



Sea Island
Habitat
for **Humanity**®

Visiting Volunteer Packet



About Sea Island Habitat

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity is located on Johns Island, SC. It was not until the 1950s and 1960s that steel bridges were built going out to Johns Island and several of the other barrier islands. This construction led to an influx of people moving to the Islands and the surrounding areas. In the 1970s two islands were developed on the end of Johns Island. As a result of the development of the area, the price of homes and land on and around Johns Island has increased dramatically, making affordable housing a rarity. We have built more than 360 homes, and 100 repairs, on and around Johns Island in an effort to eliminate poverty housing. It takes over 2,000 volunteer hours to build just ONE house. Volunteers are the backbone of our ministry. We could not do what we do without you and we would love your help!

Mission, Vision, & Goals

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Founded in 1978, Sea Island Habitat for Humanity is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles. Located in Johns Island, ours is the third oldest Habitat affiliate in the world. We are dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. We serve the communities of James, Johns, and Wadmalaw Islands, and have constructed over 350 homes in our 40 years of operation. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in safe communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

Sea Island Habitat for Humanity has an open-door policy. All who believe in our mission are welcome to help with the work, regardless of race, religion, age, gender, political views or any of the other distinctions that too often divide people. In short, Habitat welcomes volunteers and supporters from all backgrounds and also serves people in need of decent housing regardless of race or religion.

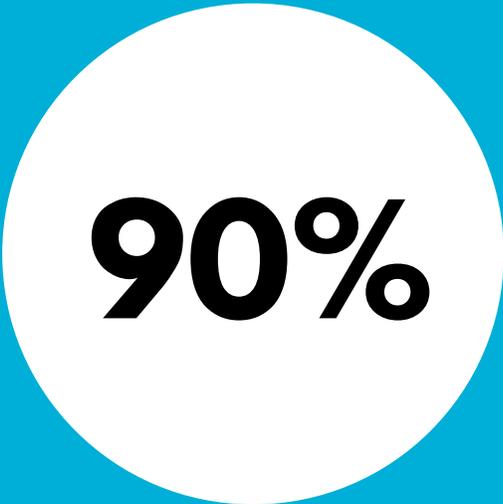
Our Projects

Our build plan on the work site varies depending on the weather and what has been completed before your arrival. On any given week you might be digging foundations, roofing, painting, helping out on critical repairs, or anything in between.

During the week, we may also have deconstruction projects that take place at a different site. If there is a deconstruction project we will need volunteers from your group to be willing to help with this as these projects are just as important to our affiliate and the new home building. All materials we deconstruct are donated to us through the ReStore to help build more homes.

The ReStore sells donated goods (furniture, appliances, building materials, electronics, books, cars, boats, antiques, etc.) and the proceeds go to build about 5 Habitat homes each year. In addition to funding home construction, the Habitat ReStore helps the environment by keeping the items it sells out of landfills. The ReStore staff welcomes the assistance of volunteers to keep the store stocked and running efficiently.

Please remember that ALL tasks you work on are important to help us complete our build plan—again, thank you for your flexibility to help us meet all of our commitments!



90%

**of Sea Island
Habitat's
volunteers are
from visiting
groups like
yourselves.**

What is Habitat?

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in more than 1,300 communities throughout the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves.

Homeowner Process

Applicants fill out a pre-screening form either at our Sea Island Habitat Office or online at seaislandhabitat.org.

If the income pre-qualifies, they will have an in-person meeting with the Family Services Director to see if they meet our program guidelines.

If the packet meets those guidelines, the prospective partner family will be interviewed by our Family Services Committee. They will review and hopefully approve the application! Once approved, partner families then begin work on sweat equity hours and complete home ownership classes.

When they close on their home, they will move in, and begin paying their mortgage!

Repair Applicant Process

- Repair applicants fill out a screening form and denote what critical repairs they need.
- Repairs focus on roofs, windows, doors, and accessibility.
- Staff evaluates project and committee approves or denies based on need and ability to complete project.
- Repair partner families are often on severely limited income, elderly, and would not be able to afford these repairs on their own.
- Repair applicants can be anyone from the community, does not have to be a Habitat homeowner.
- We do not charge for repairs

Our Volunteer Houses

Sea Island Habitat has 2 houses for out-of-town volunteers. We have a housing fee of \$175 per person. This helps with building material costs and maintenance of the volunteer houses. These homes are in a Habitat neighborhood on Johns Island. The houses are close to our office and ReStore and about 10 minutes away from the beach! They have full kitchens and bunk beds for sleeping. Both homes have appliances, cookware, dishes, and utensils—but we cannot guarantee anything else (not even trash bags, toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc.). We provide towels, bed linens, blankets, and towels, but you are welcome to bring your own sleeping bags or pillows.

