

YWCA

National Student Young Women's Christian Association of the U.S.A.

600 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022
212-PLAZA 3-4700
CABLE: EMISSARIUS, N. Y.

March 22, 1966

Mr. Loren Ameland
University of Nebraska YWCA
335 B Nebraska Union
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Ameland,

Your application for the voter education registration project has been received. We are glad to accept you upon the recommendation of the staff or advisor from your school. We have assigned you to the Jackson, Mississippi area site.

See the attached sheet for specific information about leadership, costs and the registration schedule.

Don't forget that the YWCA is carrying insurance on you for the project period. This will cost 10¢ per day or 60¢ for the six day period and will be collected during registration. You are covered en route to and from the project location although you do not pay additional for it.

Please read carefully the attached memorandum to participants.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Hughes by wfk

Ruth C. Hughes
Consultant in Human Relations

RCH:wfr
Enclosure



VOTER EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION PROJECT
NATIONAL STUDENT YWCA
SPRING - 1966

Several Voter Registration Projects will again be held during the spring vacation period under the sponsorship of the National Student YWCA. Emphasis will be on voter education as well as the practical experience of registering prospective voters.

Projects will be held in Southern States, Virginia, South Carolina, one in Mississippi and three outside the South, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Denver, Colorado, and Los Angeles, California.

"Four purposes of primary concern:

1. To help participants and local community people to realize that passage of the Voting Rights Bill is only the beginning of the struggle to enable many minority group persons to realize that their vote counts and that through it they can change the structures which impose discrimination;
2. To help people register so that they can be responsible citizens and vote in the 1966 Congressional and Gubernatorial Elections;
3. To train participants for continuing voter registration and education in their own communities;
4. In accordance with the long-standing commitment of the YWCA, to work for equal rights for all, as the first step toward the establishment of a world community based on justice and love.

Two purposes of secondary concern:

1. To provide experience in assessing community conditions and learning techniques for handling hostility, etc;
2. To involve students personally in the revolutions of equality. "

Method of operation:

The National Student YWCA will cooperate with organized local groups already at work on voter education and registration to set up a project. Each project will be staffed by a director from the local group and a YWCA staff coordinator. Each Association is urged to select a team of five students who will spend some time in preparatory study before coming to the project. Some materials will be sent from the National Office for this purpose. Teams are assigned to specific locations in light of distance and the cross-sectional make-up of participants.

Housing:

In each city where a voter education-registration project will be held the necessary local arrangements will be made by responsible staff, wherever possible, the group will be housed together.

Cost:

Every effort is being made to keep costs at a minimum. Each student or the local Association must be able to pay transportation and living expenses at the project (including 10¢ a day for accident and sickness insurance). We are trying to secure funds for travel scholarships.

Dates and locations for projects involving Nebraska students are:

Denver, Colorado	- April 7-12
Jackson, Mississippi	- April 9-16

To: Participants in 1966 Spring Voter Education/Registration Projects

From: Jo Ellen Williams, University of Nebraska YWCA

All participants MUST attend the final orientation session this Sunday, April 3rd, at 4pm in the Nebr. Union. ANYONE NOT PRESENT CANNOT GO ON THE PROJECT!

All permission slips must be turned in by Sunday, at the latest. They will not be accepted after Sunday.

If you are not able to participate in the projects please notify me at the Y office or 488-6605 before the Sunday meeting.

Cars traveling to Denver will leave early Thursday morning. Those going to Jackson will leave some time Friday. (You may have to miss some classes.) Please bring a copy of your Friday class schedule if you're going to Jackson. Car assignments will be made early next week.

See you Sunday!

P.S. Anyone with access to AAA Services please request immediately 2 travel pockets (maps, etc.) each for Lincoln-Denver and Lincoln-Jackson, Miss. from the Lincoln office and notify me. (If your parents belong to AAA you should have no difficulty.)

