STUDENTS, some are LAW STUDENTS, some are DOCTORS. They are both NEGRO AND WHITE. They want to come to Mississippi this summer to work with us to make our State a TRUE DEMOCRACY. They want to work with us in our STRUGGLE FOR WHAT IS RIGHT.

THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF THINGS THEY CAN DO:

1. Voter Registration - They can canvass to find people to register to vote.
They can hold citizenship classes.
They can take people to the courthouse.
2. Freedom Schools - A Freedom School would be for high school students. It would not be like a regular school. It would teach about our government, about our struggle for freedom and about Negro history.
It would teach arts and crafts, music, etc.
It would show movies, put on student plays and hold talent shows.
Students in a Freedom School would have their own government and newspaper.
3. Community Centers - A community center would be a place where everyone could go and feel at home.
It would be a place where someone could come to bring his problems.
Community centers would have the following programs
games and story-telling for children
classes in reading and writing, arts and crafts
typing and other skills, Negro history
classes to help farmers, mothers who are expecting and mothers with little babies.
music, movies, plays

If you would like, we could have these programs in Ruleville, but only with your support. There would be a job for everyone to do to make these things work.

Things you can do:

1. Find houses for workers who will be coming here this summer.
2. Find a building to hold the Freedom School or the Community Center.
3. Send us the names of high school students who would like to attend a Freedom School.

Write to us at the following address, or call us up.

Council of Federated Organizations
1017 Lynch St.
Jackson, Miss.
telephone: 352-9605

or see Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer
756-4838

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM REGISTRATION TO VOTE

I. Why have a Freedom Registration?

We are having a Freedom Registration in Mississippi because: We do not believe that apathy is the reason Negroes in Mississippi do not vote.

We believe that fear keeps them from trying to register to vote. They are afraid of losing their jobs, having their property destroyed, being harassed by the police.

Those who are brave enough to try are kept from registering by unconstitutional voting requirements and discriminatory practices.

We want to show Mississippi and the country by means of the "Freedom Registration to Vote" that Negroes would register to vote if they could.

There are some 425,000 Negroes who are eligible to vote in Mississippi. Less than 20,000 of them are registered. The Freedom Registration is a plan to show how most of these 425,000 Negroes can be registered.

II. How will the Freedom Registration be run?

Each county will have a registration board. The board will keep official books for its county and appoint registrars who will have the authority to register people in the precincts of that county. Registration will be conducted every day, including Sunday. Registrars will be permitted to travel in "mobile units" to register people in their meetings, at their churches and in their homes. Every effort will be made to make the registration easy for the applicant. Registrars will be asked to assist the applicants, including reading and filling in forms for illiterate people who want to register.

III. Who can register?

In order to register in the Freedom Registration to Vote, a person must:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Have lived in Mississippi for two years.
3. Have lived in the county where you are trying to register for one year. (If you are a minister or a minister's wife, you only have to have lived there for six months.)
4. Be 21 years old or older. (You can register at 20 if you will be 21 before the next election.)
5. Never have been convicted of : bribery, burglary, stealing, setting fires, telling a lie under oath, forgery, having more than one wife, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, or taking money trusted to your care.

These are the only requirements to register in the Freedom Registration

IV. What can C.O.F.O. delegates do?

1. Help establish a board of registrars in your county.
2. Recruit people to serve as volunteer registrars.
3. Find churches, stores, and meeting places where registration may be held.