

Hawaii Village Build

Volunteer Frequently Asked Questions

What is Hawaii Village Build?

A Hawaii Village Build trip is a short-term service trip where you can volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Affiliates throughout the state of Hawaii. All trips vary based on the affiliate and their itinerary, but all of them include a mix of work, rest, and free time. It is our desire that these trips not only utilize your skills to build safe, affordable houses in places where they are desperately needed, but also give you the opportunity to see another culture up-close and live like a local.

Becoming a Volunteer

How do I apply?

Complete a short application online and select up to two available trips that you're interested in joining. Team Leaders from each of the trips you're interested in will contact you to tell you more about the experience and answer any questions you may have. At that time, the leader will also give you instructions for securing your spot on their team.

I want to bring my son/daughter with me on my trip. What age requirements does your program have?

All volunteers must be over the age of 16 and should be accompanied by a responsible adult. Additional information can be found in our minor policy.

Do I need any building or language-speaking skills to volunteer?

We welcome everyone who wants to contribute to our work, no matter your age, background, religion, or race. Previous construction experience or fluency in a second language is not required. Please note, however, that manual labor is a part of the trip, so all participants should be in good health. If you are under 18, please contact us to see our minor policy at hvb@hawaiihabitat.org.



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How far in advance do I need to apply for a trip?

You can apply for any trip listed on our website. As trips fill up, they are removed from the website so it's best to apply now rather than later.

Are you looking for a last-minute travel opportunity? Contact our office at hvb@hawaiihabitat.org.

Can I come as an individual or do I need to be part of an existing group?

Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association offers volunteer opportunities through Hawaii Village Build for both individuals and existing groups. Visit our trip schedule to view all trips open to individuals.

If you'd like to organize a trip for an existing group such as a school, church, business, or other organization, learn more at HawaiiHabitat.org/HawaiiVillageBuild under Lead a Team.

Can I organize my own trip with an existing group of friends, family or colleagues?

You sure can! Learn more at HawaiiHabitat.org/HawaiiVillageBuild under Lead a Team.

I don't see the location I want to visit during a week that works for me. What should I do?

Hawaii Village Build trips are available on four islands with opportunities during nearly every week of the year. If you can't find a volunteer team that works for your schedule, please contact us at hvb@hawaiihabitat.org to explore additional opportunities.

Your Experience

Will we complete the house we're building during my trip?

Building a house is no simple task! Construction activities around Hawaii vary in length, but most likely you won't build a house from start to finish in only one week. With the help of your donations, construction continues even after you return home as we work towards a world where everyone has access to affordable shelter.



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What can I expect to take away from the cultural activities included in the itinerary?

Your trip isn't just about the work you'll complete on the build site. Hawaii Village Build trips are holistic experiences through which you'll deepen your understanding of the local culture and community in addition to working alongside homeowners to create strength, stability, and self-reliance.

Does my Team Leader work for Habitat for Humanity?

We're lucky to have a passionate and diverse group of volunteer Team Leaders who spend countless hours organizing the Hawaii Village Build experience for volunteers. Leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and have successfully completed our training curriculum to effectively facilitate your volunteer experience.

For more information on leading a Hawaii Village Build trip, visit the Lead a Team page on HawaiiHabitat.org/HawaiiVillageBuild

Trip Costs and Fundraising

How much does it cost to take a volunteer trip with Hawaii Village Build?

Trip costs range between \$1,000 - \$1,500 USD and does not include the cost of your transportation or airfare to the state of Hawaii. Hawaii Village Build program works to ensure that trips are well planned and coordinated, safe, and constructive for volunteers. The ultimate purpose of Hawaii Village Build trips is to improve the housing conditions of families throughout the state of Hawaii and provide volunteers with rewarding experiences and cultural exchange opportunities.

Why am I paying to volunteer?

The work that you do on your volunteer trip provides shelter for one family, but the donation that you make ensures that future families can have strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. Your donations make Hawaii Habitat Affiliates' work sustainable and help us continue building in Hawaii after you return home.



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What is included in the trip cost?

Costs will vary by location, but fees include a donation to the sending organization and host Affiliates of Hawaii Village Build, transportation, food, accommodations, select cultural activities. Trip costs do not include airfare in and out of the state, activities beyond what is outlined in the trip details, visa and exit fees, any associated vaccines, or trip cancellation insurance.

How do I fundraise for my trip?

You can find tons of new and unique ideas and information about fundraising for your trip in our Fundraising 101 Guide which you will receive from your Team Leader.

Hawaii Village Build volunteers can use the peer-to-peer fundraising site, Qgiv, at no additional cost to fundraise for their trip. Once you apply to join a team, your Team Leader will share instructions on how to set up your fundraising page so that your family and friends can donate directly to you and your trip.

Every dollar raised above the program donation is an additional donation to the host program you're visiting. Each contribution allows us to serve another homeowner and continue building after your team returns home.

All funds are due no less than 45 days prior to the trip.

Health, Travel, and Safety

What kind of insurance is provided?

Host affiliates have a comprehensive safety and emergency management plan in place along with insurance that will cover team leader and team members when they are on any Habitat premises i.e., build site, office, ReStore, etc. Though it is optional, you are advised to purchase travel and medical insurance before your trip date. Hawaii Habitat or Habitat affiliates in Hawaii will not be providing travel and medical insurance for volunteers.

I haven't traveled to Hawaii before. How do I prepare?

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, if you plan to use your state-issued ID or license to fly within the US, make sure it is REAL ID compliant. If you are not sure if your ID complies with REAL ID, check with your state department of motor vehicles.

Visit the <https://www.tsa.gov/real-id> section for additional information.



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Do I need a passport or visa?

If you are traveling domestically, you will not need a passport unless you do not have a REAL ID after Oct. 1, 2020.

If you are traveling to Hawaii from outside the United States, you will need a current passport that is valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates.

Visit www.travel.state.gov to review the visa requirements if you are traveling internationally into the US.

What health precautions should I take before traveling?

Work assignments can involve strenuous physical activity. Team members should be in good physical health when considering a trip.

Be sure to visit with your family doctor or a nearby travel clinic as your trip approaches. You should also review the information provided on the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at cdc.gov/travel for traveler's health information, recommended preparations, and vaccinations.

Can Hawaii Village Build accommodate my special diet?

All hosting affiliates can accommodate typical dietary restrictions. If you have significant concerns, don't let it stop you from serving with Habitat for Humanity! Contact your Team Leader to request additional information about meals and what can be accommodated.



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