JW:cc

March 14, 1966

MEMORANDUM

TO: Participants in 1966 Voter Education Registration Projects

FROM: Francis Smith, Chairman, Human Relations Committee
Ruth Hughes, Staff Consultant

We are glad that you are taking advantage of the opportunity to work toward reinforcing and deepening American democracy. The basis of democracy is a belief in persons. Contributions of voice and talent from all its citizens is the key to future potential. This project, which provides "people-to-people" contacts, also challenges you to genuine encounter and personal growth.

We hope that you have taken seriously the preparatory material sent with the earlier publicity and through its use have developed a background understanding of voting and civil rights in your own community as well as in general.

Some of you have receive special material about the specific areas to which you have been assigned. In other cases the Host Committee or Project Director did not feel this specific information was needed before the on-the-site orientation.

We want to re-emphasize the philosophy of "how-we-work" in these projects. The YWCA does not go into a community as a National Organization and set-up a project in which "outside" students will come and run a voter registration drive for the people. Rather, we find a community where there is already an organization or group working on or planning a voter education and/or registration effort. It must be a community where there is a need (a number of eligible unregistered voters) and where we feel the interest, enthusiasm, time and willingness of students could make a difference. Through cooperation with a local group the National Student YWCA brings students to work with local students and other neighborhood people under the director of leaders in the community where the project is located.

Through invitations to the National Student YWCA, outside students are the guests of a local community organization. This we need to remember as we plan what clothes to take, and make decisions concerning our actions after we are there (for women students, this means dresses or skirts - no blue jeans).

Orientation is being planned by the local committees. The YWCA Coordinator will be in the community a day or two before you arrive and will be ready to help you get the most out of these sessions. The attached sheet, Instructions for House-to-House Canvassers is to help you know what questions you may need to ask before you begin the door-to-door visitation. If you have suggestions or criticisms take them to the YWCA Coordinator.

Although we believe in demonstrations when they are called for, the purpose of this project is to get people registered and better educated about issues.

Best wishes for an exciting week as you work toward fulfilling your commitment of "full equality" and in deepening your own insights and understanding.

RCH:ag

Suggested Reading List

- Boyle, Sarah P., For Human Beings Only (Paperback) (a primer of human understanding)
- Cash, W.J., The Mind of the South (paperback)
- Griffin, John Howard, Black Like Me (paperback)
- *Harrington, Michael, The Other America (paperback)
- Lomax, Lois, The Negro Revolt (paperback)
- Time Magazine, "The Man of the Year," p. 13-27, January 3, 1964
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965, August 1965
(Order from: The Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.)
- League of Women Voters of the United States: Do You Know the ABC's of Your Town's Government?
Publication #297, Sept. 1963 - price 15¢
1026 Seventeenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
- *Martin Luther King, "Letter from Birmingham City Jail"
(Anti-Defamation League of the American Friends Service Committee)
- *Vincent Harding, The Reporter, "Toward the Other Shore,"
October 10, 1963
- Newspapers and periodicals, such as: Pittsburgh Courier, Chicago Defender,
Baltimore Afro-American, Ebony.
- Film: Walk in My shoes. May be secured from the Anti-Defamation League
- Journal of Social Issues, "The Negro American Personality," April 1964.
- *Zinn, Howard, The New Abolitionist (paperback)
- Baldwin, James, Fire Next Time
- Montagu, Ashley, What We Know About Race (Order from: Anti-Defamation League
Price 75¢)
- Van Til, William, Prejudiced - How Do People Get That Way (Order from Anti-Defamation League, price 75¢)
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*First Priority

