Security Suggestions

TRAVEL

1. Be certain someone knows where you are at all times. Do not go anywhere alone. Sign out at the project office and sign back in again indicating departure time, destination and expected time of return.

2. Do not go downtown in large conspicuous bunches. NEVER make unnecessary trips to any part of town in which you would come in contact with local whites.

3. Doors of cars should be locked at all times. At night, windows should be rolled up as much as possible.

4. No one should go ANYWHERE alone, but certainly not in an automobile, and certainly not at night.

5. Travel at night should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

6. Remove all unnecessary objects from your car which could be construed as weapons (hammers, files, iron rules, etc.) Absolutely no liquor bottles, beer cans, etc. should be inside your car. Do not travel with names and addresses of local Negroes.

7. Learn all roads in and out of town. Know locations of safe homes.

8. Be conscious of cars that circle the area or drive by frequently. Take license numbers of all suspicious cars--note make, model and year.

PERSONAL ACTIONS

1. Carry identification at all times. Men should carry draft cards; this will avoid immediate pick-ups on suspicion. (Mississippi law provides that police may hold people on "suspicion" for 24 hours without any formal charges.)

2. All drivers should have in their possession driver's licenses, registration papers, and bills of sale. The information should also be on record with the project director.

3. Mississippi is a dry state and though liquor is ostensibly outlawed, it is available everywhere. Just remember that possession of alcohol is a crime punishable by fine and/or imprisonment.
4. Try to avoid bizarre or provocative clothing and beards. Girls should not wear shorts or slacks.

5. Make sure that prescribed medicines are clearly marked with your name, doctor's name, etc. Do not carry unnecessary medicines. This will help avoid arrest for possession of narcotics. (Police will and have used any charge they can possibly make.)

RELATIONS WITH THE PRESS
1. When persons represent themselves as newspaper reporters, FBI agents, etc., ask to see their credentials. Such persons are usually (but not always) on the level and won't mind showing credentials to you if you are polite in asking.

2. Our general policy is to welcome news reporters and give them all the information they want. However, do not give out information that would endanger local Negroes or endanger the position of Rust College.

MISCELLANEOUS
1. Always remain aware of the danger to local people. MSU personnel can leave, local people can't. Reactions may smolder for six months, a year or longer before breaking out into violence. Keep this in mind in all your relationships with the community.

2. Avoid inter racial "mixing" in public. White girls should especially avoid being seen in public with Negro fellows. Mississippi is nowhere near being mature enough to accept such things quietly.

Suggestions Regarding Apparel and things to take along:

Women
General campus wear:
- skirts and blouses
- plain dresses and shifts

Two dressy outfits suitable for church and receptions

Casual clothes:
Generally bermudas and slacks are unacceptable, but if you are involved in recreation they are permissible. It might be a good idea to have a pair of bermudas along for recreating.

Bathing Suits:
One-piece outfits are preferred, but a modest two-piece would also be acceptable. If you have individual questions regarding "modest" call Barbara Fox or Linda Garcia

Footwear:
Sandals were quite popular last year, although some women wore flats. Stockings, were generally unbearable, although necessary for church and receptions.
Men
Casual clothes (wash and wear sport shirts and slacks) for campus wear
Shorts for recreation
Suit and tie for church and campus receptions

Bring your own Alarm Clock, toilet articles, towels and wash rags.

Automatic washing machines and dryers are available on campus.
Questionnaire for Michigan State Volunteers

Thanks for agreeing to give your reflections about your experiences in the Student Tutorial Education Project (STEP). STEP was unique because of its emphasis on education during a period of great racial and social change in the South. STEP volunteers gave their time, braved real danger, and survived the heat waves of a Mississippi summer to do this valuable service.

Why am I compiling our reflections and asking you to participate? Several reasons.
I think STEP did something very important at a crucial time. Today, with 40 years of wisdom, we can understand more fully the significance of STEP and our experience in it far beyond what we were capable of understanding at that time. There will be a great variety of perspectives from volunteers and I think a compilation will be enlightening and inspiring not only for ourselves but for others who weren't sure what to make of it at the time and for those today who seek to be of service across racial and ethnic boundaries. Finally, everyone I have talked to is enthusiastic about this project, particularly Rev. John Duley and Dr. Frank Beeman. The final results should be very interesting and will be shared with you.

I am also contacting the Rust students that were in STEP for their reflections. A combined compilation of reflections from MSU and Rust people will provide a very unusual integration of thoughts and perspectives from those who sought to help and those who wanted to be helped. It should also give us additional perspectives on the impact of [positive] social integration of volunteers and students, which occurred for the first time in the lives of many, particularly the students, during their STEP experiences.

I have grouped the questions into several categories. I wish to learn a little about you before STEP, your motivation for volunteering to serve in STEP, your STEP experiences, and the wisdom that comes from 40 years of life experiences after STEP. Please take as much space as you would like to answer these questions. If you prefer, I can do an interview over the telephone with you.

One last request, please be as honest as you possibly can, whether it be positive or negative. Your thoughtful answers will contribute to a balanced perspective. Feel free to add additional comments if my questions do not cover all that you wish to contribute.

Please return the completed questionnaire as soon as you can. I have a student this summer (and only for the summer) assisting me with the compilation. Your name and any other privacy information will not be used on request. Thank you, I am looking forward to the return of your questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Paul Herron
Name _________________________

Year/s you participated in STEP ____________

What were your responsibilities in STEP? ____ Tutor, ___ Organizer, _____ Other (name please)

Address__________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

Telephone________________________, email ______________________________

Biographical information

Where did you grow up?

