

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to fill out the volunteer application? Yes, every volunteer needs to fill out an application. It provides us with vital information about you and your availability to come to Houston.

What should I expect after I submit my volunteer application? After your application is submitted, you will receive an email. Then we will begin to coordinate your availability and your skills with the needs of the work projects.

Is there a waiver that I must sign? Yes, every volunteer must sign a waiver. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have a parent sign the waiver and also the group leader must sign as a witness to the parent signature.

Is there a minimum age to be a volunteer? Yes, we require the volunteer to be 14 years of age or older.

May I bring my younger children with me? Yes, but children under the age of 14 will not be allowed on the work site for safety reasons.

What is the adult to teen ratio for youth groups that would like to volunteer? We require 1 adult for every 4 teens.

What size groups may we bring? The total size for groups is 25. This includes everyone; every volunteer (adults & teens) and includes any under age children.

I am not able to volunteer. Can I donate money? Yes. OPC Disaster Response is supported only by designated gifts and contributions are tax-deductible.

When should I come to Houston?

You let us know the dates you are available to come. We will let you know if there is work specific to the skills that you have during that time frame.

How long would I stay in Houston? It is up to you how long you would like to stay. It also depends on the work that is needed.

Am I responsible for paying for my own transportation to & from Houston? Yes. Many volunteers are being helped financially by their church or by relatives/friends.

Am I responsible for paying for my food while in Houston? Yes. Most of the food will be “on the road” as you travel to and from work locations. Often volunteers pack a lunch to bring to the work site. There may be periodic meals provided by families or church members.

Am I responsible to find my own housing while in Houston? We can likely provide housing for you, if you indicate on the application that you need it.

Will I need to provide my own transportation while in Houston? Yes. We recommend you have a reliable GPS system. Paper maps or written directions are not safe to use while driving in Houston. You may prefer to use the setting "Avoid Toll Roads." You may also want to ask for a toll tag at the rental company when renting a vehicle. It will be extra money, but will possibly help you get around faster.

How far will I have to travel in Houston or what area of Houston would I work in? Houston is a very large city and it all depends on when you come and what houses we are working on at the time. Driving in Houston to your work site could be a 30 minute drive up to an hour drive or more. During rush hour traffic this time could at least double.

How can I join a group coming to Houston from my area? At this point, we are asking individuals to speak with their church or group leaders to see if others are interested in joining you. If not, we may be able to connect you with another group.

What kind of work will I be doing with the OPC Disaster Response in Houston?

The main thing to remember is, in whatever way you may serve you have to be flexible. Sometimes the planned work changes from one day to the next ... at other times it could change in the middle of the day (this doesn't happen very often). By remaining open to the possibility of change or open to something new, you allow yourself to be more of a blessing and instrument for God's work. Here is a list of things you may be doing: listening to people's stories, washing windows, raking yards, gutting homes, cleaning homes, inviting people to church, painting, drywall, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, carpentry, chainsaws, canvassing neighborhoods, picking up garbage, cleaning toilets, handing out Blessings Bags, VBS, providing transportation to other volunteers, making meals for volunteers or for families affected by the hurricane.

Should I bring my tools?

If you are flying in to Houston, no. We have a lot of tools. If you are driving to Houston, the Site Coordinator will discuss this with you through email or phone call.

Who will Disaster Response help? Disaster Response will help OPC people affected by the disaster, but as a mercy ministry, we will also reach out to the surrounding communities affected by the disaster, to plant seeds for the Kingdom of God and to minister to all kinds of people in need.

Will I be able to share my faith in Christ? As representatives of OPC Disaster Response, we desire to help the victims of a disaster with both their physical and spiritual needs. After all, the primary objective of any mercy ministry is to plant seeds for the Kingdom of God.

A quick link to our Volunteer Application;

Please copy and paste this into your browser. It will bring you directly to the OPC Disaster Response Volunteer Application.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHz6GgpXVuCxpEx2LQeLF6YSBnpFgAqzFWW9tnMqBhrGCiw/viewform>