

Construction Volunteer Guidelines

Volunteering with Habitat is fun! No construction experience is required and no one is asked to do anything they're uncomfortable doing.



What to Wear

- Close-toed shoes*
- Comfortable clothes that can get dirty
- Dress for the weather and wear layers
- Glasses/sunglasses as appropriate

* Volunteers without proper footwear will be sent home

What to Bring

- Sunscreen as appropriate
- Reusable water containers
- Work gloves (optional)

Habitat provides all the needed tools

Before you arrive at the build site: All volunteers are required to complete the annual online waiver ([link to waiver](#))

The Build Day

- 8:30 am – Noon (morning shift)
- Noon – 1 pm (lunch break - Habitat does not provide lunch)
- 1:00 – 4:30 pm (afternoon shift)

Please arrive 10 minutes before your shift and check in with the Site Host when you arrive.

Group Size

Volunteer groups are capped at 8 people per shift. Volunteers may work for a full day or a half day.

Health & Safety

- Please follow general health practices and stay home if you feel sick or have been exposed.
- Let the construction staff know if you have a medical condition that they should be aware of, such as allergies, asthma, heart problems, etc.
- A first aid kit is on every site.
- In the event of an emergency, please notify the construction staff immediately.
- Restroom facilities and a handwashing station are on every site.
- If you do not feel comfortable doing a task, please let us know.
- Additional safety precautions may be implemented as needed and will be communicated prior to groups arriving onsite.)

Food & Snacks

Habitat does not provide food on site. Drinking water is available. If your group wishes to bring lunch, please let the Community Engagement Manager know prior to arriving on site.

Photos

Habitat staff may take photos of your build day. We encourage you to take photos and share them via social media, provided they do not interfere with your work or safety. Be sure to tag @HFHDouglasCoMN!

Thank you for volunteering!

Your time on the build site has an impact in so many ways! You are building a stronger community, building a home where a family can grow and thrive, building relationships with other volunteers as we serve together, and building a sense of joy and accomplishment for your time. Thank you!



every volunteer

helps build a brighter future for our neighbors

Our mission:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Our vision:

A world in which everyone has a decent place to live.

Our values:

- **Humility** – Remembering that our mission is bigger than ourselves, we recognize that we always have more to learn and that success depends on others.
- **Courage** - We do what is right, even if it is difficult or unpopular, by having honest conversations, valuing diverse perspectives, and boldly acting to further Habitat's mission.
- **Accountability** - We take personal responsibility for Habitat's mission by acting with integrity, putting forth our best work, and learning from success and failure.

The Impact of Affordable Housing

Affordable homeownership helps create the conditions that free families from instability, stress, and fear, while encouraging self-reliance and confidence. Studies show that strong and stable households are foundational to child development and growth. When a home fosters health and safety, families can flourish. Owning an affordable home also allows homeowners to lift up their entire family by saving for their futures and investing in educational opportunities, bolstering job opportunities and long-term career growth.

Our programs:

- Homeownership: building or improving safe, affordable homes
- Aging in Place: affordable repairs for ages 62+ or those with a medical disability

Did you know?

- Each homeowner is selected based on established criteria of need for housing, willingness to partner, ability to pay, and live or work in Douglas County for at least one year.
- Habitat homeowners help build their own homes investing 200 hours of sweat equity alongside volunteers then purchase the home with an affordable mortgage.
- The value of each home is determined by a third-party appraiser and the home is sold at Fair Market Value to the homeowner(s). Through various loan programs and partnerships, Habitat structures an affordable mortgage.
- Affordable housing has no adverse effect on the neighborhood property values.
- Habitat becomes the lender/bank after closing, we are not a landlord. We remain a source of support and information and offer help as needed or when requested, such as communicating important reminders like filing for property tax refunds.
- The ReStore is a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center that sells donated building materials, furniture, and appliances. Profits support the construction of affordable housing in Douglas County.

What home means to people in need of better shelter:



- A **roof**, without leaks or holes, **that keeps everyone warm.**
- A **working kitchen** with appliances that don't cost a small fortune to use.
- A **safe place for children** to play.
- A **strong foundation** that stands the test of time.