

Construction Volunteer FAQs

Habitat for Humanity takes a lot of helping hands. Over 1,000 individuals volunteer with Habitat each year **in Pierce County alone!** Thank you for dedicating your time helping us provide affordable homeownership opportunities in our community.

Please carefully read both the information below and the information on the Volunteer Hub link you were sent.

While general information is in both places, the link you were sent has important specifics such as location, parking, and itinerary.



the basics:

- Group volunteer commitments are for a single day only (8:30am-3:30pm unless other arrangements are made).
- Volunteers must be 16 or older. Under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian at the ratio of 5 youth to 1 adult. Volunteers under age 18 should also print out their waiver when prompted to do so and bring it, signed by a parent or guardian, the first time they volunteer.
- All volunteers must pass a Washington State background check and check of the National Sex Offender Registry. Habitat will run the background check once a volunteer signs up on Volunteer Hub. You do not need to have one done in advance.

Do we need construction skills to volunteer?

Absolutely not! Habitat's construction team is highly trained to work with unskilled volunteers and will be with you every step of the way, showing you how to do each task safely and correctly.

Do we bring our own tools?

We suggest that you **DO NOT bring tools**, even if you have them. We have all of the tools and PPE you will need. If you do bring your own tools, please make sure they are marked and in your possession at all times.

What do we wear?

- Work boots or hiking boots are strongly recommended. Sturdy sneakers with a thick sole are ok, but not ideal. **Absolutely no open-toed shoes, sandals, etc.** The thicker the sole and sturdier the shoe the better.
- Long pants that cover the entire leg. **Absolutely no shorts or capris.** Carhartts or jeans are best. Do not leave skin exposed between the bottom of your pants and the top of your shoes.
- Shirts that cover shoulders (no tank tops or sleeveless shirts). Short sleeve t-shirts are fine.

No open toed shoes



Pants below ankles required



No sleeveless shirts



Anyone not dressed appropriately may be asked to leave.

What if someone has physical limitations?

Volunteers are not expected to do any task that makes them uncomfortable. Tasks are usually available for different comfort levels and abilities. However, people with severely limited mobility may not be comfortable navigating the construction site terrain.



Where will we be working?

In 2025, new construction work will be at either the Proctor Triplex in South Tacoma or American Lake Townhomes in the Lakewood neighborhood of Tillicum. Home Renovation work will be at scattered single family home sites, most of which are in Spanaway.

What will we be doing?

Volunteers in New Construction perform all tasks related to home building *except* concrete flatwork, drywall, electrical, and plumbing. Volunteers in Home Renovation can expect to work on demolition/deconstruction (removing old cabinetry, appliances, flooring, etc.), drywall repair, cabinet installation, flooring, interior trim, painting, cleaning, or landscaping.

In most cases we are unable to provide advance information on specific tasks for the day. Volunteers arrive with the understanding that we will place them on the most crucial tasks at the time, all of which are necessary to our construction timelines.

Does everyone need to sign up online? Can't I just register my whole team?

Part of the online registration process includes signing a waiver, which each individual must do themselves. Online sign up also ensures that every volunteer is aware of basic safety information, what to wear, and the day's itinerary, and it provides our team a headcount to more accurately plan workloads.

Can I bring my children (younger than 16) as long as they don't volunteer?

Unfortunately, no. Federal laws prohibit anyone under the age of 16 from being on an active construction site. Please ask us about A Brush with Kindness volunteer opportunities suitable for volunteers as young as 12 years old.

What about COVID-19?

Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity's first and foremost objective is to ensure a safe volunteer environment. All of our operations, including our construction sites and retail Stores, continue to follow the latest CDC and State guidance around COVID-19.

Other questions?

Please reach out to us at volunteer@tpc-habitat.org | 253-627-5626 x 104.