Reading List for Southern Voter Registration

- Jackson

Battle of Jackson. Newsweek 61:28-9 Je 10 '63

Letter from Jackson. C.Trillin. New Yorker 40:80- Ag 29 '64

- Mississippi

Crusade in Miss. A.Poinsett. Ebony 19:25-8 S '64

Congressional Challenge. Commonweal 81:532 Ja 22 '65

Justice and Power; Negro vote in Miss. Nation 200:2-3 Ja 4 '65

Who speaks for Mississippi? Reporter 31:31-4 Ag 13 '64

Journey to Understanding. Nation 199:507-16 D 28 '64

**Inquiry into the Mississippi mind. C.Sitton. NY Times mag p13- Ap 28 '63

- General

Political Power of the Negro in America. McCall's 92:26- N '64

Southern Fear and Negro Voting. Commonweal 80:135-7 Ap 24 '64

Why I live in Mississippi. Ebony 18:143/8 S '63

Negro Registration in the South. New Republic 150:15/17 Ap 4 '64

Changing South; Voter registration. America 110:272 F 29 '64

** Some Good Men there Are. John Ciardi. Sat R. 46:17 Je 29 '63

Obviously there are many more articles and many that are more recent.
Watch for them and tell the rest of us about any especially valuable
ones you may find.

1966 SPRING VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT

NATIONAL STUDENT YWCA-NAACP

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

COLLEGE

NAME

Wellesley College
Wellesley, Mass.

Susan Hill-Freeman Hall, Wellesley College

Abby Van Alstyne-152 Tower Court, Wellesley College

Arkansas A. M. & N
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Patricia Carroll-P. O. Box 4315, A. M. & N College

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pa.

James Fitz-R. D. Box 3, York, Pennsylvania

John West-Box 734, Elizabethtown College 17022

Daniel Brant-R. D. Box 2, Red Lion, Pennsylvania

Gunter Walbrodt-Box 805, Elizabethtown College 17022

Lois Zimmerman-R.D. Box 1, Roaring Springs, Pa. 16673

Ann Cunningham-198 W. Larson, Fresno, California

Shelia Sheaffer-202 Murry Hill Dr. Lancaster, Pa.

Arlene Thomas-614 Woodland Ave. Pleasantville, N. J.

University of Wisconsin
Univ. YWCA 306 Brooks
Madison , Wisconsin

Sandra Sylke--YWCA

Tom Akey--YWCA

Stephen Cummings-352 Witte Hall, Madison, Wis. 53706

College of New Rochelle
New Rochelle, New York

Martha Roberge- 20 George Ct. Bellport, N. Y. 11713

Ruth Chittick-Apt. 1-D, 315 E. 5th St. N. Y. 10003

Sister de Montforte- College of New Rochelle, N. Y.

University of Nebraska
YWCA-335-B Nebraska
Union
Lincoln, Nebr.

Mary Roseberry-1423-F Lincoln, Nebraska

Jane Bredenberg- Denton, Nebraska 68339

Jo Ellen Williams-5625 Glade St., Lincoln, Neb. 68506

Peggi Allington-Sellick Quad, Lincoln, Nebr. 68508

Loren Amelang-0X - 1979 D Street Lincoln, Nebr. 68502

John Schrekinger-1609 So. 22 - Lincoln, Nebr.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR VOLUNTEERS
IN THE YWCA'S VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT FOR NAACP
April 9 - 16, 1966

DO'S AND DON'TS TO OBSERVE DURING YOUR STAY

DO

1. Enter into your assignment with a sincere desire to help get a JOB DONE IN VOTER REGISTRATION.
2. Remember you are in the host community to PARTICIPATE IN THE JACKSON BRANCH'S EFFORTS TO ADD VOTERS TO THE VOTING ROLLS.
3. Dress appropriately. Southerners are more formal in attire than persons living in other sections of the country.
4. Travel in pairs.
5. Remember that block canvassings take dogged persistence. Do not be discouraged if someone says "No."
6. Bring sensible shoes to wear.
7. Do arrange to arrive in the orientation city on April 9. Orientation is scheduled for April 10.
8. Do fill out the enclosed Itinerary sheet so we will know the time of your arrival.

