
**ALL HANDS VOLUNTEERS
PROGRAM TEXAS: HURRICANE HARVEY RESPONSE
VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACKET**

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**ALL HANDS
VOLUNTEERS**

[PROGRAM TEXAS](#)

HURRICANE HARVEY

Hurricane Harvey is the first major hurricane to make landfall in the US since 2005. On Friday 25 August, Harvey first made landfall as a category 4 hurricane at Rockport. Moving over the Copano Bay, Harvey made landfall a second time North of Holiday Beach. Now a Category 3 hurricane, Harvey experienced rapid weakening, becoming a tropical storm.

Hurricane Harvey has caused unprecedented and catastrophic flooding in South-eastern Texas. Houston has received the brunt of Harvey's rain with parts of the city receiving more than 50 inches. Thousands of homes are inundated with water, and over 20 confirmed deaths.

PROGRAM DETAILS

All Hands will initially focus on debris removal, mucking and gutting and will later complete sanitation work. No previous experience is required - we'll teach you!

Muckout: Is the removal of mud, muck, silt, and other typically semi-solid material from a home as a result of water inundation.

Gutting: Is the tearing out and removal of construction related materials from a home that has been damaged by water, including protruding nails in exposed studs and flooring. Gutting is considered complete when all damaged construction materials and protruding nails have been removed.

Final Cleaning and Sanitizing (post gutting, pre-mold treatment): The final and thorough cleaning of any remaining dried or wet remnants from the structure after gutting to prepare for mold control and treatment activities. Completion is typified by the absence of all nails, piles of dust/contaminates, standing water in the basement/crawlspace, and surfaces having been cleaned and rinsed of any dirt, mud, or other contaminants.

Mold Control and Remediation: Is the active and intentional process of using chemicals and other equipment such as dehumidifiers, fans, and air scrubbers to eradicate abnormal mold and mildew growth. Drying the structure, controlling humidity and bringing the moisture content of structural components to an accept level prior to repairing or rebuilding is also a key element of the process.

[VOLUNTEERING WITH ALL HANDS VOLUNTEERS](#)

OUR MISSION

To provide immediate, effective and sustainable support to communities in need by harnessing the energy and commitment of dedicated volunteers.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

All Hands Volunteers does not charge a fee for volunteering. Volunteers are responsible for funding their travel to and from the program. Once at the program we provide accommodation and 3 meals a day - on all work days. Please make sure to budget accordingly for the extras such as: meals on your days off, entertainment, snacks, drinks etc.

We do strongly encourage volunteers to also be supporters of our organization. Starting a personal fundraising page is a great way to help us offset the costs of hosting volunteers. It gives everyone you know a way to donate to the great work being done here in response to flooding. Click [here](#) to get started or make a general donation. The money that you donate will be used to directly fund the projects that we are working on.

[PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP](#)

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

It is best to come prepared with all the basics you will need during your stay so that you can get right to work - it is unlikely shops will be open in this area over the next few weeks

As this is a disaster recovery project - you will be working with wet and muddy belongings. **Be prepared for any clothing you wear on the work site to be destroyed. We will provide All Hands Volunteers t-shirts for working in the field.**

Must bring:	Recommended:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air mattress or cot (this is not provided)• Sleeping bag or blanket• Pillow & pillow case• Sleeping sheets & personal towel/washcloth• Sturdy work/hiking boots - Must be puncture-proof soles - these are absolutely required on work sites• Work pants - these WILL get destroyed• Second pair of non-worksite footwear• Water bottle• Personal first aid kit• Rain Gear (jacket, hat, etc)• Personal cash and ATM/credit card• Nice clothes (at least one set for community events, etc.)• Normal clothes (for after work and days off)• Lots of socks (these tend to disappear in a communal living environment)• Personal items/toiletries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extra work clothes• Books• Rain boots and waterproof clothing• Lightweight jacket or sweater for the chilly nights• Comfort food/rehydration supplement• Laptop/camera/USB memory stick (for sharing photos!)/power adaptors• Earplugs and sleep mask• Sense of Humor• Books, games, DVDs• We recommend getting a tetanus shot <p>Remember, PACK LIGHT, space very is limited!</p>

[BRINGING DONATIONS](#)

NGOs and the local government have been distributing items required by affected communities. As an individual it is impossible to bring enough to make a positive impact after such a large-scale event. Giving to some and not others is unfair and it is difficult to ascertain where the need is greatest.

