

To: Habitat for Humanity construction volunteers
From : Carrie Bolin, Volunteer Coordinator, Grayson County Habitat for Humanity
Re: What to expect on a typical construction day

You are going to really enjoy volunteering for Habitat for Humanity of Grayson County! You'll spend a productive day working alongside first-time volunteers, seasoned regulars, and the homeowners-to-be. You'll laugh, learn, and gain new skills while making a positive impact in our community.

Our construction days are typically Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the most recently updated work schedule is always available on this website. On the "Build Info" page, just tap the "Click Here" link to see the schedule. There will be days on which we will have to suspend construction due to weather or subcontractor scheduling, but those will be as few as possible.

Work typically begins at 8:30 a.m. and finishes up around 2:30 p.m. We need all volunteers to sign in and sign out on the day's volunteer listing, because a well-documented annual total of volunteer hours allows us to be considered for some financial grants.

If you're a first time volunteer, there will be three forms to complete at the sign in table before you begin work: our Volunteer Information Form, our Safety checklist pledge, and a Liability Release for the current year. You can print the Volunteer Info Form off of this website, complete it and bring it with you.

We like to open the day in prayer around 9:00 a.m. and also share safety tips and instructions for the day's jobs. Tools and materials will be provided by Habitat, but if you have a favorite hammer or other tool that you like to use, label it with your name and bring it with you! We invite persons of all skill levels – even totally unskilled – to join in the fun. We will personally train you in construction methods, and we are absolutely committed to the safety of all participants. Because of this, we also provide hard hats, earplugs, gloves and safety goggles, and have a bright orange first aid kit on site at all times.

We work hard and fast in the first stages of construction to get the house "in the dry" as soon as possible, with the walls up, roof on, and the doors and windows installed. After that, we can work inside rather than out if the weather is bad.

Water is always provided on site for all volunteers, and we break for about a half hour around 11:30 for lunch. We ask a blessing and then enjoy getting to know each other while we eat. I am always seeking volunteer groups to provide simple, picnic-type lunches for the work groups on every construction day, so if you know anyone who could help with this, please have them contact me and check out further information about lunches under "Ideas for Lunch Providers."

It is important to have the proper number of volunteers on site – optimally between 10 and 25 - in order to ensure safety and a good experience for everyone involved. Therefore, all groups are asked to coordinate their involvement through me via my e-mail, carriebolin@hotmail.com. However, individuals are welcome to show up on any scheduled work day!

Any questions? Just let me know how YOU would like to join in!