



Charleston Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, Christian-based housing, ministry open to ALL people. We seek to eliminate poverty housing by providing affordable homeownership opportunities for working families in Charleston and North Charleston.

We are building 6 more homes this year and starting our rehabilitation program as well. It takes over 2,000 volunteer hours to build just ONE house.

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and we couldn't do it without you, so THANK YOU for giving us your time and love to help fund homes for people in need.



## WHAT TO EXPECT: Construction Volunteer FAQ

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**When can I volunteer and how long am I expected to volunteer?**

**Can I come for part of the day?**

- We usually build Wednesday - Saturday from 8:30am - 4:00pm.
- You may volunteer for a full day or half a day: Morning shift is 8:30am-12:00pm and Afternoon shift is 12:30pm - 4:00pm.
- Please be ON TIME! Volunteers must go through a short orientation before beginning construction.
- Lunch takes place from 12:00 - 12:30. It is sometimes provided by sponsors for those who work the whole day. Please plan to bring your own lunch unless otherwise notified.

**Do I need construction experience to volunteer with Habitat?**

- No! All skill levels welcome! Skilled volunteers may help teach those with less experience.
- Trained staff and volunteers will help you along the way.
- All we ask is for a willing attitude and a desire to help.
- Please note that construction is a physical task and you should be comfortable being on your feet for extended periods of time.

**Where is the construction site located?**

- Construction takes place in downtown Charleston, North Charleston, and West Ashley.
- Construction sites can be found on the website: [www.charlestonhabitat.org](http://www.charlestonhabitat.org)
- Register as a volunteer on the website to receive updates on new build projects.
- Parking is always available either on-street or at a nearby lot.

**What should I wear?**

- Closed-toe shoes, preferably with a hard toe covering. Tennis shoes are acceptable. Sandals or flip flops are NOT acceptable. You will not be able to work without proper and safe shoes.
- Loose and light clothing. Dress according to weather.
- No short shorts or revealing tops. Please use your discretion and sound judgment.

**How do we handle Lunch?**

- Unless notified, volunteers should plan to bring their own lunch or bring money to purchase lunch at a nearby restaurant or fast food location.
- Coolers will be available upon request to store lunches in, please label your lunch!

**What do I need to bring with me?**

- We have all necessary tools, but if you have a favorite hand tool, you are welcome to bring it.
- Buggy spray

- Sunscreen and a hat
- Please leave cell phones at home or in your car. They are not to be used on the work site. Construction staff will have phones if you need to make a call.

#### **What will I be doing as a construction volunteer?**

- Volunteers work on the building needs as determined by construction phase and the Construction Team.
- You may contact the volunteer coordinator within a week or your scheduled volunteer date, and an estimate of the day's tasks may be given.
- Please remember that what we ask of you is necessary to accomplish our goal and come with a willingness to try new things!

#### **How old do I have to be to volunteer?**

- All ages 18 and up are welcome with no restrictions
- Young volunteers (ages 14-17) must bring a liability waiver **signed by a parent or legal guardian**. No one under 14 may volunteer on the construction site.
- Youth ages 16 and 17 may perform general construction work, but may not engage in activities that involve the use of power tools, motor vehicles, demolition, excavation operations, roofing or working from a height of six feet or more.
- Youth ages 14 to 15 are welcome however federal regulations prohibit them from working general construction. They may engage in activities limited to landscaping, clearing lots, clean-up and painting. They must also be accompanied by an adult 25 years of age or older.

#### **Do we work in the rain/snow?**

- Often, yes! Even if it is raining, there is usually indoor work that can be done.
- We will do our best to contact you if we will not be on site. You may contact the Volunteer Coordinator on the day of build if you are not certain if you should come due to weather.

#### **Is this a smoke free work site?**

- Smoking is allowed in designated smoking areas only, and please dispose of ALL cigarette butts in trash cans

Any additional questions may be directed to Laurel Prichard, Volunteer Coordinator at 843-722-7145 or [laurel@charlestonhabitat.org](mailto:laurel@charlestonhabitat.org)

#### **Can I sign up a group of people to volunteer together?**

- Yes! Ideal group sizes usually run between 10-15; however, we will do our best to make special arrangements for groups of smaller or larger size
- Scheduling takes place 1-2 months ahead of time. Saturdays naturally fill up the fastest, so keep in mind there is a greater need on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Groups may schedule a full build day from 8:30am-3:30pm or a half build day from 8:30am-12:00pm or 12:30pm – 3:30pm.
- Building on the construction site is a great team activity and makes a huge impact – it actually makes our mission of affordable homeownership possible!
- Please contact Volunteer Coordinator with your proposed dates, group size, and shift times, and we will proceed with scheduling from there.
- Groups are also encouraged to be square-foot sponsors. The cost to build one-square foot of an average Charleston Habitat home is \$54.00. Ask your supervisors at work to see if they have a matching grant in place already. Youth groups may write letters to family and friends asking them to sponsor a square foot in honor of their volunteerism. Groups can also hold a fundraising event prior to volunteering. Square-foot sponsors will sign their name to the subfloor of the house when they come to volunteer. This is not required to volunteer, but we certainly hope you will consider this needed contribution.