

What to Expect: Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity

Welcome!

Thank you for volunteering with Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, believing in our mission of building homes and hope, and supporting one important vision: ending substandard housing in our community. Here are some important next steps and things to know about your upcoming volunteer day.

Please note, to do our part to help protect the health of you, our team, and our community, we're following all guidelines and recommendations. Here are a few things you need to know before volunteering. Please read this entire guide carefully.

What can I expect during a typical work day?

Before Volunteering | If you are not feeling well or have a temperature of 100.4 or higher, please stay home. Call 330-312-3419 to cancel. Leave a message if no one answers.

8:00 – 8:15 a.m. | Worksite check-in runs from 8 to 8:15 a.m. Please wait in your car if you arrive at the worksite before then.

8:15 a.m. | Welcome and safety talk.

8:30 a.m. | The work day begins.

10:00 a.m. | Short break.

12:00 p.m. | Lunch break. Individual volunteers should bring their own lunch. Group lunches must be individually boxed or bagged.

2:30 p.m. | The work day ends. Based on the speed of volunteers, the work day may end earlier.

What should I wear?

You should wear appropriate clothing for the weather and the task. You could get hot, cold, sweaty, dirty, dusty, and your clothes may get torn or stained. Your feet need to be protected, so closed toed shoes are required—sandals are not permitted. If your task is roofing, you must wear long-sleeved shirts and pants. No matter what, shirts must be worn at all times.

What should I bring?

A Face Mask | You will be required to wear a mask on Habitat worksites. If you do not have one, one will be provided.

Water or Coffee | There will be water provided on the site, but bringing your own water is always a good idea. It is very important to stay hydrated on hot summer days. Please feel free to bring additional beverages with you to the worksite, such as coffee or electrolyte replenishing drinks.

Hat and Sunscreen | If you will be working outside, you'll need to protect your neck and face from sunburn. Bring a hat and/or sunscreen.

Bandana | A bandana is great for wiping sweat from your face or soaking in water to help cool you down.

Gloves, Tool Belt, and Nail Apron | Habitat has a limited number of these items available, so if you have your own, please bring them.

Personal Tools | Habitat will provide all volunteers with their own set of personal hand tools to use for the day to limit sharing equipment. However, feel free to bring your own tools such as a hammer, tape measure, carpenter's pencil, utility knife, or speed square. Please do not bring power tools. Make sure to label all your tools and keep them with you at all times.

A Positive Attitude | Plan on having fun while putting in a hard day's work. Remember why you're volunteering—to build a quality home with a hardworking family in need.

Worksite Courtesy and Safety

Smoking | There is NO SMOKING on any Habitat volunteer site. If you must take a smoking break, please step away from the site.

Safety First | We're not in a hurry. We'll take the appropriate time we need to build the house as carefully as if it were our own, with the best craftsmanship possible and in compliance with all applicable codes. We will be encouraging our volunteers to take breaks as needed throughout the day to ensure the safety and health of everyone on site.

Cleanliness | Handwashing stations and hand sanitizer will be provided. Surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day.

Pay Attention | The best way to ensure safety for all workers is to be aware of your surroundings, at all times. You need to look out for your fellow volunteers like they are looking out for you. If you see a potentially dangerous situation, let the Project Manager know immediately. It's also important to pay attention to the safety talk given at the beginning of your work day.

Protect Yourself | It is for your safety to wear any safety equipment provided to you by Habitat. This will depend on the scope of work for the day. You will be required to wear eye protection, a mask and a hard hat at all times. If you have your own hard hat, safety glasses, or mask, feel free to bring that with you. Pants and long-sleeved shirts are necessary when insulating. If working outside, remember to protect yourself from the sun.

Follow the Project Manager | On each job site, the Project Manager is the boss. There may be other ways to perform a specific task, but we do things the Habitat way. Once the Project Manager makes a decision, please follow his/her directions.

Respect | Please show respect to the building and environment with which you are working. Please take care of the tools and return them to the proper place when finished. We do our best to conserve building materials, and we ask that you do the same. Respect your fellow volunteers. Work together, especially when cleaning up for the day, picking up trash, and securing materials and tools.

Learn | Most people that volunteer with Habitat are learning on the job. It is a great experience when you learn something new and are able to teach someone else. Learn as much as you can during your volunteer experience. You'll be amazed at the new things you'll learn!

Questions?

Let us help! If there's something you're wondering about that we haven't covered, give our Community Outreach team a call at 330-915-5888.

Thank you for building homes, communities, and hope with Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio! "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."