

Volunteering for Construction Projects



Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake

Updated May 2015

About Us

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit housing ministry that envisions a world in which everyone has a decent place to live.

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, we build and rehabilitate homes in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Howard counties. These homes are then sold to qualified low-income homebuyers with a 30-year, zero-interest mortgage. Since our inception in 1982, Habitat Chesapeake has built more than 700 homes, served more than 2,500 family members and offered more than \$30 million in mortgage loans.

Construction Projects

Our affiliate is unique because the majority of our construction projects are house rehabilitations. We acquire blocks of vacant houses and properties that require total reconstruction.

Volunteer tasks may include:

- Framing
- Masonry
- Interior and Exterior Painting
- Tile
- Trim Carpentry
- Cabinet Installation
- Landscaping
- Insulation and Airsealing
- Deconstruction
- Flooring
- Fencing

MISSION:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.



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- Build Day Schedule



Preparing to Volunteer on a Construction Site

Volunteers should be prepared to work on a variety of construction tasks.

We work year-round, rain or shine. Workdays are rarely canceled due to inclement weather. Volunteers may work indoors or outdoors, but houses under construction may not have heat, electricity or plumbing.

Volunteers should be prepared to:

- get dirty or have clothes become stained
- work in any temperature by dressing in layers
- step onto an active construction worksite
- work all day and participate in clean up

What to Expect When Volunteering

Volunteers work with our site staff on indoor or outdoor projects in all stages of construction, from demolition to site maintenance and clean up, and everything in between, including indoor projects such as framing, painting and flooring and outdoor projects such as landscaping and building fences. We do not require volunteers to have prior construction experience. We simply **require volunteers to be at least 18 years of age** (or 16 to 17 years of age with an adult chaperone) and be physically able to participate in projects under staff supervision.

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake provides tools and safety equipment, such as hard hats, goggles, earplugs, dust masks, and knee pads for volunteer use.

Volunteers are allowed to use their own hand tools, but no outside power tools are allowed on site. ***Work gloves are not provided, so please bring your own.***

Construction Project Hazards

Construction sites can be dangerous!

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake construction staff review safety rules, procedures and equipment with volunteers at the start of each work day. It is vital that volunteers pay attention to staff supervisors and follow established guidelines to maintain the safety of everyone onsite.

Our staff are CPR / First Aid certified and can tend to minor cuts and scrapes. Each Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake construction site is stocked with basic first aid kits. Volunteers should notify staff of conditions that necessitate additional medical supplies, such as bee sting kits and inhalers.

Cell Phone Policy

Because cell phone usage poses a safety hazard on construction sites, we ask that there is no active usage on the work site. We are aware that personal phone use is common, but everyone on site should be focused on building. *If you need to make or take a call, please step offsite to do so.*



What to Bring / Wear

- Old clothes you don't mind getting dirty
- **Work gloves**
- Work boots or athletic shoes with slip-resistant and puncture-resistant rubber soles
- **Water bottle**
- Food for lunch
- Personal hand tools (*optional*)



What NOT to Bring / Wear

- Leggings
- Fashion boots
- Personal power tools
- Valuables

Habitat accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen items. Please do not bring items with high monetary or sentimental value, remove all valuable items in your car from sight and put your name on any items you do bring.



Guidelines

Our dedicated and hardworking volunteers are integral members of our construction teams, helping us fulfill our mission to partner with families and communities to provide homeownership opportunities. With this in mind, we expect volunteers to act in the best interest of Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake.

Volunteers are expected to arrive on their assigned site promptly at 8:30 a.m. and to work until 3:00 p.m., with a 30-minute lunch break at 11:30 a.m. Construction site staff reserve the right to dismiss late-arriving volunteers.

Volunteers are expected to:

- submit completed Waiver of Liability at least one week prior to volunteer day;
- arrive on site on time and prepared to work, in proper work wear;
- keep valuables off site (Habitat Chesapeake is not responsible for items lost or stolen on the worksite);
- respect Habitat Chesapeake staff, homeowners and volunteers;
- follow instructions from construction site staff and volunteer crew leaders;
- conform to our construction site ban of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- adhere to construction site safety guidelines; and
- report injuries to site staff.

Volunteer Build Day Schedule

The construction site opens at 8:15 a.m.

Please arrive by 8:30 a.m. prepared to work.

Morning *start time depends on site*

Volunteer Welcome

Construction site staff welcome and sign in volunteers as soon as they arrive.

Introduction to Habitat for Humanity & Construction Site Safety

Staff speaks briefly about Habitat for Humanity's history, mission, and model; Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake's history in Central Maryland; and construction site safety. Staff and volunteers introduce themselves to the group.

Volunteer Division of Labor

Site staff divide volunteers into small groups according to the scheduled houses under construction. They are introduced to the property, homeowner and the group's goals for the day.

Volunteer Construction Work

Volunteers work indoors or outdoors on group projects in the neighborhood.

Lunch 11:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Volunteers are given a 30-minute break to eat their lunch (not provided).

Afternoon 12:00—3:00 p.m.

Volunteer Construction Work

Volunteers continue to work on their group's build day projects after lunch.

Construction Site Cleanup

After the completion of their projects, volunteer groups clean up. Groups are encouraged to reflect on the day's work.

Accomplishments of the Day, Other Ways to Get Involved

Construction site staff review the goals and accomplishments of the day, as well as other ways to stay involved with Habitat

THANK YOU!

Get Social

Capture your volunteer experience by bringing a camera and sharing to social media! Tag us on Facebook @HabitatChesapeake and Twitter and Instagram @HabitatChespeke.



Contact Us

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What More Can I Do To Support This Project Financially?

We are grateful for your willingness to volunteer your time to help make possible affordable homeownership for local families. If you want to do even more, please consider the following:

- Provide financial support
- Approach family, friends or your employer to pledge support for each hour worked;
- Request a special offering / donation from your place of worship or civic group;
- Set up a personal fundraising page through our website.

Please have funds sent directly to our office or donated online:

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