Appalachia–Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) has been a sponsor of the fieldwork component of service learning courses for over ten years.

We facilitate on-site housing, cultural outings, and daily projects out of our Small Town Demonstration Center at our main offices in Mount Vernon, KY. Our other educational facilities are located on close to 200 acres of old growth forest at our Rockcastle River Wilderness Site in Livingston, KY, which includes the Mary E Fritsch Nature Center, Michael Francis Zalla Trails.

Since our inception in 1977 in ASPI has been dedicated to education and awareness of our region’s environmental issues and we remain just as dedicated to that ongoing cause 35 years later.

The service learning projects we facilitate include projects in each of our program focus areas and out in the field with community partners like Rockcastle County, Healthy Communities, and Green Forests. Program focus area projects include our community gardens, trails, oral histories, sustainable living demonstration buildings, nature center, and resource library.

ASPI has been working for healthy land and sustainable communities in Kentucky and Central Appalachia for over 35 years. ASPI is a non-profit resource center advocating for sustainable development, responsible resource management, and informed personal choices. We use applicable science and technology to benefit ecosystems by promoting innovative ideas and appropriate technologies. We accomplish this through educational programs, research, and demonstration projects.
BOOKS:
The Thread that Runs so True, Strength from the Hills
by Jesse Stuart
Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers: Industrialization
of the Appalachian South, 1880-1930 by Ronald D.
Eller
Fighting Back in Appalachia: Traditions of Resistance
and Change by Stephen L. Fisher
The Road to Poverty: The Making of Wealth and Hard-
ship in Appalachia by Dwight B. Billings and Kathleen
M. Blee
The Dollmaker by Harriette Arnow
The Coal Tattoo, Parchment of Leaves, Clay’s Quilt by
Silas House
Jack and the Wonder Beans, River of Earth, From the
Mountain, From the Valley: New and Collected Poems
by James Sill
Fair and Tender Ladies by Lee Smith
History of Appalachia by Richard Drake
Appalachian Values by Loyal Jones

FILMS:
Sludge Appalshop, directed by Robert Salyer
Pharaoh’s Army loosely based on events at Wildcat
Mountain in Rockcastle County, KY
Country Boys PBS, directed by Daniel Sutherland
Coal Spike TV, Thom Beers
Songcatcher directed by Maggie Greenwald
Seven Sisters: A Kentucky Portrait

WEBSITES:
Appalshop: www.appalshop.org
Appalachian Studies: www.appalachianstudies.org
Grow Appalachia: www.growapp.org
Berea College: www.berea.edu
PRIDE (personal responsibility in a desirable environ-
ment): www.kypride.org
Community Farm Alliance: www.cfa.org
The Nature Conservancy:
http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/
northamerica/unitedstates/kentucky/index.htm

Service-learning is a progressive way of
teaching that has been adopted by uni-
versity faculty members nationwide. As
distinguished from traditional commu-
nity service, service-learning is inten-
tionally linked with an academic course
and incorporates specific pedagogical
goals for community service -- includ-
ing structured reflection activities
within the classroom. With social jus-
tice at its philosophical root, service-
learning pedagogy naturally combines
the life of the mind with habits of the heart.

Review the resources on our website: DIY Projects, Publications, and Programs!!!