



Volunteer Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I do to help?

Some ways that you can help Habitat for Humanity are:

- Make a tax deductible donation to your local Affiliate or Chapter
- Participate in Habitat for Humanity Manitoba fundraising events
- Make a planned gift
- Volunteer your time

Volunteer Requirements:

In order to register as a volunteer, you will need to:

- Be 16 years of age or older
- Commit to a minimum of one day of building with Habitat
- Complete the required orientation and safety training
- Be able to follow instructions independently
- Have the ability to climb stairs comfortably
- Use conversational English

What volunteer roles are available?

There are many different roles offered within the Habitat affiliates with our most common being our construction volunteers.

- **Construction Volunteers:** Donate your time to building a home for someone who needs. Typical onsite construction varies by the home's stage of completion. Tasks can include framing, flooring, sheeting, door/window installation, wrapping, siding, sidewalk development, rigid insulation and shed creation and on the ground roof preparations. No prior skills are needed as volunteers are trained on site.
- **Group Volunteers:** Your group can partner with Habitat for an exceptional team building opportunity in order to create a safe place for our families to live. Typical onsite construction includes framing, flooring, sheeting, door/window installation, wrapping, siding, sidewalk development, shed creation and on the ground roof preparations. No prior skills are needed as volunteers are trained on site.
- **Handy Man Volunteers:** Our handy folk help with remote jobs such as carpentry, millwork, electrical, plumbing, painting, general labour, interior and exterior repairs and installations. We are looking for people with trade backgrounds or those who are all around handy when it comes to repairs. Let us know your availability and we will work out a schedule for you.
- **Event Volunteers:** Habitat holds various events throughout the year in order to raise awareness and fundraise for our goal of eliminating substandard housing in our community. Some of our events include : the Holes for Homes Golf Tournament, the Amazing Foot Rally, the Prairie Fashion Show, Ride Around the Lake, Cycle of Hope and more. Volunteers are a huge help to us at these events and they help with a

multitude of tasks such as greeting guests, assisting with auction items, taking tickets and set-up and tear down.

- **Administration Volunteers:** Sometimes we need assistance within the office to ensure operations are running smoothly. Positions can include database management, inventory, special event preparation and other office tasks as required.
- **Committee Volunteers:** Through a variety of committees and task forces, volunteers help to carry out Habitats mission and business plan for creating a place for families to thrive and our community to prosper.
- **ReStore Volunteers:** Shopping has never been as easy as at our Habitat ReStore. A place for you to find discounted items to use for home or remodeling purposes. Volunteer positions are limited at the store as they are quite coveted, but when available they include, general maintenance, merchandising and customer services roles.

When do you recruit for volunteers?

Active volunteer recruitment takes place annually from February – October yearly as that is when the majority of our volunteer positions are available.

What kind of volunteers are you looking for?

We actively seek people who enjoy giving back to Manitobans; those who want to help make a difference; those who are friendly and interested in learning new skills; people who are excited to contribute to the betterment of our community.

How can I register to become a volunteer?

Volunteer applications are accepted online at <http://habitatmbca.volunteerhub.com>
New applicants will need to click on “Sign In” then follow the prompts to register.

Group Information: For details on our group volunteering options visit <http://www.habitat.mb.ca/get-adoptaday.cfm>, or contact Susan Buffie, Manager, Sponsorship Development at sbuffie@habitat.mb.ca.

I've registered online, does that mean I am a volunteer?

Registering online is the first step to becoming a volunteer. From here we will require you to confirm your email address, participate in quick online volunteer interview, and complete our mandatory safety online orientation training.

Group Information: For details on our group volunteering options visit <http://www.habitat.mb.ca/get-adoptaday.cfm>, or contact Susan Buffie, Manager, Sponsorship Development at sbuffie@habitat.mb.ca.

How will I know if I have been successful in becoming a volunteer?

Once you sign up to be a volunteer, you will need to complete your safety training and you will be contacted to sign a liability waiver which you can return via email or on site to the Safety Coordinator.

Am I required to attend any orientations or trainings before volunteering with Habitat?

Yes. All volunteers will be required to read the Volunteer Handbook, finish the volunteer orientation and complete the required Safety Trainings.

Do I have to sign up to volunteer, or can I just show up?

We require all volunteers to sign up for their shift online at <http://habitatmbca.volunteerhub.com> in order for us to track the number of volunteers on each site for safety and leader to volunteer ratio reasons.

There are no volunteer shifts available, when can I sign up for different events?

We build on a rolling basis between February and October yearly. If you do not see any opportunities posted, please check back soon.

Is there a time commitment to volunteering with Habitat?

We ask that volunteers who sign up to build stay for the duration of their shift (*approx. 8 hours*) from 8:15 am – 4:30 pm. Volunteers will be provided with a break so they are encouraged to bring a lunch or find a place nearby to purchase food from. Adopt a Day Volunteers will be provided a lunch on site.

How old do I have to be to volunteer with Habitat?

All volunteers must be 16 years of age or older and will require a permission/consent waiver to be filled out prior to their volunteer experience. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteercoordinator@habitat.mb.ca for the required documentation.

If I am between the ages of 16 – 18, do I have to volunteer with an adult?

An adult does not need to be onsite, but we do require a permission/consent waiver to be filled out prior to their volunteer experience. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteercoordinator@habitat.mb.ca for the required documentation.