DON'T

1. Feel that you have ALL THE ANSWERS Simply because you come from a "more enlightened State."
2. Try to be the OFFICIAL ORACIE (The Branch President and the voter education coordinator are the spokesmen).
3. Wander around at NIGHT ALONE.
4. "Talk down" to local residents.
5. Sport SHAGGY HAIRSTYLES--affect BEATNICK LOOK.
6. Women are asked NOT TO WEAR PANTS.
7. Don't underestimate the BIGOTS. Things are better, but we still need to take precautions.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

REPORTING: All volunteers will be required to fill out block canvassers sheets on a form to be provided by the Voter Education Office. We are interested in keeping an accurate record of the number of persons registered during the project.

ORIENTATION: No task force volunteer will be assigned to work as a canvasser unless he has gone through the orientation period.

NAACP SUMMER VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECTS

SIMULATION TRAINING (Role-Playing)

As a voter registration leader or worker you will be involved in role-playing daily. Role-playing is a sort of "vestibule school" in human relations...it seeks to duplicate situational human relationships. Role-playing improves skills.

CASES

1. Smith, task force coordinator was expecting an important telephone call which would provide him with information he needed to make a report on voter registration activity within his division at a state-wide meeting. He had asked the workers in Division 1 of his Congressional District to report to him by 4:00 p.m. on Friday. He waited until 7:00, leaving the office just in time to make the 8:00 p.m. meeting. Division 1 of his District represented more than one-half of his assigned area. Efforts to reach his workers before the meeting were unsuccessful. The next day when the workers called in, he asked why they did not report the day before on schedule. The leader, explained, "Oh! I did have those figures ready. I forgot to call because I thought it wasn't really important."

2. Mary has been assigned to canvass a block for registered voters in City Y. She looks on the mail box and gets the name of the family living in the house, knocks on the door, identifies herself and asks how many persons over 21 live in the house. Two people who reside there are not registered to vote. They ask Mary for details. Act out this episode.

3. In line with Citizenship Sunday activities, John has asked a local minister to declare a certain Sunday Citizenship Sunday, to preach a special sermon (he gives him one prepared by the NAACP Church Secretary) and to allow some of the workers to record the names, addresses and telephone numbers of his parishioners in the vestibule of the church after service. The minister listens then states: "Nobody is going to tell me what kind of sermon to preach." (Role play this situation to completion)

4. Mrs. Jones, your next door neighbor is not registered. Because she is a vain individual, she pretends to be a registered voter. You are interested in getting her to register without hurting her feelings by telling her that you know she is unregistered. You approach Mrs. Jones and begin discussing your campaign. She states: "Oh yes, everyone should be registered. I have been a registered voter for a number of years." (Role play the situation to completion).

5. Jim is canvassing in a ghettoised area of a local community. There is not much interest in civic affairs. After talking to a trio of persons regarding our campaign, one man (Sam) says: "I don't see no reason to bother about all that jive. The white folks are going to do what they want to anyway...its just a waste of time." (Role play this to completion)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CANVASSERS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE SUMMER VOTER REGISTRATION PROJECT

As a precinct worker you have the opportunity of coming into contact with the grass roots of the local community. Your ultimate responsibility is:

A. Door-to-Door Canvassing

1. locate eligible voters who are not registered.
2. Get them to apply to register.
(suggest attendance at nearby Citizenship Clinic)

B. Checklist of information you should have and things you should do BEFORE YOU START CANVASSING.

1. Know the physical boundaries of your precinct and your assigned working area.
2. Know the legal requirements for voter registration. Have this information with you whenever you are working your precinct.
3. Know when and where to register (exact address and hours and dates for registration).
4. Know date registration closes.
5. Have list of eligible voters in your assigned area. This is your basic working tool.
6. Know under what circumstances a person must register.
7. Know the period during which absentee ballots must be cast.
8. Know what services (babysitting, transportation, etc.) our project offers and the pertinent details or where you can get such details (office address, telephone number, etc.)
9. Have a supply of volunteer cards.
10. Have information leaflets.
 - (a) Containing registration information during registration period.
 - (b) Containing information on issues after registration closes.
11. Be sure you have a friendly and cooperative attitude.
12. Be sure your appearance fosters a good impression.

