

How long are we expected to volunteer/can I come for part of the day?

- Volunteers are expected to be at the HFH-MC Offices no later than 8:30 a.m. for the daily orientation and safety briefing. Yes! You must attend this even if you've been onsite before. Late arrivals might be turned away.
- All volunteers must stay for the entire day. If you cannot stay for the entire day, please sign up for another day when you can stay onsite until 3:30pm.

What should I wear?

- Please remember that ALL volunteers must wear hard soled boots or shoes. Nothing with a rubber sole is allowed due to the site condition. No open toe shoes, sandals, high heels or gym shoes are permitted.
- Wear comfortable clothing that is not too baggy or revealing that can get dirty.
- **You MUST wear LONG PANTS or JEANS and hard soled shoes/boots! Your safety is paramount and you will be sent home if you are not dressed appropriately.**

Do I need construction experience to volunteer with Habitat?

- No! All skill levels are welcomed to volunteer with us! If you are skilled please help those around you.
- Trained staff and volunteers will help you along the way.
- Please note that construction is a physical task and you should be comfortable being on your feet for extended periods of time.

What about Lunch?

- Lunch takes place in the middle of the day, around 11:30 a.m.
- Unless otherwise instructed, volunteers need to bring their own lunch. We ask that you do not leave the construction site to get lunch.
- Here are some places that *should* deliver to the Gaithersburg sites: [Starvin Marvin](#) (301-963-6400) has pizzas, subs, salads, sandwiches, etc.; [Papa John's](#) Store #1434 (301-330-7272) has pizzas, wings, etc.

Do I need to bring my own tools?

- If you have hand tools/tool belt feel free to bring them, but volunteers are not required to bring their own tools.
- Please do not bring any power tools with you.
- If you lend something, ask for it back and if you borrow someone else's tool please return it.
- We recommend that you bring work gloves if you have a pair.
- Safety and protective equipment (gloves, goggles, hardhats, etc.) are available on site.
- **Please note all volunteers are required to use the appropriate safety equipment as instruction by Habitat's construction staff and Crew Leaders (including but not limited to hard hats and safety goggles).**

What will I do as a construction volunteer?

- We probably won't be able to tell you that until you have arrived onsite but there is a lot of site cleanup, metal sorting, debris pick-up, etc. that has to occur on this site before any land can be cleared.
- Please remember that we ask you come with a willingness to try new things!

Do we work in the rain/snow/heat?

- As long as it is safe and productive...YES! If the weather gets really bad, we will stop working early, or put in a half day.
- **In the event of inclement weather, please call the construction hotline at (301) 541-8356 for information regarding build day status. The hotline will be updated by 7am.**

How do I volunteer and can I volunteer more than once?

- All volunteers must pre-register. Do not just arrive at check-in and expect to build.
- Yes, you can come more than once! Please keep in mind Saturdays are often booked months in advance but we do build some days during the week.
- If you are interested in volunteering on a reoccurring basis you should consider becoming a Regular or a Crew Leader. Talk to the volunteer coordinator for more information.

What else should I know?

- Bring a water bottle. We're trying to go GREEN! We'll have water available for you to drink onsite. Remember to drink plenty of water *before, during, and after* your build.
- Smoking is allowed in designated smoking areas only.
- Refrain from using any MP3 players or headphones while working on the construction site. We recommend leaving these items at home or in your car for the duration of the day.

Please turn over!

LOST? Call (301) 910-6597

- Before you begin, you must have a valid waiver on file to volunteer with Habitat. If you have not signed a waiver, or if it has been more than a year since you have done one, you must fill one out on site.

Where is the construction site located?

- Everyone will begin and end their day at the HFH-MC offices in Gaithersburg located at **9110 Gaither Road Gaithersburg, MD 20877** (*Directions are below!*) Please come inside.
- Parking near the construction site is very limited so we will **carpool** to the construction site. Volunteers might be asked to use their personal vehicles to transport volunteers from our office parking lot to the construction site and back to the office parking lot at the end of the day.

Why aren't there more volunteer openings online? Tell me again.

- Our construction site is typically booked up three to four months in advance by groups who want a private team build. This means we have a very limited number of build opportunities for our at-large and individual volunteers on the construction site even though we build four days a week.
- Think beyond the hammer – more than 80% of our volunteers are utilized at our ReStore. When you can't get onsite, think about volunteering at ReStore instead! [Click here for more information.](#)

9110 Gaither Road Gaithersburg, MD 20877

We ask everyone to meet at the office at **8:30am** and park under the trees across from the ReStore loading dock. **DO NOT** park in the spots facing Gaither Road or the ReStore itself because those spots are reserved for ReStore shoppers! The following directions are only suggested. Please check for detours, congestion, roadwork, etc. Volunteers are responsible for legally parking their vehicles and observing parking restrictions. [Please click here to view a map of the area.](#)

The office is accessible by metro bus, but is not walking distance to a metro station. The closest station is the **Shady Grove** station. Check out www.wmata.com for information about using public transportation.

Via 270

1. Take **Exit 8** for **Shady Grove**
2. Go **EAST** on **Shady Grove Road** past the Home Depot and Best Buy shopping center
3. Turn **LEFT** onto **Gaither Road**
4. **HFH-MC** is on the **LEFT** behind the shopping center (3rd or 4th driveway)

Via 355/Frederick Road

1. From 355/Frederick Road turn **WEST** onto **Shady Grove Road**
2. Turn **RIGHT** onto **Gaither Road**
3. **HFH-MC** is on the **LEFT** behind the shopping center (3rd or 4th driveway)



Any additional questions may be directed to:
Molly Pelzer, Volunteer and Family Services Manager
(301) 990-0014 x18 or molly.pelzer@habitat-mc.org