



Volunteer FAQ

I've never held a hammer in my life, can I still work onsite?

No experience is required to volunteer with us. We welcome volunteers of all skill levels and we provide all the training you will need! Plan on getting a good night's sleep and eating a full breakfast before your day on site.

How old do I have to be to volunteer?

At our construction sites, home and community facility repairs and playhouse build/prep: You must be at least 16 years old to volunteer and at least 18 to work on roofs, scaffolding or use power tools. Minors must be accompanied by a chaperone. All volunteers under 18 must arrive onsite with a waiver signed by their parent or legal guardian.

At our community garden beautifications: You must be at least 14 years old to volunteer and accompanied by a chaperone. All volunteers under 18 must arrive onsite with a waiver signed by their parents or legal guardian.

What days can I volunteer?

Volunteers shifts are usually scheduled from Tuesday through Saturday but shifts and days can vary, depending on our current projects. Green space beautifications are typically on Saturday, from 9-12PM. Check the volunteer calendar at www.habitatgsf.org/volunteer for available dates.

Where would I volunteer?

The calendar will indicate the locations of the construction and community facility repair sites. Home repair sites will be disclosed after sign-up to protect the homeowner's privacy. Green space projects are at community gardens in the Bayview and Marin. Playhouse prep will be at the warehouse in 1635 Indiana St., San Francisco.

How do I sign up to volunteer as an individual?

Please visit our volunteer calendar, select the volunteer shift on the date in which you are interested, and click on the "sign up" button at the bottom of the shift description.

How to I sign up a group?

Please see our "Volunteer as a Group" FAQ , on our volunteer page, for more information.

How far in advance do I need to schedule a group build day?

We try to post volunteer opportunities at least a month out. Please contact us directly to put a tentative hold on a future date. Although sponsors take priority, we are able to give groups at least a month notice when a date held tentatively can be fully confirmed.

What is the maximum group size I can book?

Construction: 10

Home repair maximum: 6

Park and garden event maximum: 15. You may request more spaces as you fill your reservation.

Community facility repair: 10. You may request more spaces as you fill your reservation.

Building Blocks event maximum: 15

Playhouse prep maximum: 10

*Two weeks before your group's scheduled day, we will need to release any unclaimed spots you have reserved for the community to fill.

Can I come late or leave early?

Unfortunately, no. In addition to the required safety meeting at the beginning of the day, construction puts a lot of effort into planning the tasks and they do so with the expected number of people in mind. Consequently, it's important for volunteers commit to their full shift.

How should I prepare for my shift?

Dress for the weather in clothing you don't mind getting dirty/ruined, and sturdy, closed-toed footwear. Bring a water bottle. Bring a lunch if you are working a full day shift since lunch is not provided.

Should I bring tools or equipment?

No. We provide all tools and equipment.

It's raining! What do I do?

We work rain or shine. If you are unsure due to severe weather, please call our rain line (San Francisco: 415-919-4069, East Palo Alto: 415-919-4068) after 7:00am on your volunteer day. If you are volunteering at the warehouse, rain should not impact your shift.

Is there parking available for volunteers?

Parking may be limited so beware of posted rules. Carpool or take public transit if possible.

I have to cancel! What do I do?

Your confirmation email contains a link to cancel. Please use it as soon as your plans change.

What if I want to volunteer more regularly?

If after your first shift, you've decided that you would like to be involved more consistently, you may be able to sign up as a "Regular." Your site supervisor will make the final determination if you have met their requirements. To keep the crew productive and functioning well, regular volunteers are



expected to be a “fit” - mature, independent, able follow instructions, and work well with others. Starting as a day volunteer allows the supervisor to make this assessment.

Being a regular has its perks as you will work more closely with the staff, receive training not typically available to “Day” volunteers, and work alongside homeowners doing their sweat equity. You will also schedule directly with your staff supervisor and can skip the website sign up. You will just need to commit to at least 2-3 shifts a month, submit to a background check, and sign a Volunteer Code of Conduct.

Are there other ways to volunteer that aren’t on the volunteer calendar?

Yes. We could use the help of those with specialized skill sets. We are often in need of volunteers who have administrative, data entry, research/marketing, or photography skills. Office hours are Monday through Friday and events are during the evening or Saturdays. If you have a special skill that you would like offer, please reach out to us at volunteer@HabitatGSF.org

Can my volunteer service hours count toward school or traffic tickets?

After you volunteer, please email us at volunteer@HabitatGSF.org asking for your hours to be verified and we will happily send you a confirmation letter. If there is a specific form that you need us to fill out, just send it our way. Thanks for volunteering!

How can I give my feedback?

We always welcome feedback. Please call us at 415-625-1012 or email us at volunteer@HabitatGSF.org with any questions, concerns or advice you may have about your volunteer experience.