

## General Information for Construction Volunteers

First and foremost, thank you for your interest in volunteering with Habitat for Humanity! We are delighted that you have taken this step to learn more about how you can support us as we partner with people from all walks of life to provide low-income families new hope in the form of simple, decent, affordable housing.

The ultimate purpose of Habitat for Humanity is to make poverty housing and homelessness become socially, politically, and religiously unacceptable in today's world. It is our hope that you will join us in this spirit of partnership and that your efforts with Habitat for Humanity will prove enjoyable and fulfilling. Since Habitat for Humanity is a volunteer-driven organization, we rely on volunteers like you to help families in need realize the dream of owning a decent, affordable home. From working on our construction sites, running our committees, and helping in our ReStore, volunteers greatly impact every facet of our organization.

- Safety is our primary concern! Become familiar with the worksite and be aware of the terrain, equipment, and materials on site.
- Please call our Volunteer Information line at **304-720-4470** for the latest on our construction activity, the day's work site and possible weather concerns.
- We begin our workday at 8:00 am. Please be prepared to start promptly. There is a break at 10:00 am; lunch is from 12:00 until 12:30 and an afternoon break at 2:00.
- Cleanup begins at 3:30 and work is over 4:00.
- Ask the site supervisor if you are unsure or concerned about a situation or procedure.
- Report unsafe behavior to the supervisor, before a serious problem occurs.
- Report any and all injuries to the site supervisor, no matter the severity. Each supervisor has a first aid kit available.
- Many, many tasks are required to build a house. You may be busy at times and be waiting at other times. If you are serious about volunteering, be ready to accept any tasks that you are capable of doing. Trenches need dug and debris needs cleaned up. Every task is important to the completion of the house!
- Each site will be supplied with a Port-a-John. Normally toilet paper is available, but no promises are made.
- If you have idle time, keep well back from construction activity but be available if needed.

Please plan to help us clean up the site at the end of the day

## Before the Build – What to Bring

### **Release and Liability Wavier**

All new volunteers must sign a waiver. If you do not have a waiver call the office (304-720-0141). The office must have the waiver on file. You can either bring it along with you to the construction site or send it to the office in advance of your volunteer date. The Release and Liability waivers are good for one year.

### **Clothing**

What to wear? Habitat builds in rain, snow or shine so dress for the weather and wear layers that you can add/remove. Loose, comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting dirty is recommended. In the summer, sunscreen is highly recommended and it is a good idea to wear long pants to minimize splinters and scrapes. Work boots are preferable to sneakers. Nails and sharp objects can penetrate rubber soles. Sandals, flip-flops and crocs are prohibited, no exceptions! Dust and dirt at the site make glasses preferable to contact lenses. There may be no place to wash or re-insert contacts. Glasses also provide some measure of eye protection. We recommend safety glasses. We cannot always provide work gloves. If you need them, please bring a pair.

### **Meals**

Water is provided and available throughout the day. Lunch is from 12 – 12:30 and is not provided. If you know of a group that would like to get involved in providing donated lunches, ask them to call 304-720-0141.

### **Tools**

Habitat provides all of the tools needed. If you would like to bring your own, please mark them and keep track of them. Most helpful are tape measures (25'), utility knives, tool belts and carpenter pencils.

### **Illegal drugs, alcohol, etc.**

These are not permitted on the build site whatsoever. Anyone under the influence of such substances will be asked to leave immediately.

### **Valuables**

There is no safe place to store personal belongings; please leave valuables at home. Habitat is not responsible for volunteer possessions on site. Please be careful with what you bring to the build – label everything to prevent losing personal property.