

Volunteer FAQs

Do I have to be a certain age to volunteer?

We prefer ReStore volunteers be 14 years of age or older. You need to be 16 to be on a construction site and have your guardian sign an extra waiver if you don't have your own transportation. ALL volunteers must sign a volunteer waiver to volunteer regardless of age, position, or activity.

Can I volunteer with my friends?

Absolutely. Bring a friend, family, club, get a crew—the more the merrier!

How often do I have to volunteer?

Any gift of your time is appreciated deeply. Depending on what you're doing, that might be once a year to put on a big event, or every Thursday afternoon in the ReStore.

I have volunteered with a group in the past, but want to come back as an individual. How can I do that?

Fill out a volunteer form and we will contact you.

What do I wear to a construction site? What do I bring?

Always dress for the weather! You need sturdy shoes, water, and bag lunch (if you are staying all day or you have not been guaranteed that lunch will be provided). Bring what you need to be comfortable working. Many volunteers prefer their own tools, but we can provide everything you need (if you do bring your own tools, please label and keep track of them).

I have required hours to complete. Is there a way I can get them verified at the end?

Yes, LAHFH is approved for community service hours. Call the office and we'll get you started.

Do I have to be there the whole day?

Most of our volunteers commit to half days (4 hour shifts). Salvage and pickup projects can require a full day's commitment. Other non-construction opportunities (i.e. Family Services, special events, etc.) have flexible time commitments and varying locations.

Do you have volunteer opportunities on nights and weekends?

Sometimes. Please call our Volunteer Coordinator, Heidi Gould, at 218.454.7021 to find out or schedule a day ahead of time that works for you.

I don't have any construction experience. Can I still volunteer on site?

Yes, absolutely! We don't require any construction experience prior to volunteering. Our site supervisor is familiar with all skill levels, and all hands are useful on a build.

Do you only build houses during the warm months of the year?

No, Lakes Area Habitat actually builds houses year-round, so we need volunteers all year. Construction is subject to change with weather.

Am I required to attend Orientation before volunteering?

Not right away; volunteers are required to attend volunteer orientation, but anyone interested in getting involved can start right away and complete it at earliest convenience.

How long do Orientation sessions normally last, and when are they held?

Orientalions typically last 1/2 hour and are held in the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity office, located next to the ReStore .

Why should I volunteer?

- Make new friends, build personal contacts, develop communication skills, and share your skills with others.
- Studies show that people who volunteer live longer and hold higher levels of self-confidence. By making a difference, having fun, and feeling appreciated, it's clear to see why this finding is true.
- Build your resume: develop new job skills, hone previous qualifications and challenge yourself; all while volunteering for a great cause. Employers are more likely to hire a candidate with volunteer experience over an equally qualified candidate without volunteer experience.
- We need help creating affordable homes and responsible homeowners in our communities.

What else can I do?

- Bake treats and drop them off for volunteers
- Phone calling
- Special mailings
- Be on-call (for emergencies)
- Cook or donate food for appreciation events
- Refer a friend
- Stop in and ask! We always have things happening.