



What to expect as a Habitat for Humanity Dutchess Construction Volunteer

Can I Just Show Up?

No. You need to preregister by registering on our volunteer portal on our website. www.Habitatdutchess.org and watch the 18 minute video as directed on the web site. Effective 2014 all volunteers are required to watch this video prior to working on a construction site.

When Should I Arrive and When Should I Expect to Leave?

The work day begins with introductions and a safety review at 8:30 A.M. Please plan to arrive at the work site fifteen minutes before that so that we can begin on time. The work day ends about 3 P.M. A full day's commitment is expected.

Where Is the Work Site?

Currently our builds are in the City of Poughkeepsie there should be ample street parking within a block or two of the site. Be alert for alternate side parking signs.

What Should I Do When I Arrive?

Look for the volunteer host on duty and sign in. If you have not previously completed a liability waiver for the current build season, you will be asked to do so. Team leaders will be wearing distinctive name badges to identify themselves.

Do I Have to Sign the Liability Waiver?

Yes. Habitat for Humanity International requires that every volunteer, without exception, must sign a liability waiver. The form covers the entire build season so that you need sign only one waiver even though you volunteer on multiple days.

Who Is In Charge on the Work Site?

The Build Captain manages all activities on the work site. She/ He decides what happens and when. She is assisted by crew leaders, who are there to help manage the day's work and answer any questions you may have.

What Should I Wear?

Expect to get dirty, so dress in suitable work clothing, including work gloves and comfortable work boots (you will be on your feet most of the day). Also dress appropriately for the weather. Even once the buildings are sealed, they are rarely heated. So during the winter months, dress in multiple warm layers. In the summer Month you are strongly encouraged to wear sunscreen. You must wear safety goggles, hard hats and gloves Habitat will provide them or you may wear your own.

What Work Will I Be Doing?

That depends on the stage of construction and the progress of the work, both of which are unpredictable. What we can promise you is that the work you will be asked to perform will be well within your abilities. It may be something you know how to do already, or it may be a new skill that we teach you.

How Hard Will the Work Be?

In terms of expertise, not hard at all. The work is managed so that it can be performed by volunteers without any previous knowledge of or experience in home construction. In terms of exertion, construction work can be physically demanding, and you should expect to be on your feet for extended periods of time. However, in no case will a volunteer be asked to perform a task that makes him or her uncomfortable.

Do I Need to Bring My Own Tools?

No. All tools and safety equipment (goggles, hard hats, etc.) will be provided. If you prefer to use your own tools, you may bring them. In that case, to avoid confusion, please be sure to label them with your name. Habitat is not liable for loss or damage to personal items.

What About Lunch?

Habitat Hosts will provide snacks and a nutritious meal prepared by local churches. If you have specific dietary need you should bring your own lunch. Water will be provided throughout the day.

Do We Work Rain or Shine?

Whether or not rain cancels a build day depends on the work that needs to be performed. We will put a notice on face book if weather might affect your build day. In the event of a cancellation due to weather or any other reason, we will notify you as soon as possible by email or telephone. You will be contacted only in the event of a cancellation. If you hear nothing, the work day is on. In general, until the roofs go up, rain is a threat. Once the buildings are sealed, however, the work proceeds rain or shine.

What Should I Do If an Emergency Prevents Me from Showing Up?

Please let us know as soon as you can. Volunteers are scheduled so that the work that needs to get done can get done. If people who are scheduled don't show up and the scheduled work doesn't get done, that failure can have implications for the entire build schedule. So please do the best you can to be there; and if you simply can't, let us know as soon as possible.

Can Teens Volunteer?

Because of insurance requirements and to help maintain a safe work environment, construction volunteers must be at least sixteen years old. Teens (16–17) may volunteer provided that they obtain parental consent in the form of a notarized waiver signed by both parents or custodial parent.

Can I Volunteer with My Friends?

We encourage people to volunteer in groups because of the great camaraderie that groups of friends bring to the work site. You can be a part of as many groups as you like. For example, you can volunteer with coworkers, as part of a church group, and with your bowling league. Just contact Volunteer Coordinator Adele Mauriello at volunteer.coordinator@habitatdutchess.org

Who Should I Call If I Have a Question?

Volunteer Coordinator Adele Mauriello at volunteer.coordinator@habitatdutchess.org