During busier times of the year (spring and summer), we may have more groups per week than we do volunteer houses so some groups may need to stay in alternative housing such as a church or school. We will let you know your housing assignment and necessary details and directions a few weeks prior to your scheduled trip.

George Miller House



24 beds

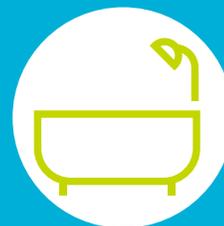


3.5 baths

Faith House



18 beds



2 baths

More About the Week

Security:

For those of you staying in our provided housing, there is a code for the lock on the front door and an alarm system for each volunteer house. You will need to use the code we will provide you with to unlock the door. Please do not share the code with just anyone. Use the alarm system, for which we will also provide a code. Many groups find it helps to assign a security person in charge of making sure the doors and windows are locked, setting the alarm, and using the coded lock on the door each time you leave. We also recommend taking items such as cell phones, laptops, and cash to the worksite with you and locking them in a vehicle.

Meals:

You are responsible for food and preparation of all meals. This includes lunch at the worksite. Remember to bring a sack lunch, plan to go back to your lodging, or bring lunch money. Confirm with the Communications & Outreach Manager how far food options are to your worksite if you plan to do the latter. We do have many great options around town!

Transportation:

You are responsible for your own transportation. There is no public transportation available and none of our sites are within walking distance.

Schedule

The construction site operates Tuesday-Saturday from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. For the summer months (Memorial Day-Labor Day) the work site operates from 7:00 am-3:00 pm. Our out-of-town groups work Tuesday-Friday.

Please be on time. We often host as many as 30+ volunteers per day. Being on time is crucial to keep things running smoothly. Each morning starts off with a safety talk at the work site. Lunch is from 12-1 pm.

Please also be aware that during any given week we have multiple projects going on at once. This means that sometimes we will need our groups to split up between different sites to help us meet our deadlines and our commitments. We thank you ahead of time for your willingness to be flexible and your generous attitude to serve—however we need you most!

What to Bring

We will provide tools, water, building materials, and supervision.

We also provide safety glasses and work gloves, but many people find they prefer their own.

Preparations

Prepare your group for the trip, discussing details and expectations:

- packing list
- how meals will work
- the proper attitude to bring with them
- housing arrangements

Have the group fill out the front and back of the Release and Waiver of Liability form.

- volunteers under the age of 18 need a legal guardian to sign the form.

Write a check to Sea Island Habitat for Humanity for the \$175 per person housing fee.

- please mail this and a final list of group members 2 weeks prior to trip.

Be sure you have directions and the codes to your assigned house.

Bring the signed release forms with you to orientation on Monday.

Packing List

- Work clothes (these may get paint on them!)
- Plastic bag (for dirty clothes)
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Safety glasses
- Work gloves
- Closed-toed shoes
- Sheets and blankets or sleeping bag
- Pillows
- Toiletries
- First aid needs (allergy meds, too!)
- Snacks
- Bug repellent
- Sunscreen
- Bathing suit (if your group is going to the beach)
- Reusable water bottle (for the worksite)
- A good attitude and flexibility!

Work Site Policies and Safety

- No alcohol or drugs are permitted on site at any time. Volunteers who need prescription drugs (inhalers, etc.) should make sure they have a sufficient supply on site.
- Wear sun screen and reapply it throughout the day.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the tasks involved.
- Drink plenty of water — at least 2 liters a day, even more when it is hot.
- Wear your hard hat at all times on site, except in designated break areas.

Proper gloves can protect your hands from:

- Cuts when carrying sharp-edged materials and equipment.
- Skin irritation from cement, paint, lime wash and other chemicals.
- Getting a corn while working with the tools for long time.

Wear ear protection when:

- Any equipment is being used nearby that may cause damage to your ears.
- Heavy machinery is working nearby you for prolonged time.

Wear a face mask when:

- You understand the mask type and its designation.
- Using chemicals, painting lime wash, mixing cement.
- Scraping old paints and sanding the items to smooth.

- Sea Island Habitat maintains a safe, nonthreatening environment on all of our worksites.
- Any intentional violation of building codes and code of conduct will result in the immediate removal of those involved.
- No smoking, vaping, tobacco use, profanity, or disrespectful attitudes will be permitted on the construction site.
- Any individual who refuses to work will immediately be removed from the worksite.