Instead, please consider making a [general donation](#) or setting up a [personal fundraising page](#), which will be used to directly fund our projects in Texas.

If you would like to bring items necessary for our teams check out our Amazon Wish List (**We are currently working to build up this list of most needed items**)

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3RM5A09SA4UTU/ref=cm_go_nav_hz

[LIFE ON BASE](#)

Be sure to read the packing list to ensure that you will have everything you need to have a successful volunteer experience.

[WHAT KIND OF ACCOMMODATIONS CAN I EXPECT?](#)

We are currently staying in a local church. The church has graciously provided us with a sleeping space and access to a kitchen, bathrooms and showers.. Don't over pack as everyone will be side to side on the floor and space will be tight. We sleep on air mattresses, bunk beds or cots in multiple rooms within the church building (you must bring your own mattress). We live and sleep communally and in close quarters. There are no separate sleeping quarters for male and female and there are no private sleeping rooms. We provide 3 meals a day.

DAILY SCHEDULE

We will be working every day 8:00am to 4:00pm

6:30 - Lights on. Time to wake up.
7:15 - Meet your TL and Cars head to Parkway to load tools
8:00 - In the trucks and headed to the work site
12:00-1:00 - Lunch time, relax time
1:00-3:50 - Back to work
3:50 - Clean the work site and pack up tools
4:00-5:25 - Head back to base for showers and free time
6:30 - Dinner & Mandatory meeting
7:15 - Free time
10:00 - Lights out (quiet time)
11:00 - Curfew

WHAT WILL THE WEATHER BE LIKE?

It's hot! Most days we're seeing temperatures of 80 - 90 °F. Please pack appropriately.

WHAT WILL THE FOOD BE LIKE?

All Hands will provide volunteers with three meals a day, six days a week. Breakfast will be bread, fruit, eggs, cereal, and oatmeal with coffee and tea. Volunteers will be provided with lunch fixings take to the work site as well as fruit and granola for snacks. Dinner will be a hot meal cooked and donated by parishioners. .

Vegetarian diets can be accommodated, but you may also wish to supplement your diet, either with food you bring from home or supplies you pick up locally. We will not be able to accommodate vegan diets.

If you would like to purchase food in addition to these meals, you can use the kitchen but will be expected to tidy up after yourself.

SAFETY & SECURITY

WILL I BE SAFE AT THE VOLUNTEER BASE?

Most facilities we stay in are safe with locked doors. We take all precautions to keep everyone safe. Please keep in mind that we are living and sleeping in a communal spaces so you should keep your valuables stored away. We do not have a safe on our base. If you would like to lock up your valuables please bring a lock for your luggage.

WILL I BE SAFE ON THE WORK SITE?

Volunteers will be provided with the proper instruction and briefed on each day's work projects. We provide experienced Team Leader(s) for volunteers; this is a great way to learn new skills!

Accidents can be avoided by taking precautions and staying alert to your surroundings. Be prepared for wear and tear of your shoes or clothing. We have stocks of gloves, safety glasses, and N95 masks but if you bring your own we can spend more of our money on the tools and materials you will be using to get the job done. While Team Leaders will give you instructions, it is up to you to ask questions if you need more information, and speak up if you are uncomfortable performing a task.

All volunteers are required to sign a medical waiver releasing All Hands Volunteers from liability due to any accidents that may occur on site.

First aid kits are always available on work sites ... just in case.

