

CONSTRUCTION VOLUNTEER FAQs

What if I have never done any construction work before?

All we require is that you be willing to learn. Don't be afraid to ask questions! We're happy to teach you!

What time should I get to the construction site?

A Habitat work day starts very promptly at 8:00am. You should arrive at least 15 minutes early on your first day to register, and a few minutes early on other days to settle in. The day is over by 3:30. Unless you make special arrangements, we ask that you arrive on time and work the whole day.

Who do I report to?

Start your day at the registration table to sign in. New volunteers must fill in a waiver form and make a nametag. All volunteers sign in for the day. At 8:00, the Site Supervisor will go over site and tool safety, and then assign the volunteers to teams for specific tasks. New volunteers will always be assigned to work with someone who can show them what to do. With many volunteers each day, it may take time to gather materials or show you your task. Please be patient with our process.

What if it rains?

We only cancel work for extreme weather, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Depending on the time of year, rain gear, layers, coats, sunhats, or sunblock may be needed. If you are in doubt about the weather, check our Facebook page to see if we have cancelled work for the day, or call our bad weather hotline: 508-362-3559 ext. 3. You are not obligated to work in weather that makes you feel uncomfortable.

What work will I be doing?

The tasks for the day range from framing walls, installing sidewall shingles, setting windows and doors, installing flooring or interior trim, and painting. If at any time, you are uncomfortable with your task, you may ask to do something else. There are always ways to help at a construction site.

What tools should I bring?

We have all the tools that are needed at the site. Bringing your own work gloves and pencil can be particularly helpful, however. If you happen to have other tools that you like to use, by all means bring them, but be sure to label them with your name.

What will I eat?

Please bring your own lunch. Habitat volunteers will provide a snack for the mid-morning break, and there will be coffee and water available.

What should I wear?

Closed-toe shoes are required. Sneakers are OK, work shoes are even better. No one will be allowed to work in open-toe shoes. Please don't wear scarves or jewelry that dangles – or any baggy clothing that might catch in a machine. Other than that, wear common-sense clothing that can get dirty.

Can youth volunteer?

Anyone under 18 must have their waiver pre-signed by a parent or guardian, and will not be allowed to use power tools or work at a height above 8 feet. 14- and 15-year-olds can only work on landscaping, painting, or general clean-up work. No one under 14 is allowed on a construction site.

The most important things to know...

We value safety above all, and then quality, over speed. And we want you to relax and have fun!

Have more questions? Contact Tara Cronin at 508-362-3559 ext. 16 or tara@habitatcapecod.org