



Volunteer Application Packet

Relieving Disaster, Promoting Community

Address:

Bahamas Methodist Habitat - GHB
Agape Flights – Acct # 18693
100 Airport Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

Phone:

US: (931)230-7771
Bahamas: (242)359-7518

Skype:

MethodistHabitat

Web:

www.MethodistHabitat.org

Email:

MethodistHabitat@gmail.com

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From the Director



Dear Volunteer Applicants:

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is the disaster management and emergency home repair Outreach Ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church. Volunteers serve together to repair and build homes for low-income families in the Bahamas.

Our goal is to improve living conditions for families in need. We strive to offer *transformational experiences for volunteers and homeowners* alike by sharing the love of Christ through service. The hope is that volunteers will return home with an expanded view of the world and an inspiration for creating ways to be involved in their own community. Homeowners will come through the experience with safer homes and renewed hope. **We would like to invite you to come serve with us in an exciting and unique way to put your Faith into Action.**

We encourage you to review the service opportunities in this packet. Our wonderful staff is willing to serve with you and meet the specific needs of your group. We want this to be the best experience possible and we are dedicated to that end.

*Come find the place where
your gifts and talents
intersect the needs of the
world.*

Things to know:

- It is highly recommended and helpful if some members of your group have construction knowledge. If this is not feasible, our staff will teach you everything you need to know. You just have to be willing to learn...and serve!
- Volunteers Arrive on **Sunday** afternoon and Depart the following **Saturday** morning.
- Volunteer fees cover: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Lodging, On-Island Transportation, Building Materials, Site Leaders, BMH T-Shirt and Tools needed for the duration of your stay (but we are always in need of donated tools).
- Air-fare is **not** included in the cost.
- BMH is open to all people from all walks of life; **this is not just for Methodists!**

Serve with us and rebuild communities. Come find the place where your gifts and talents intersect with the needs of the world. Our schedule fills up fast, so please SIGN UP today. We look forward to seeing and serving with you soon!

Peace and Love.

Rev. Brenda Thompson
Interim Co-Director
Bahamas Methodist Habitat

Kenrick "KP" Pearce
Interim Co-Director
Bahamas Methodist Habitat

Application Guidelines



Many questions that you have can be answered in this packet or on our website.
For additional questions, contact us: (931) 230-7771 or MethodistHabitat@gmail.com

1. Complete the **Application Form** included in this packet.
2. Each member of your group should be given a copy of the **Expectations, Rules, and Regulations** found in this packet. These must be read and understood before signing the **Covenant Sheet**.
3. Make a copy of everything that you send to BMH to keep in your files!
4. **E-mail** your completed Application to: **MethodistHabitat@gmail.com** ASAP to reserve your week. Email us to inquire about available dates and preferences for other islands. Most volunteer groups schedule over a year in advance. No applications will be accepted by fax or through a phone call.

Teams are scheduled on a *first come, first served* basis.

Your Application Packet should include:

1

•Completed Application Form

2

•\$500 Group Deposit

Submit Online

E-mail Application & Pay On-Line

- Visit the BMH "Donation" page on our website
- Make Payment (as a Donation)
- Email us your PayPal **Confirmation**

Or through Mail

Mail Application and Deposit Check to:

Bahamas Methodist Habitat - GHB
Agape Flights - Acct. # 18693
100 Airport Avenue
Venice, FL 34285

(Agape Flights is a partner ministry that brings our mail. Allow 3 weeks for delivery)

Both parts of the application, the completed application and the group deposit, must be enclosed before BMH will accept your group.

Incomplete applications will be held until both parts are received in our office.

No date will be reserved for the applying group until the application is complete.

5. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** If cancellation is necessary, email MethodistHabitat@gmail.com **ASAP**. All deposits are Non-refundable. (See "Payment Information" chart on the Application Form). Cancellation must be completed more than 4 months prior to your arrival date to avoid being charged further payment fees.
6. Additional information and planning guides can be found in the Volunteer tab of our website. Be sure to download the **Group Leader Packet** for: Group Leader information, Frequently Asked Questions, Travel tips, Packing Guides, What to Expect, BMH Needs List and more.

