

July 21, 1965

Dear summer volunteer,

A series of small workshops is being planned for late July and early August at Mt. Beulah, Mississippi for summer volunteers working in community organization programs for CORE, SNCC and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. These discussions will cover a wide range of topics such as:

1. To what extent have the personalities of the volunteers been changed by the summer?
2. How has their perspective on the civil rights movement changed, and what possibilities and limitations do they feel personally and for the movement as a whole?
3. If an individual's commitment to overall change is deepened by the summer, how can he build movement if he wants to return home?
4. What understanding has been gained from communities and community people about what shapes the pace and psychology of the movement and how applicable is that to other issues and other areas of the country?
5. If the southern movement has inspired community organizing in the North what skills and experiences can volunteers contribute and what do they think can be done in communities where they are from?
6. Discussion of crisscrossing issues like Free Elections, poverty.

This conference is to be held for all volunteers who are interested in such discussions and in bringing their summer experience to bear in their home and college communities. It is open to all who wish to attend.

There will be approximately fifty (50) participants grouped by region at each workshop session which will run three days (two nights). The first conference will be held for all West Coast volunteers on July 30, 31st and on August 1st. This conference has already been funded. Plans are being made to secure funds for the other conferences but have not yet been completed. The conferences for the Midwest and Eastern Region people will probably be held on the succeeding weekends- during the first and second weeks of August.

As stated above, the conference will be held at Mt. Beulah Center, Edwards, Mississippi, leased by the National Council of Churches. It is about 25 miles from Jackson. Room and board at Mt. Beulah will be supplied free of charge. Participants should plan however, to pay their own travel expenses.

If possible we hope to provide several cars for transportation to and from Edwards. In order to do this however, we must know immediately who intends to go to the conference. So please let us know as soon as possible on the Wats line if you wish to attend.

Please let us hear from you soon.

Mike Lesser