How old were you when you volunteered for STEP?

Do you recall how you heard about STEP?

Had you engaged in extensive volunteer activities before STEP?

Had you engaged in volunteer activities in African American communities before STEP?

Did you have any significant experience or interaction with African Americans before STEP?

Did you engage in volunteer activities after STEP?

Who or what was the biggest influence in your volunteering to serve in STEP: ___ your parents? ___ a friend? ___ a mentor? ___ personal initiative? ___ media coverage of civil rights struggles? ___other (please name if possible)?

How did your parents and relatives feel about your going to Mississippi to participate in STEP?

How do you feel you were perceived by peers and friends for volunteering to serve in STEP?

Had you ever been in the South before?

Murders and harassment in Mississippi were occurring frequently during the period that you were in STEP. Were you aware of this? If yes, when?
Motivation for being in STEP

What were the compelling reasons for your volunteering to serve in STEP?

Your STEP experience:

What did you teach?

What subject area was the students most behind in?

Explain what you may have expected and what you found in regard to culture and interaction with students.

Did you room with a STEP student? If so, describe any social, cultural awareness, or other significance it [may have] had for you? For the student (you think it may have had)?

Did you have much contact with any of the students, staff, or faculty at Rust after your STEP experience?

Reflections on your STEP experience:

What is (or was) your occupation?

How, if at all, did the STEP experience influence your career choices?

How effective do you think STEP was in achieving its goals?

Can you identify a specific experience in STEP that became a significant influence in your life?
How did you feel as those in the Black Power movement begin to question and belittle the efforts and contributions of Whites participating in programs like STEP?

On reflection, would you change anything about STEP?

Why do you think the program ended after only 4 years?

What do you feel was the greatest accomplishment of STEP? For the students? For you?

Describe the single most important positive experience you had in STEP?

Describe the single most negative experience you had in STEP?

What 3 to 5 key words come to mind when you think of STEP?

Describe any other reflections on your experience in STEP?

THANKS!!!
Questionnaire for MSU STEP Volunteer

Thanks for agreeing to answer questions and give your reflections about your experience in the Student Tutorial Education Project (STEP). STEP was unique in many, many ways. However, we, the participants in STEP, have not assembled our thoughts and reflections on our experiences in STEP. I know that quite a few people are interested in sharing their thoughts about their experience in STEP and the impact that it had on their lives. We also want to learn about what others may share about their experiences in STEP. The questionnaire below is an effort to accomplish that. My questions, however, may not evoke the fullness of your experience in STEP so feel free to add additional information.

I have grouped the questions into several categories. I wish to learn a little about you before STEP, your motivation for volunteering to serve in STEP, your STEP experiences, and the wisdom that comes from 40 years of life experiences after STEP. Please take as much space as you would like to answer the questions. If you prefer, I can do an interview over the telephone with you.

I am also contacting the Rust students that were in STEP for their reflections, which should enrich the final document even more. I intend to compile all the information and share it with you. I will also publish it if it is of interest.

One last request, please be as honest as you possibly can, whether it be positive or negative. Your honest and thoughtful answers will help guide others who seek to be of service to their fellow man, particularly across racial and ethnic lines. Your name and any other privacy information will not be used on request. Thanks you, I look forward to hearing from you.

Name ____________________________

Year/s you participated in STEP: ______

What were your responsibilities in STEP?  
____ Tutor, ____ Organizer, ____ Other (name please) 

Address___________________________________________

Telephone________________________ , email ____________________________

Biographical information
• How old were you when you volunteered for STEP?
• Do you recall how you heard about STEP?
• Were you ever paid for your activities in STEP?
• Had you engaged in extensive volunteer activities before STEP?
• Had you engaged in volunteer activities in African American communities before STEP?
Who was the biggest influence in your volunteering to serve in STEP: ___ personal initiative? ___ your parents? ___ a friend? ___ a mentor? ___ other (please name if possible)?

Did you have any significant experience or interaction with African Americans before STEP?

How did your parents feel about your going to Mississippi to participate in STEP?

How do you feel you were perceived by peers, friends, and relatives for volunteering to serve in STEP?

Had you ever been in the South before?

Murders and harassment in Mississippi were occurring frequently during the period that you were in STEP. Were you aware of this? If yes, when: ___? Motivation for being in STEP

What were the compelling reasons for your volunteering to serve in STEP?

Your STEP experience:

What did you teach?

Do you have any recollections of the academic level of the students in the program?

What subject area was the students most behind in?

Did prior expectations (before going to Rust) in regard to culture, interactions with students, faculty, and staff at Rust, etc. match reality? Please explain what you expected and what you found?

To what extent did the students meet your expectations?
Did you have much contact with any of the students, staff, or faculty at Rust after your STEP experience?

Reflections on the STEP experience in your life

How effective do you think STEP was in achieving its goals?

What is (or was) your occupation?

How, if at all, did the STEP experience influence your career choices?

Can you identify a specific experience in STEP that became a significant influence in your life?

How did you feel as the Black Power movement became a big force in the civil rights struggle and the efforts of Whites participating in programs like STEP were questioned?

On reflection, would you change anything about STEP?

Why do you think the program ended after only 4 years?

What do you feel was the greatest accomplishment of STEP? For the students? For you?
Describe the single most important positive experience you had in STEP?

Describe the single most negative experience you had in STEP?

What 3 to 5 key words come to mind when you think of STEP?

Describe any other reflections on your experience in STEP?

Paul Herron

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