BMH Volunteer Application Form

Bahamas Methodist Habitat – GHB; Agape Flights – Acct. # 18693; 100 Airport Avenue; Venice, FL 34285
 MethodistHabitat@gmail.com; US: (931)230-7771; Bahamas: (242)335-6210



Group Name: _____

Address: _____

(Street or P.O. Box)

(Suite #)

(Settlement / City)

(Island / State)

(Zip)

Phone: () _____ **Fax:** () _____

Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Home Phone: () _____ **Cell:** () _____

**All correspondence will be sent to the church/group address in the attention of the contact person unless indicated otherwise.*

Preferred Location: Eleuthera - Camp Symonette South Eleuthera Nassau North Eleuthera

Preferred Weeks: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____
 (Sunday Afternoon to Saturday Morning unless cleared with Director)

GROUP SIZE: (Give total numbers in each category) **Youth:** _____ **Young Adults:** _____ **Adults:** _____ **Total:** _____
 Ages: 14-18 Ages: 19-24 25+ years

1. A typical “Work Crew” is 6 to 8 people. Youth Teams: 6 youths + 2 adults = 1 work crew.
2. Each work crew must have at least 2 adults. (We ask that at least one adult has some construction experience!)

Payment Information

Registration Deposit* (per team)	4 Months Out 1 st Payment (per person)	Upon Arrival Final Payment [per person]	Total (per person)
\$500*	\$400	\$350 + Balance of Team Deposit	\$750

Your fees cover building materials, housing, meals, **on-island** transportation, site leaders and a BMH t-shirt.
***Non-refundable.** The group deposit may be used towards the total cost of the group payment.

Application Checklist:

- Completed **Application** (this sheet)
- Included or submitted online the **\$500 Group Registration Fee** (non-refundable)
- I have read and agree to the terms outlined in the **Covenant Sheet**
- I have read and agree to the **Cancellation Policy** (listed on the Application Guidelines)
- I have downloaded the **Group Leader Packet** from the website to help me prepare for the trip
- I understand that it is required to obtain UVMIM insurance for my group (approx. \$25 per person)

Signature of Group Advisor / Senior Pastor: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Contact Person: _____ **Date:** _____

Bahamas Methodist Habitat Covenant Sheet



A covenant is a promise between two parties. Because communal living and cooperative working require agreements in behavior and expectations, BMH offers to enter into this Covenant with you, our volunteers.

BMH promises to:

- Facilitate a unique service opportunity for your group.
- Provide a facility, staff, and all the details that go into making your service experience a success.
- House and feed volunteers during their stay with us.
- Do our best to help ensure safe working and living conditions.
- Work with volunteers in making this mission a valid and meaningful part of their faith and life journey.

Volunteers promise to:

- Come to BMH with a willingness to serve and be open to a flexible schedule that will allow for incidences out of BMH’s control.
- Read, understand, respect, and abide by the stated ***Expectations, Rules and Regulations of BMH*** found in this packet. (Be sure that each of your volunteers read and sign this covenant sheet.)

For BMH Mission Trip of:

<i>Group Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Week of Service</i>
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Group Leader: I covenant with my Bahamas Methodist Habitat volunteers and with the BMH staff to responsibly prepare my team for the BMH service experience. I have read BMH’s ***Expectations, Rules and Regulations*** and agree to abide by them during our BMH mission trip.

Please have your group sign their names and date their signature in the space provided below. (This needs to be turned in upon your arrival in the Bahamas.)

By signing your name, you are making an official covenant with your group and with Bahamas Methodist Habitat. Thank you! (Use additional sheets if needed)

Signature	Date	Signature	Date
1. _____	_____	13. _____	_____
2. _____	_____	14. _____	_____
3. _____	_____	15. _____	_____
4. _____	_____	16. _____	_____
5. _____	_____	17. _____	_____
6. _____	_____	18. _____	_____
7. _____	_____	19. _____	_____
8. _____	_____	20. _____	_____
9. _____	_____	21. _____	_____
10. _____	_____	22. _____	_____
11. _____	_____	23. _____	_____
12. _____	_____	24. _____	_____

Expectations, Rules and Regulations for Volunteers

Bahamas Methodist Habitat is a disaster management and home repair mission and all activities and energies should be focused to this end. You have made a commitment to BMH, and on the basis of that commitment we have committed to the housing needs in the Bahamas. We expect all volunteers to participate fully in each aspect of the BMH experience.