I have a grade school interested in volunteering for Habitat, how can they become involved?

Unfortunately, we do not have site volunteer opportunities available for grade schools. We do however have great resources available for school aged children who want to learn more about Habitat and our mission. Please visit <http://www.habitat.mb.ca/get-school.cfm> or contact Vernelle Mirosh, Director of Fund Development at vmirosh@habitat.mb.ca.

Are there any evening or weekend opportunities for those who work during the days?

Whereas the majority of our opportunities take place Monday to Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm there may be the odd time where we rely on volunteer support to assist with event implementation.

I have a required amount of volunteer hours I need to complete; can this be verified at the end?

Yes, please bring your hours' confirmation sheet with you to the build site as the site supervisor will happily sign off on the work you have completed.

Can I volunteer if I require a support worker to assist me?

There are opportunities in the Habitat Re-Store available for individuals who require a support worker.

Can I volunteer in order to be considered for the Habitat Housing program?

You may certainly volunteer for Habitat, but the hours you donate would not count toward the housing program until you are accepted into the program. You can find the housing qualifications here <http://www.habitat.mb.ca/ownership-process.cfm> or contact Brenda Friesen the Manager of Family selection and Support at bfriesen@habitat.mb.ca.

I am interested in donating food or craft services to a build site, how would I go about doing so?

We gladly accept any food donations during our build season. If you are interested in supplying food for our dedicated volunteer teams, please contact Samantha MacDonald our Food Coordinator at smacdonald@habitat.mb.ca to make arrangements.

BUILD VOLUNTEERS

What can I expect as a volunteer?

Typical onsite construction includes framing, flooring, sheeting, door/window installation, wrapping, siding, sidewalk development, shed creation and roof work. No prior skills are needed as volunteers are trained on site.

What kind of volunteers are needed on a build site?

Volunteers must have the following abilities to work on our construction sites:

- Have a willingness to learn new skills
- Be able to follow instructions of our Site Supervisor independently
- Ability to climb stairs comfortably
- Adequate vision to do detailed work
- Use of conversational English
- Ability to lift and carry at least 15 pounds

How many volunteers do you typically need on a site during the day?

Typically, we average about 10 – 15 volunteers on site daily.

I don't have any construction experience, can I still volunteer?

You do not require any previous construction skills to help out at Habitat as there will be training provided on site.

Am I required to attend any orientations or trainings before volunteering with Habitat?

Yes. All volunteers will be required to read the Volunteer Handbook, finish the volunteer orientation and complete the required Safety Trainings.

Do I need to provide my own tools when I come to volunteer?

It is not required that you bring your own tools as we will have the materials on site needed to fulfill your volunteer role. If you have your own pair of gloves or wish to bring your own tools please make sure to label your items prior to arriving on site.

What type of safety gear should I bring with me to a build?

We will provide you with the designated Personal Protective Equipment needed onsite such as steel toe boots, hard hats and safety glasses. If you have your own PPE and would prefer to use it, please bring it along.

Is there a dress code for when I volunteer?

Mandatory safety boots (CSA approved) and hard hats are required at all times on site. Volunteers should be prepared to work outdoors and in different climates. Layers may be required depending on temperatures.

Acceptable: T-Shirt or long Sleeve form fitting and not too baggy. Pants are preferred, however if shorts are worn, they should be no higher than 5 inches above the knee.

Unacceptable: Tank Tops, shirts with bare backs or no sleeves. Excessively baggy pants, skirts or short shorts are not acceptable.

Do you cancel for inclement weather?

If the weather is bad, the site supervisor will decide on an alternative project for the day. In extreme cases cancellation may occur.

GROUP VOLUNTEERING

How can groups volunteer for Habitat for Humanity?

For details on our group volunteering options visit <http://www.habitat.mb.ca/get-adoptaday.cfm>, or contact Susan Buffie, Manager, Sponsorship Development at sbuffie@habitat.mb.ca.

Why do we need to delegate a group lead if we want to volunteer together?

Your group must delegate one person to be the group lead who will be with us during the build. This is so we can communicate with that person any pertinent information leading up to and during the build.

Is my group required to bring their own tools?

It is not required that you bring your own tools as we will have the materials on site needed to fulfill your volunteer role. If you wish to bring your own you are more than welcome, please make sure to label them.

What will my group be doing onsite?

Typical onsite construction includes framing, flooring, sheeting, door/window installation, wrapping, siding, sidewalk development, shed creation and roof work. No prior skills are needed as volunteers are trained on site.

Does my group need to go through any prior orientation before coming to our build?

Yes. All volunteers will be required to read the Volunteer Handbook, finish the volunteer orientation and complete the required Safety Trainings. Your group lead will be contacted should members of your team fail to comply with our safety trainings.

What should our group wear while onsite?

Mandatory safety boots (CSA approved) and hard hats are required at all times on site. Volunteers should be prepared to work outdoors and in different climates. Layers may be required depending on temperatures.

Acceptable: T-Shirt or long Sleeve form fitting and not too baggy. Pants are preferred, however if shorts are worn, they should be no higher than 5 inches above the knee.

Unacceptable: Tank Tops, shirts with bare backs or no sleeves. Excessively baggy pants, skirts or short shorts are not acceptable.