



## Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is Habitat for Humanity?**

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

### **How does HoCo Habitat work?**

Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, HoCo Habitat helps homeowner Partner Families build simple, decent houses. HoCo Habitat sells the home to the Partner Family at no profit and finances it with a no-interest loan. We call this Jesus Economics! Partner Families invest 500 hours of their own labor — sweat equity — into building other family's homes and then their Habitat home. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are put in our Fund for Humanity and used to build more homes in Houston County.

### **What is a day like on the site?**

We work from 8:30 am - 3 pm and take about 30 minutes for lunch. We depend on your promptness. Everyone should arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 so they can meet other volunteers, complete sign in, participate in the morning devotion, receive a safety briefing, and hear construction directions. Everyone present will be divided up into smaller groups to work on specific jobs.

### **Do volunteers need to bring tools?**

Volunteers do not need to bring any tools. We provide all the tools you need. If you choose to bring your own tools, please make sure they are clearly and obviously labeled and keep them close to you at all times. Do not use orange spray paint because that is how HoCo Habitat labels tools.

### **What about lunch and drinks?**

We provide lunch and water at the job site. Lunch is the best part of the day. Our Hospitality Committee coordinates with a local organization to bring lunch each Saturday. The food is always great and the camaraderie and fellowship during lunch is unbeatable. We ask each volunteer to bring their own reusable drinking cup with your name on it.

### **What should each person wear?**

Wear clothes that can be ruined with no regrets. Your clothes will serve you best if they are loose-fitting while not baggy. You should wear sturdy footwear; ideally steel toed boots and by all means, shoes that leave no toes exposed. A good hat to protect you from the sun as well as sun screen is important year round. Remember to bring a rain jacket depending on the season.

**Is there an age limitation?**

*No one under the age of 16 will be permitted on a building site while work is being done. Only people 16 years old can perform construction tasks. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed to use any power equipment, work on a ladder, the roof, or scaffolding, or participate in any hazardous activity. All volunteers, regardless of age, must sign a Release and Waiver of Liability. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian complete and sign the box at the bottom.*

**What skills does a person need?**

We welcome volunteers of all skill levels. If you have any particular skills you would like to use, please let us know and we will do our best to schedule you accordingly.

**What do I need to do before the build?**

- 1) Visit [www.hocohabitat.org](http://www.hocohabitat.org)
- 2) Print out and complete our Release and Waiver of Liability form.
- 3) Contact our volunteer coordinator at 328-3388 so we know you are coming.
- 4) Be sure to bring your Release and Waiver of Liability to the jobsite! Those under 18 years of age must make sure your parent or legal guardian has signed as well.

**What if I want to continue volunteering after the initial workday?**

You are welcome to come out as often as you wish. We would appreciate the help! Please be sure to schedule each day you volunteer with our volunteer coordinator.

**Who is responsible if someone gets hurt while working at Habitat?**

Each Habitat volunteer must sign a *Release and Waiver of Liability* form at the job site each build. Your personal health insurance plan should cover the individual while engaged in volunteer work; however, Habitat maintains an insurance plan which can supplement needs not covered by an individual's insurance plan.

**What about working with the future owner of the home?**

The relationship you build with your partner family is just as important as the house you construct. Make sure that the homeowner is an integral part of the building process. There may also be a crew of future homeowners who are trying to earn hours so they can begin working on their own home, and we encourage groups to get to know these people as well.

*Thanks for your interest in volunteering with us!*