Hard hats, work gloves, safety glasses and work boots are mandatory for all work sites. We provide hard hats, work gloves and safety glasses, but you must bring your own work boots (puncture proof!).

[HEALTH](#)

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Volunteers should be in good physical health, as most of the work on this program will involve manual labor.

All Hands Volunteers do not provide over-the-counter medicines. Please ensure you come prepared.

MENTAL HEALTH

Working in a post-disaster environment is tiring and stressful. The work is full of its own rewards, but do not compromise your mental health or the safety and effectiveness of the work by ignoring your limits.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Local medical facilities are functioning and medical care is available at any of several local hospitals or clinics. We always try to work safely and carefully so that we can minimize our use of these resources, which are meant for the community.

We have an organizational medical insurance policy, which covers **any international volunteer** under the age of 75 in the event of any injury or illness whilst you are with us on our program. This includes medical evacuation in the unlikely event of a serious incident. If you have any questions about our insurance policy, please do not hesitate to ask. We have provided some FAQ's below to assist. American volunteers will not be covered by this policy, since they should have their own personal insurance.

When am I covered under the AHV insurance policy?

If you are an international volunteer, you are covered once you arrive at the base and have filled in your paperwork.

Does it cover me if I lose or break my phone?

The policy only covers you in the event of an illness or injury and therefore does not cover any loss or damage to personal items under any circumstances.

What if I injure myself and need to be evacuated, am I covered?

Yes. The safety and wellbeing of our volunteers is our absolute priority. For this reason our medical insurance policy includes medical evacuation in the unlikely event of a serious illness or injury.

How long am I covered for?

The policy covers you for up to 160 days whilst volunteering with us on our program.

Am I covered whilst I'm on break?

Unfortunately we can not cover activities outside of your time with us on the program, including breaks.

Who do I contact if I need hospital treatment whilst on the program?

Speak to the Program Director in charge of the program you are working on and they will start the process of implementing our insurance policy where needed.

International volunteers aged 76 and over should purchase emergency medical insurance, and provide details to our Volunteer Relations Coordinator on arrival

[BREAKS](#)

In order to keep our physical health and mental health in check, we require a 3 day break off base every 30 days.

[TRAVELING TO BASE](#)

Unfortunately, due to our high volume of volunteers, the desire to focus our energy within the community, and our limited resources, we ask our volunteers to take on the responsibility of getting themselves to and from base. Feel free to coordinate carpools and connect with other volunteers via our Facebook group.

Our base is about an hour from either Airport.

Suggested methods include:

Uber and Lyft - Lyft tends to be the cheaper option, prices can range from \$40-\$80 please budget your expenses accordingly.

For a more affordable option, there are bus lines that run from both George Washington and Houston Hobby that can get you closer. Uber/Lyft will need to be used for the last leg of your journey.

[ANYTHING ELSE?](#)

It can be dirty, hard work, but that's why we love it. If you have additional questions, please email us at TexasHurricaneProgram@hands.org or call 617.483.5367 and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

Connect with our team in Texas on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/340279886395494/>

[ABOUT ALL HANDS](#)

THE ALL HANDS VOLUNTEERS STORY

The All Hands story began in 2005 after the devastating tsunami in December, 2004. Businessman David Campbell headed to Thailand to see how he could help. His intended one week volunteer visit turned into one month, during which he became one of the founders of HandsOnThailand, which brought more than 200 volunteers and several hundred thousand dollars to assist the rebuilding of five Phuket fishing villages. After Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast of the US in 2005, David joined with several other HandsOn volunteers to establish HandsOnUSA. In total, more than 1,500 volunteers helped HandsOnUSA serve the survivors of Katrina. Ten years later, the organization has mobilized nearly 35,000 volunteers from 113 countries on 78 programs around the world.

Check out these videos for more information about the AHV story:

- <https://vimeo.com/92136445>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdHzXRGr79c&feature=youtu.be>