

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Hours: Please plan to work the entire time as noted on your confirmation email. A timely arrival is important, as a Habitat representative will provide task instructions and safety guidelines to begin the day.

Weather: Unless you hear otherwise from a Habitat staff member (typically via email), plan to volunteer rain or shine. The Site Supervisor will determine whether to proceed with or cancel the volunteer opportunity. Habitat construction teams can at times adjust work tasks to accommodate for inclement weather. Homes are heated during the winter.

Type of Work: Volunteers work on nearly all phases of construction. Plan to perform the task listed in your confirmation email. However, be aware that build schedules are often adjusted. Be sure to check your email prior to your volunteer date for any updates. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and flexibility!

“Release of Liability” Waiver Form: All volunteers are required to submit one completed “Release of Liability” waiver form each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). You should have been prompted to read and electronically sign this waiver while registering through Habitat Milwaukee’s volunteer portal. If you did not register through our online system, you must complete and submit a hardcopy (available at the jobsite.)

Age Restrictions: The minimum age to volunteer on a Habitat construction site is 16; no one under 16 is permitted on the job site while work is being done. Task restrictions for 16 & 17 year old volunteers include: prohibited use of power tools; work at heights 6 feet and above; participation in any potentially hazardous activity (ex. demolition).

16 & 17 year old volunteers are required to submit a waiver signed by either a parent or legal guardian. Waivers will be present at the site for parents or legal guardians to sign or please email bvangorp@milwaukeehabitat.org for a copy of the form.

Clothing: Wear comfortable work clothes and shoes that you don’t mind getting paint or dirt on. Work boots or athletic tennis shoes are required.

Tools: If you are assigned to a task other than painting, it is helpful if volunteers can bring hand tools like a hammer, tape measure, pencil, utility knife, work gloves and nail apron. However, Milwaukee Habitat will have a supply of basic tools and safety equipment at the job site. Volunteers who have their own hard hats and safety glasses may wish to bring them during framing and siding stages. Knee pads or garden kneeling pads can increase comfort during some framing, finishing and flooring tasks. Please label all personal tools with your name.

Community Service: Please email bvangorp@milwaukeehabitat.org for a copy of the community service form to bring with you to the job site if you will need a letter verifying your volunteer hours.

Lunch & Water: Water is provided on site. We encourage volunteers to bring a water bottle to re-fill. Except during special build weeks (which will be noted in the confirmation and reminder emails), lunch is generally not provided. Volunteers can go off-site for lunch, bring bagged lunches, or arrange for food delivery. We ask that volunteers generally take no more than 45 minutes for lunch.

Parking & Valuables: In an effort to be environmentally friendly, we encourage carpooling! On-street parking is available and we request that you be mindful of any neighbors and do not park in front of driveway entrances. Be sure to lock your cars and keep valuables at home or out of sight.

Additional Questions:

Beth Van Gorp – Director of Volunteers Services, [414-316-5615](tel:414-316-5615)/bvangorp@milwaukeehabitat.org