

Habitat for Humanity at the University of Michigan Group Volunteer Policies

I. Reserving a Build Day

- a. Only groups of ten or more are allowed to reserve a group build day. The maximum number of volunteers in a group depends on the amount of work available at the build site.
- b. Build days are reserved on a first come first serve basis.
- c. Your group may be paired up with another group on the work site. In addition, your group may be working with individual workers who have also volunteered with us.
- d. If you reserve a build day for your group you are expected to give an accurate estimate of the number participants at the time of reservation. A list of volunteers, including their email address, must be turned in a week prior to the scheduled build day. Failure to do so may cause the reserved build day to be cancelled. Once turned in, any changes in the list of volunteers must be sent to the Volunteer Work Coordinator as soon as possible.
- e. If you reserve a Build Day you are expected to be there for the entire day (roughly 8am-4pm). Our chapter does not have 'shifts' of volunteers.

II. Other Requirements

- a. All groups volunteering with Habitat are required to donate at least \$50 to help fund our housing projects. In return, Habitat will reimburse your group with 1 T-shirt for every \$10 donated. Typically, a Habitat home in the Ann Arbor area costs \$50,000 to build! A donation of \$50 could pay for a kitchen sink; a donation of \$100 could pay for a window or door; a donation of \$200 could pay for landscaping. Checks should be made out to "U of M Habitat for Humanity"; or, if your group is registered with SOAS, funds can be transferred from your account to Habitat's account.
- b. Prior to the build day (preferably at least 1 week in advance), your group must arrange to have a Habitat representative speak at one of your group meetings. This allows Habitat to explain how we build homes, answer any questions, and generally encourage people to volunteer.

III. Transportation

- a. Habitat for Humanity at the University of Michigan can provide some transportation through its access to vans from the Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning. However, if your group has more than 10 people you should expect to help provide transportation for your group either by providing cars or by registering as a driver with the Ginsberg Center.
- b. Habitat does not reimburse drivers for gas money.
- c. Directions to the build site are available on our website.

IV. How to Prepare Yourself for the Work Site

- a. Wear old clothes. Wear clothing you not would mind getting stained with paint or ripped.
- b. Wear durable shoes (work or hiking boots preferred). The work site is often times very slippery, it is important to have good treads. Also, strong, thick soles are important as there are a lot of nails on the ground and shoes such as sneakers puncture easily.
- c. Dress for the weather. Most likely you will either be outside or indoors without heat. Wear lots of layers.
- d. If you have your own tools you may bring them, if you don't Habitat will provide them for you. Be sure to mark your tools in the event they are misplaced.
- e. All volunteers are required to sign-in at the work site and complete a waiver of liability. The waiver will be emailed to volunteers prior to the build day.

V. Food/Water

- a. Habitat does not provide lunch.
- b. Volunteers with special dietary needs that are not readily available at most restaurants should plan on packing their own lunch.
- c. For large groups (20+) you may want to have pizza or subs delivered to the worksite. If you choose to do this, please expect to provide lunch for an additional 5-7 people outside your group (i.e. the homeowner, house leader, work coordinator...).
- d. When volunteering in Detroit, our chapter consistently visits "Los Galanes" restaurant in MexicanTown for an all you can eat buffet.
- e. Habitat will have some water on the site (it may be a block away) so it is recommended that everyone bring a water bottle with them, especially on hot days.