

A Basic Summary of Volunteer Opportunities in Hurricane Katrina Areas

Adult Volunteers to do a variety of cleanup, rebuilding, distribution type job as well as cooking, medical assistance and other things are available through Lutheran Disaster Response. Volunteers must be over 16 years of age. Registration begins at www.ldr.org . More specific details about volunteering with LDR on these kinds of projects can be obtained from the following:

To volunteer in Louisiana contact lavols@yahoo.com. You may call Mike Swan at 866-709-088 for more detailed information about Louisiana.

If you prefer to volunteer in Mississippi please contact campbiloxi@cablone.net or call the Volunteer Coordinator at 228-267-0008.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page for adult volunteers can be found at the very bottom of <http://relief.inspiralink.com/Index.asp?PageID=4124> .

+++

Servant Opportunities for Youth

Opportunities for youth or mixed aged servant events are also being developed across the Southern District. There will be a variety of different opportunities: Some may be construction or cleanup based while others will be involved in ministry with congregations and individual families. Because of the changing situation in the region, specific details still remain somewhat indefinite. Additional servant opportunities are still being developed across the Gulf South and will be added in the coming weeks.

Participants must at least be of high school age. There are no appropriate events for junior high or younger children at this time. Housing sites are being arranged across the region - they will be rustic in nature - camping, church floors, etc. Showers will be available but participants should be prepared to sleep on cots, on the floor or ground. A number of different organizations are helping with youth based servant events in the area and there are a number of ways to register.

The Southern District Relief Team is partnering with **Can-Do Missions** and **LCMS Youth Ministry Servant Events** to develop a variety of servant opportunities in the area. Information about **Can-Do Missions** is available at <http://can-do.concordia.edu/> . A variety of servant events both cleanup and rebuilding as well as ministry oriented events are available. Ron Scherch is coordinating these events. The **LCMS Youth Ministry Servant Events Team** is also developing a variety of ministry oriented servant events across the South. Jim Lohman is gathering information about groups desiring to be involved in these events. Please email Jim at youthministry@lcms.org and include **Jim Lohman** in the subject line. Please include the name of a contact person, the estimated size of your group, and when you would like to make the trip. Jim will get back to you with specific information.

Youth Encounter is also organizing Team Katrina Work Crews to offer you the chance to help **restore, rebuild** and **renew** not only people's homes but also their lives! Youth Encounter is

partnering with Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi to make an impact for God in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Go to <http://www.youthencounter.org/> for more information and to sign up.

FAQ for Youth Volunteer Groups

1) What will we be doing?

We are developing a variety of opportunities for youth and mixed aged groups. You may be working with light cleanup, yard work, painting, building wheelchair ramps or you may be helping with children attending a day camp or VBS for children from the hurricane zone. You may be assigned to a church to help their pastor and staff with outreach to the community or to distribute food to the hungry. You may work with an elderly couple to encourage them and helped them get moved back home. In other words, there are a wide variety of needs and we often don't know what they are until the last minute. That makes FLEXIBILITY the most important quality of volunteers in the hurricane zone.

2) Do I need any shots before I volunteer?

All clean-up volunteers should have an updated Tetanus shot (no more than 10 years since their last Tetanus shot). Check with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to see what they say about further vaccinations.

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>

3) Where do we report to when we arrive?

You will be assigned a volunteer site and put in contact with your camp coordinator. They will provide you with all the information that you will need to find the camp and instructions on what to do when you get there.

4) Will we be able to buy food and water for ourselves or should we bring everything that we will need for the time we will be there?

You do not need to bring all your own food. The volunteer camps are serving breakfast and dinner (supper to some of you). Additionally, there are grocery stores open again, so you can buy what you need when you get down here.

5) Will there be electricity to plug in my cell phone for recharging?

There is electricity where volunteers are staying, but there may not be enough outlets for everyone to charge their phone every night. It may be best to plan to charge your phone in your car.

6) What should the volunteer group expect the typical day to be like?

Cleaning up after a hurricane is hard work! A team should plan to work hard and get hot and dirty. Traffic is bad. Flexibility is an appreciated quality!

7) Are electricity, cell phone service, gasoline, and sanitary services a reality in the area or are services still intermittent/sporadic?

In general, yes. Your local site coordinator will be able to give you specific information about what will be available where you will be working and living.

8) What sort of weather can I expect (temperature, etc)?

It's been pretty chilly in the evenings, and "sweatshirt" weather during the day. Please check out <http://www.weather.gov/> for the latest weather conditions and forecast. Once we get to April you can expect hot and humid.

9) If we are able, are there supplies that we should bring for area residents, such as food, clothing, building materials, etc.?

First, whatever you do, please DO NOT BRING ANY CLOTHES for area residents. If you have collected clothing, please find a charity in your area that can use them. In terms of other supplies, when we assign your site, we will be able to tell you if there are any specific supply needs that you might be able to fill when you come down. Your local site coordinator may also be able to give you a list of needed supplies that you could bring with you. If you want to do a collection, contact us for a specific item or two that you can collect and bring with you. The "needs" list changes so rapidly that we cannot even guess what might be most useful more than a week from now.

1.17.06

Rachel E. Mumme, Deaconess
LCMS World Relief and Human Care
1333 S Kirkwood Rd
St. Louis, MO 63122
1-800-248-1930 x1274
314-996-1274
rachel.mumme@lcms.org
worldrelief.lcms.org