These Expectations, Rules and Regulations apply to all BMH volunteers.

BMH staff has overall responsibility for all activities. **Directions** given by the staff are to be strictly observed.

Adult leaders are responsible for the safety and conduct of their youth volunteers at all times (at center, worksite and in the community) while your group participates with BMH.

The summer youth program is designed for senior high youth (ages 13 and older AND having completed the 8th grade). If you have younger youth that want to come, their parent or guardian will have to accompany them on the mission.

Everyone is expected to act responsibly the entire time they are in the BMH community. Since you will all be coming from outside the region, you will be an obvious presence in affiliation with BMH. There might be times when you need to modify your lifestyle or habits so as not to be offensive to the community as well as being a good representative of BMH. Take your cues from the staff.

Please use tools, supplies, materials and other resources responsibly and for their intended home repair purposes. Always keep the safety of others a priority, as well as being sensitive to the family you are serving. If a family requests that you stop an activity, please respect their wishes.

Possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol is strictly forbidden! Violators will be asked to return to their home immediately at their group's expense.

The staff will inform you of any specific facility or community guidelines prior to or upon your arrival.

Smoking or use of tobacco products is restricted to specific areas at the BMH facility and work sites. Underage youth are not permitted to smoke anywhere!

No animals are permitted to be brought back to a BMH housing facility.

Females are not permitted at any time in the males' sleeping area. Males are not permitted in the females' sleeping area, at any time.

A strict 10:00p.m. quiet time and 10:30p.m. "lights-out" rule applies to all volunteers. Possible exception will be Friday night, when lights out can be extended to 12:00a.m. if agreed upon by staff and adult crew leaders.

Center attire-Discretion in clothing must be used at the housing facility and in the community. Shirts must be worn at all times. Modest shorts and T-shirts will be acceptable attire. Halter, spaghetti strap

and strapless tops, sports bras worn as an outer garment, spandex clothing, bike pants, or shirts and hats expressing alcohol/beer slogans and obscenities are not acceptable.

Work attire- T-Shirts, long pants (light cotton, scrubs, jeans) and sturdy shoes (work boots are preferred) must be worn at all times at the work site. Sweat pants, shorts, ripped pants, half shirts, sleeveless shirts, sports bras, tank-tops and halter tops are not acceptable.

Swimsuits should be modest. Girls need to have a one-piece or tankini. If you have a two-piece please bring a tank top to wear over it.

Because you are visiting an unfamiliar community, please always go from place to place in a group of three or more people. Never travel alone. Make sure your Team Leader is aware of your location.

All volunteers (youth and adult) are expected to participate fully in the programs of BMH, including meals, chores, meetings, evening gatherings and special events. To keep the housing facility functioning smoothly, volunteers will be asked to assist in center clean up, tool and supply organization, after meal clean up, loading/unloading of building materials.

To ensure sensitivity to families we serve, taping with video equipment is strictly prohibited.

Take time to fully experience the Bahamas. Limit the use of cell phone and other electronic equipment. Internet availability will be limited to Group Leaders and should only be used for necessary updates. No youth should expect to have internet access.

A work crew is 6-8 people. Groups with 9 participants must be divided into two work crews (5 & 4). This number limitation ensures sensitivity to the family as well as maximum efficiency at the work site. However, the ninth person may be a helper to the staff at the center or if highly skilled, could function as a floater/advisor! Please check with the staff before your trip.

Fire arms, air rifles, BB guns, any kind of weaponry (or replicas) or fireworks are not permitted.

Working hours are from 8:00am - 4:30pm Monday - Thursday. There will be site seeing and recreational activities on Friday, or your last full day on the island. This is to ensure the best possible experience for you, the staff and the families we serve.

We expect lunch to be eaten at the worksite. You may bring extra sandwiches to share with family members. (Some individuals will go out of their way to make you feel appreciated - even overextending themselves) If a family member insists on showing their appreciation by preparing lunch, accept their offer. If you have any questions or concerns, please check with the staff.

BMH does not condone or tolerate sexual harassment or abuse of any kind and will take measures to reconcile the situation.