Wear eye protection when:

- You or someone nearby is using a hammer, chisel or planer.
- You or somebody next to you is using any type of power tool.
- Using lime wash or chemicals or mixing or pouring cement.

Wear proper footwear at all times:

- Open-toed shoes are forbidden on the site.
- Footwear must be covered and hard-soled.
- Steel-toed safety boots must be worn in demolition works.

When lifting an item:

- Know your capacity and weight limits. Ask your site supervisor.
- Keep legs slightly apart, bend the knees, keep the back straight.
- Grab by both hands, and lift with the legs, not the back.

General Information



- Josie Spa -Communications & Outreach Manager(work cell) 843.442.3827
- John Rhoden - Executive Director (work cell) 843.296.6471
- Mike Rettaliata -Construction Supervisor (work cell) 843.296.6467



- Roper Kiawah-Seabrook Medical and Urgent Care (345 Farm Lake View Road J101, Johns Island, SC 29455 in Freshfields Village) 843.768.4800
- Roper St. Francis Hospital (off Paul Cantrell Blvd, 2095 Henry Tecklenburg Drive) 843.402.1037 – emergency / 843.402.1000 –non-emergency
- MUSC (downtown) 843.729.1414 – non-emergency/ 843.792.9705 - emergency



- Bi-Lo Supermarket (at Maybank and Bohicket about 6 ½ miles from volunteer housing) 843.559.5542
- The Village Market by Harris Teeter (in Freshfields Village about 4 ½ miles from volunteer housing) 843.243.3276



- The average highs in the summer are in the mid-90°s, and the lows are around 70°F.
- During the winter months, the highs are around 60°F, and the lows are in the 40°s.
- Be careful though. It can get much hotter than that in the summer and much cooler than that in winter.
- And watch out for the humidity--it's bad.



- If you are interested in meeting any of our partner families, we love to encourage this.
- A great way of doing this is to invite them for dinner. Perhaps you have other ideas.
- Let us know ahead of time that you'd like to interact with a homeowner and we'll get in contact with the family or families for you.
- In addition, our staff and AmeriCorps members love to spend time with and get to know our volunteer groups!

Policies

Fees:

- Volunteer group housing fees go towards housing costs, upgrades, utilities, trash, the cleaning crew, etc.
- \$175 per person for the week
Includes your accommodations, but does NOT include any meals or transportation
- We would appreciate a final head count two weeks prior to your arrival.
- Refunds of the \$175 housing fee will only be given if we are notified about change of numbers one week prior to your arrival.
- Final fees are due 2 weeks before date of arrival.
- Cancelling the entire group for a FULL refund requires a two week notice.

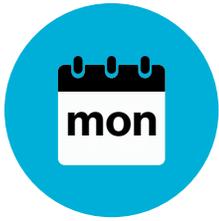
Deposit:

- \$200 Deposit is due within 2 weeks of booking your volunteer week and the volunteer house(s)
- If reserving both volunteer houses, only 1 deposit of \$200 is required
- In the event of cancelling your volunteer week two weeks or more from your arrival, your full deposit will be refunded to you.
- If cancelling two weeks or less before your arrival, \$100 of the deposit will be refunded.

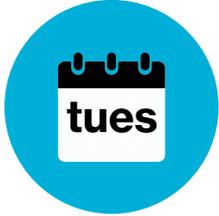
Policies:

- Please clean the house(s) before departing There is a cleaning checklist on the refrigerator – We will send you your \$200 refund once we have received your cleaning checklist.
- Smoking in the house(s) is strictly prohibited.
- Do not let neighborhood children or residents in the house(s).
- Use the alarm and lock the doors/windows every time you leave
- If you accidentally set off the alarm, please call the Volunteer Coordinator or the Executive Director (phone numbers on the front door) to let us know everything is ok
- Please respect the items/contents in the house(s)
- Let us know if something is wrong, broken, not working, or if you need anything for the house(s) during your stay

Volunteer Itinerary



- Orientation by Sea Island Habitat staff at office (9:30 or 10:30 am)
- Day open for group to explore Charleston



- Breakfast at volunteer house
- Safety presentation
- Work day with lunch on site (group responsible for bringing own lunch)
- Group responsible for after work dinner and activities



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- Breakfast at volunteer house
- Work day with lunch on site (group responsible for bringing own lunch)
- Last day of work. Group either can stay another night in volunteer house or depart for home.

Sea Island Habitat Office

2545 Bohicket Rd,
Johns Island, SC 29455
843.768.0998

Sea Island Habitat ReStore

3304 Maybank Hwy,
Johns Island, SC 29455
843.559.4009