

Visiting Volunteer Groups: Accommodations & Other Info

Habitat for Humanity of Key West & the Lower FL Keys is blessed to host volunteer groups from all over the United States. We are currently engaged in Habitat's A Brush with Kindness program, which helps income-qualified homeowners who struggle to maintain the exterior of their homes, allowing them to reclaim their homes with pride and dignity. It is almost certain that you will be involved in one of these repair projects on your visit with us.

General Volunteer requirements:

- You do not have to have construction skills to work with us; we provide safety and other training on site. If you *do* have skills, let us know so that we can put them to good use!
- This Habitat affiliate prefers groups no larger than 15 people.
- All volunteers will be asked to sign a Release of Liability form before they can volunteer with Habitat.
- For every 5 volunteers under the age of 18, we require someone 25 years or older to accompany the group.
- According to federal guidelines, you must be over 18 to be involved in all aspects of construction. Youth ages 16-18 may help with construction but are not allowed to do any ultra-hazardous work (i.e. power tools, demolition, roofing, etc.). Youth below 16 are prohibited from doing general construction. However, they can engage in activities on the build site such as painting, clearing lots, or landscaping as long as there is no active construction going on and there is adequate adult supervision. We do not often have appropriate work for teens as young as 14 and this would need to be coordinated with staff prior to your visit.

Accommodations: Key West is a resort town and commercial accommodations can be expensive. We are very fortunate that two local Key West churches have offered their facilities to Habitat's visiting volunteers. Both churches have 2 bunk rooms with twin mattresses. Both open their large, kitchen and meeting rooms to the volunteer group. Your group must make arrangements directly with Habitat. Habitat will collect the fee from you and pay the church directly. The cost is \$15 per person, per night. If you are interested in these accommodations please let us know as soon as possible.

Meals: All meals are the responsibility of the group. We request that you bring lunch to the site each day. Leaving the site for lunch can *eat up* a lot of time. However, Habitat's volunteers are occasionally blessed with lunches provided by the homeowner, a local church or civic group. Cold drinks, water and a cooler are provided on all work sites for the volunteer's use.

What to wear/bring: 1) closed toe shoes are a **must** on the construction site. You will be asked to leave if you don't have appropriate shoes. 2) Bring at least two changes of clothes you truly do not care about! You never know what you'll be doing! 3) Hats, bug repellent and sunscreen are a very good idea. 4) Depending on your accommodations you may need to bring your own bedding and

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always towels. 5) Habitat provides all tools and safety equipment. More detailed information will be relayed to you before you arrive.

Donation to our affiliate: The labor of all volunteers is truly appreciated and we simply could not do our work without your participation! There are hidden costs incurred by our affiliate with each visiting group. Habitat respectfully requests a donation from each visiting group to help defray the cost associated with hosting your group. This donation covers such things as accommodation coordination, volunteer t-shirts, extra materials, paint brushes, pails and construction supplies, ice, beverages, first-aid supplies, staff time, etc.

Please prayerfully consider factoring in a donation to the affiliate when figuring your budget for this trip.