

SENTENCING TO SERVICE

DOLLAR BENEFIT

If STS workers were actually paid an hourly wage of \$6, the estimated dollar benefit of their labor each year would be almost \$5.33 million (STS workers are not paid).

The program also estimates that the value of projects completed is over \$8 million a year.

Because offenders are out working on crews rather than occupying jail beds, STS saves an estimated 43,500 jail days worth about \$2.4 million annually, based on a \$55 per day cost.

STS was initially funded with the assistance of private foundation grants. Now, STS is operated with a combination of state and/or local dollars.

WHERE

STS is operated throughout Minnesota with almost 80 percent of the state's counties participating. State offices are located in Albert Lea, Bemidji, Center City, Chaska, Detroit Lakes, Grand Rapids, Litchfield, Mankato, Marshall, Moorhead, Red Wing, St. Cloud, and Winona. Each office has a supervisor and crew leaders.

INFORMATION

For additional information on the STS program, visit www.doc.state.mn.us or contact:
Sentencing to Service Program
Minnesota Department
of Corrections 1450 Energy Park
Drive, Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108-5219
651.361.7200



Contributing to a safer Minnesota

This information will be made available
in alternative format upon request.

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“It makes sense...the inmates need the experience. The parks and the waterways need the cleaning. And the crowded jails need emptying.”

-Brainerd Daily Dispatch

SENTENCING TO SERVICE

A GOOD IDEA

Sentencing to Service (STS) provides a sentencing alternative for courts throughout Minnesota that puts carefully selected non-violent offenders to work on community improvement projects. Judges sentence offenders to STS as an alternative to jail or fines, in combination with jail time, or as a probation sanction.

Established in 1986, STS is operated by the Minnesota Department of Corrections in partnership with sheriff's departments, community corrections, courts, and local governments.

Closely supervised offender crews work in parks and other public areas. Projects vary widely and include work such as litter pickup, river cleanup, trail development, flood control and storm damage cleanup, and work for public senior citizen housing.

Projects are not included in scheduled work by government agencies. Without STS, they would not get done.

BENEFITS

The STS program in Minnesota provides benefits to:

- Courts by creating a good sentencing option that may be used as an alternative to jail.
- Corrections systems by reducing jail crowding and reserving space for dangerous offenders who require incarceration.
- Offenders by providing them with a positive way to repay the community for offenses.
- Taxpayers by improving public parks and other areas.
- Non-profit agencies who receive thousands of hours of assistance with labor-intensive projects.

HOW IT WORKS

Selection of STS participants is a cooperative effort of STS and court staff.

Judges order offenders to be placed on STS work crews and the number of hours to be worked. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, local county and other agencies identify work activities and supply equipment.

Crew leaders arrange transportation and are responsible for supervision of offenders at work sites.

There are approximately 80 state and county crews working on projects throughout the state.

Fiscal year 2010 data on programs receiving state funds indicates that more than 22,000 offenders participated in STS, working almost 890,000 hours.

"Minnesota's STS program is a shining success."

-Alexandria-Lake
Region Echo

"...the program will make the state a better place to live – at least for those of us on the outside."

-St. Paul Pioneer Press
Outdoors Editor

"...a refreshing example of the state and county sharing resources to efficiently achieve important social goals."

-Faribault Daily News