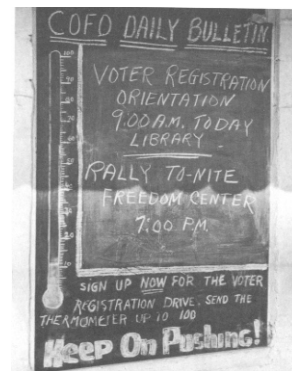


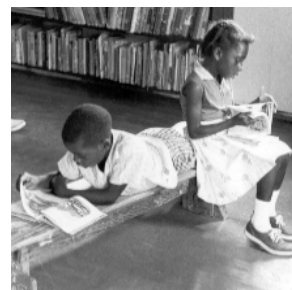
## Freedom Summer 1964

In 1964, many people who lived in Mississippi were poor. This was true of most of the African-Americans who lived in this state. Even though they had the right to vote in elections, most African-Americans were not registered to vote because they had to pay poll taxes (money to allow them to vote) and take a test that they could not pass. There were no elected African-American officials, such as mayors to help them out. In addition to not being able to vote, the schools that children attended were poor. They did not have enough books and the children had trouble learning to read and do math. African-Americans had a hard time getting medical care when they were sick. If people tried to cheat African-Americans or there was trouble with the law, these people could not get legal help.

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Young people from all over the country went to Mississippi to help out. The work that these civil rights workers did was dangerous and frightening. People who did not agree with them bothered, threatened, and scared them. The civil rights workers were non-violent and did not believe in fighting. They sang freedom songs to cope with the difficult job that they were doing.



Images: <http://www.crmvet.org/>

