

About the Appalachian Center for Equality

The Appalachian Center for Equality is dedicated to creating opportunities for young people to pursue their goals and a productive future by working and learning together. We accomplish this through interpersonal skill-building, college trips, and community engagement projects with the belief that together we can make our communities in southern West Virginia stronger and more vibrant for everyone.



Students learn about their culture and history by participating in projects such as a community play presented in 2011.

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The Appalachian Center for Equality (ACE) is a program of the American Friends Service Committee. Based in southern West Virginia, the program is designed for young women to:

- 1) Explore their potential both individually and as a group;
- (2) Learn personal and interpersonal skills from trusted adults;
- (3) Work together on community projects;
- (4) Gain tools to advance to higher education.

What is the American Friends Service Committee?

Founded in 1917, the American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization comprised of people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service.

Appalachian Center for Equality



*Pursuing our
goals by working
and learning
together*



**American Friends
Service Committee**



Students visit Marshall University, 2011

Graduating and going to college

According to the United Nations Development Program, “Women’s empowerment helps raise economic productivity (and) increases the chances of education for the next generation.” Many of southern West Virginia’s young people live in poverty and are at risk of failing in school. The average high school drop out rate in the counties of southern West Virginia is over 20 percent. Through participation in our program, students visit colleges and get assistance applying for financial aid and scholarships.

Young women as leaders

The ACE program affirms the words of Martin Luther King Jr. when he said, “Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.” Working together on service-learning projects not only builds community, but makes young people realize that they can make a difference while gaining valuable skills and knowledge for higher education and a career in the workforce.

Expanding horizons and having FUN

The ACE program is an opportunity for girls to meet at least once a week either during school or after school to have facilitated discussions about issues facing their community and have community members come talk about different career fields. Part of the beauty of the program is that it gives girls a consistent safe space to feel heard by trusted adults and to be able to laugh, learn, and grow together.



ACE has a relationship stretching back more than a decade with the Sandy Spring Friends School, a Quaker school from Maryland. Sandy Spring students visit Logan for service projects each spring. In 2011, they worked with Logan students to develop a community garden, top photo. The Logan students reciprocated by working on service projects at Sandy Spring. Here, the students are suited up to zipline during a trip to Sandy Spring in 2011.