

VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A major voter registration drive, Freedom Christmas, is underway in the states covered by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Five national civil rights groups -- SNCC, MFDP, CORE, SCLC, and NAACP -- have requested the aid of hundreds of student volunteers during Christmas vacations and semester breaks; and USNSA has responded with a recruiting campaign designed to get 300 to 600 volunteers into the field by December 20th.

The volunteers will canvass door to door to encourage people to register, drive these people to the registrars' offices, publicize meetings, and help in voter education projects.

Each volunteer will attend an orientation session given by the civil rights group with which he will be working. If a volunteer has been a civil rights worker previously, he may be assigned to his area of experience. The program is flexible enough to deal with special requests.

The following are brief descriptions of the projects during Freedom Christmas:

THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY will have extensive projects in 26 counties in Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and possibly North Carolina. Volunteers working with CORE will do voter registration both in rural areas and in urban centers. During the Freedom Christmas project, CORE will require a minimum of 107 volunteers and 21 cars. Workers will be given orientation sessions at the site of the projects.

THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY will be working on projects in each of the fifteen Mississippi counties which have federal registrars. Each project will need ten volunteer workers and two cars. Orientation sessions will be on or about the 19th of December. Cars will be important to the project's success.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE will be running projects in at least seventeen South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida counties. Similar projects will be in effect in the western states of the Deep South; however, specific projects which will require workers have not been determined yet. There will be a need for twenty to thirty workers in each of the urban projects and eight workers on each rural project. There will be an emphasis placed on working after Christmas Day. Volunteers should be prepared to pay a small amount for their lodgings.

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE will be working mainly in the urban centers. Projects in Atlanta, Birmingham, and Montgomery are planned; and (if enough volunteers are available) Bessemer, Chatanooga, and Charleston will also require volunteers. Orientation will take place at Morris Brown College in Atlanta on December 21, although workers who cannot come South till later are welcome.

THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE needs volunteers to work on its Virginia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Georgia, and Arkansas projects. Volunteers will work in both rural and urban areas. Cars will be essential. Orientations will be scheduled to suit the majority of volunteers.

The earliest vacations begin the second week in December; the latest end in the second week in January. In order to accommodate your needs, most of the civil rights

groups are dividing their Freedom Christmas Projects into two sessions which will begin with orientations on or about December 19th and December 28th. Thus volunteers can work for one or both periods according to their individual situations. The longer you can stay, the more we can get done. Persons who can spend a part of their vacation in the South should fill out one of the enclosed applications immediately.

Volunteers must provide the following: (Some special arrangements may be made. fill out an application even if you cannot meet all requirements and indicate those you cannot meet.)

- * Subsistence. \$10-15 per week. It is possible to live very cheaply in most project areas. Housing will generally be provided in local homes.
- * Cars. The effectiveness of Freedom Christmas depends very much on the availability of cars. We must have one car for every four volunteers. If you have access to a car, indicate this on the application.
- * Transportation to the South. You will be responsible for getting to the orientation points. We will try to arrange car-pools to defray costs for riders and drivers.
- * \$500 Bond is required by all of the civil rights groups except for SCLC, which does not require bond, but advises that \$200 be available. This does not mean that you must have the cash on hand but that someone must be prepared to raise that amount should you be arrested. If you cannot raise bond, you should fill out an application anyway. NSA and Freedom Christmas are trying to establish a central bail fund which will cover all Freedom Christmas workers.

VOLUNTEER NOW -- Fill out an application and send it to: Freedom Christmas
USNSA
2115 S Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE YOU CAN MEET ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS, APPLY ANYWAY -- WE WILL CALL YOU AND TRY TO HELP. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL COLLECT TO TIM CORRELL OR STEVE ARONS (202) 387-6133 in Washington, DC

Since our time is short, please pass information about Freedom Christmas on to your friends and other people who might be interested.

THE NEED IS GREAT AND URGENT, SO ACT IMMEDIATELY,

Freedom,

Steve Arons and Tim Correll
Freedom Christmas