



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What type of volunteer opportunity is available?

A. Habitat Home Builds. We build new, simple, affordable homes from the ground up in Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parishes.

Q. When can I volunteer? How long do I need to volunteer?

A. We ask that our volunteers work for one or more full days. **You must be onsite by the time provided.**

Volunteer Opportunity	Days	Times
Habitat Home Build	Tuesday – Saturday	7:45am – 3:30pm
ReStore Assistance	Wednesday – Saturday	9:30am – 5:00pm

Q. How old do I have to be to volunteer?

A. As of April 16th, 2008, it is the policy of Habitat for Humanity that children under the age of 16 are not allowed to volunteer or be present on the worksite while there is any construction in progress. Minors **16 and 17 years of age** are allowed to participate in general construction, however activity such as: the use of power tools, excavation, demolition, or working at heights above 12 feet is not permitted. It is further the policy of Habitat for Humanity that every minor must be accompanied by a responsible adult of **21 years of age** or more. Please see “Age Restrictions for Minors” for more details. All volunteers under the age of 18 must have the individual waiver signed by a parent.

Q. Do I need experience?

A. No. Volunteers with all levels of experience are invited to volunteer with us. If you have construction experience, please let our Construction staff know when you arrive on site.

Q. May I work even though I have some physical limitations? What if I have allergies/asthma?

A. Yes. There are a number of tasks that do not involve strenuous labor. Please advise the Habitat staff you are working with of your limitations. You should take into account the humidity, heat and abundance of plant life as we build our homes outdoors. Bring your medication with you, and be sure to take breaks when necessary.

Q. I know which dates I want to volunteer but am concerned about booking airfare and accommodations. Should I schedule my dates now?

A. Yes. Please schedule your dates before planning the rest of your trip. Our opportunities are booked quickly, so we recommend that you first reserve your spot and subsequently book your accommodations and/or airfare. If you need to cancel your reserved dates, you may do so online.

Q. How do I volunteer?

A. Please sign up at www.habitat-nola.org. First register by clicking on the *Volunteer* link. Please follow the instructions as an Individual or Group (**for Habitat Home Builds with groups of 15 or more, please email the Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Manuselis, at volunteer@habitat-nola.org**). After you complete registration, you must schedule yourself on the *Construction Calendar*. If you are interested in an opportunity within two weeks, please contact our office directly.

Q. Where do I report to in the morning?

A. You will receive an email at least one week prior to your work date(s) asking you to reconfirm your date(s) and your total volunteer number. Once you reconfirm, you will receive a worksite meeting place. If you sign up for the ReStore you may report directly to the ReStore location.

Q. If I volunteer with a group, will we all be able to work together?

A. To ensure a quality experience for our volunteers we will assign no more than 20 volunteers to a specific house. Groups with more than 20 members should anticipate working on multiple houses and/or sites.

Q. What goes on at the worksite?

A. Homes are at all stages of the construction process. We build houses from the floor up. Tasks on the construction site fluctuate depending on need, weather, etc. You will be assigned to a task every morning.

Q. What does it cost?

A. It is free to volunteer with us. However, if you are a group with 15 or more members, please contact us for requested donation information.

Q. Does New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity provide transportation, food, and lodging?

A. No. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to arrange their own travel, food and housing accommodations. Check the *Volunteer* page on our website for links to hotel and rental car discounts, local hostels, Camp Hope, RV parks, charter bus services, and tax deduction information. **Many of the homes we work on are spread throughout neighborhoods, so please be prepared to drive to a house near your assigned meeting place.**

Q. Where should I stay?

A. The French Quarter is a convenient, central location for visitors. In addition, the Quarter is home to numerous restaurants and hotels where you can experience New Orleans culture.

Q. Should I bring food or water?

A. Yes. You must bring your own lunch to the site. Water will be provided on site but you must bring a water bottle with you to fill up during the day. There is a list of lunch options that can be viewed on the “Volunteer” page of the website.

Q. Should I bring my own tools?

A. It is not necessary to bring any tools; if you wish to bring your own tools you are welcome to. Items that are especially useful are a tool belt, hammer, measuring tape, pencil, razor knife, cat/bear claw, etc. Please clearly label all tools.

Q. What do I wear?

A. Footwear needs to be sturdy and closed-toe and closed-heel. Boots or sneakers are both considered appropriate footwear. Please prepare for the weather by checking the forecast before you arrive at the work site. If it is sunny, please bring a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. If it is raining, please bring a jacket, raincoat, and/or rain boots.

Q. What if the weather is bad?

A. Work will continue on-site unless determined otherwise by the staff. It is very rare that a work day is cancelled. If a work day is cancelled, it will be announced on the work site on the morning of.

Q. Is it safe?

A. People should use their best judgment and use their instincts. Additionally, the local police and the National Guard patrol the area. Please keep valuable items at home.

Q. Do I have to go to an orientation/training?

A. No. You will receive a short orientation of 15 minutes once you arrive at the work site, which includes a safety lecture. In addition, you will receive on-site training/tutorials on tasks that you are assigned to for the day. Your assigned meeting place for this safety briefing may not be your worksite location although your worksite will be in the same neighborhood as the meeting place. Please be prepared to drive to your worksite after the briefing.

Q. Is there any paperwork?

A. Yes. All volunteers will need to sign a waiver. If you are an individual, please complete the Individual Waiver Form, and bring it with you to the work site. If you are a group, please complete the Group Waiver Form, and bring it with you to the work site. If there is anyone under 18, parents/guardians must sign the individual waiver.

Q. What if I need to cancel my work dates?

A. Please log in to our website and go to the Construction Calendar. Click on *View My Scheduled Dates* and click on the date you wish to cancel. If you are canceling a date within two weeks, please contact our office at (504) 861-4121.

Q. What if I have trouble registering on the website or additional questions?

A. Please call our Volunteer Services Office at (504) 861-4121 and we will assist you.