13. Before ringing a doorbell or knocking on a door, attempt to find out the name of the resident from:
- (a) mailbox or door name plate
 - (b) the neighbor you just visited
 - (c) the local registration committee of the Branch

It is an advantage to be able to ask for a person by name.

14. Ask each person you visit whether other adults over 20 live at the same address and whether they are registered or have attempted to register.
15. Give information as to when and where to register.
16. Check to see if the person will encourage someone else to register and assist in the campaign.
17. Get the person's telephone number so that the telephone committee can give information by phone AFTER YOUR VISIT.
18. Immediately upon leaving and before going to the next house:
- (a) write on your working list the names
 - (b) be sure you have the telephone number
 - (c) make a note as to whether the eligible voter in the house is registered.
 - (d) be sure you have the correct address.
19. Turn in to precinct chairman or campaign headquarters
- (a) all volunteer cards filled out by new workers you have recruited.
 - (b) names and addresses and telephone numbers of all eligible voters whose names were not on your original working list.
 - (c) if your original list included names from sources other than the official list of registered voters, indicate whether these persons are registered or not and give telephone numbers.
20. Make arrangements for any services you have promised.
21. Arrange for follow-up calls to unregistered voters.

From: Bureau of Communications
National Board, YWCA
600 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10022

The following are some suggestions that may be helpful to those who will be in contact with the press during the Voter Registration and Training for Tutoring projects this spring. They are offered only as "tips" knowing that participants in this program are committed to non-violent projects, aimed at helping others.

Determine who of your group should be the spokesman.

Have the spokesman prepared with basic facts. As soon as opinion is expressed, you may be open to possible misinterpretation. (The enclosed news release tells the national story.) Your spokesman should be equipped with a list of names of the participants and assurance that each individual is willing to have his name and hometown used.

It is also suggested that you keep from your conversation with the press reference to the possibility of physical danger, or any reference which might be interpreted as a preconception about any area.

Remember these are training programs, aimed both at helping all persons to take advantage of the opportunity of being an active participant in the procedures of a democracy as well as at the training of participants. They are not demonstrations.

Refer to your preparatory material for answers to questions related to student motivation for participation in the project.

Stress that students come from other places and will be working under the direction of local voter registration and other leaders to fill a local need for manpower. The voter registration project is designed to train the student participants so they can go back to their college communities better equipped to help register local voters.

Remember that you are not obligated to answer every question. If you feel a question is unfair, or that you are being asked to say something which would cast a distorted light on the project, you can say, "I'd rather not answer that."

On returning home and telling of experiences, try to concentrate on the essentials of the project, its purpose, operation and accomplishment.

SPRING VACATION 1966
STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION
EDUCATION PROJECTS

DENVER, COLORADO

APRIL 7-12

Housing/	Methodist Inner-City Parish 31st and Lawrence Streets, Denver, Colorado
Registration/	Students should plan to arrive on Thursday, April 7. Registration will be between 4:00 - 6:00p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00p.m.
Cost/	Room and board - \$20.00 per person for the full project period, paid on arrival
Leadership/	Project Director: Miss Barbara Junceau Executive Director University of Denver YMCA-YWCA
Program/	This project will be located in the "Five Points" area of Denver and will focus on helping Negroes and Spanish-Americans realize the importance of their vote to bring about needed changes. For three days there will be interviewing and door- to-door canvassing along with seminars and dis- cussions with community leaders. During the last day most of the time will be spent in actually registering people to vote. The "Five Points" area of Denver has the greatest concentration of minority group population and the fewest agencies working with the people.
Closing/	Tuesday, April 12
Transportation to Denver/	If you have trouble and cannot arrive before 6:00p.m. send a message to Miss Barbara Junceau, phone 753-2412