



# BMH Summer Staff

Dear BMH Summer Staff Applicant,

Thank you for applying for the 2018 BMH Summer Staff ministry. This packet is coming out later than usual because I have just started as Executive Director on February 1st. I am not stranger to BMH though! I've been bring young adults teams here for years and working with VIM and since I was 15 years old myself. I have blessed to be able to share how God has worked in my life through mission and believe strongly in BMH's belief that our service together helps everyone to hear God's presence and purpose more clearly and with more joy! I am excited to say that this year we are being intentional about inviting both American and Bahamian young adults to apply for Summer Staff. It is wonderful to see how this program continues to grow through the years. Our Summer Staff is essential for hosting volunteer teams and continuing to serve the community throughout the busy times of summer.

This packet serves to give you a realistic view and expectation of your potential time with us. Please read the information then fill out and return the Application with all needed paperwork via email by **March 20th**. We will then arrange and host an Online or Phone Interview with each qualified applicant by **March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Applicants will be notified by **April 10th** at the latest of our decision.

**This year we have 12 openings. We are looking for four staffers to create a Leadership team to assist with staff training, lead satellite sites, and stay for the full 11 weeks of the summer. We will also be looking for four support staff to help with the running of the teams, in the office, on construction sites, and around camp. The support summer staff will come for 4 or 7 weeks. The first session will come to camp from May 22-July 10 (7 weeks). The 2<sup>nd</sup> session will come to camp from July 11-Aug 8 (4 weeks).**

It is exciting to look at 2018 with Hope and Promise that God is doing new things through this ministry as we include new people and programs. We will continue to serve God's people with the same Spirit. God's people will include families here in The Bahamas that have no running water or live under a leaky roof as well as the weekly volunteers who are searching for God's calling in their lives and even some of the staff. You will be a major factor in serving in whatever way God calls you through BMH. We ask that you be open to that calling and prepared for a life changing experience. Thank you again for your willingness to join us while we Love and Serve God throughout The Bahamas.

Blessings,

Rev. Stephanie Gottschalk, Executive Director

& The Bahamas Methodist Habitat Family

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## Time Commitment:

### **Summer Staff Schedule**

#### **Session One (7 Weeks):**

May 22	Arrive Nassau by 1:45 Arrive Governor's Harbour (GHB), EL by 4:30pm
May 23-25	Staff Orientation
May 26-July 7	Volunteer Teams
July 8-9	Staff Debrief / Island Fun Day with Appreciation Dinner
July 10	Depart GHB 7am – Depart Nassau after 12pm

#### **Session Two (4 Weeks):**

July 11	Arrive Nassau by 1:45 Arrive Governor's Harbour (GHB), EL by 4:30pm
July 12 - 14	Staff Orientation
July 15-Aug 4	Volunteer Teams
Aug 5-7	Staff Debrief / Island Fun Day with Appreciation Dinner
Aug 8	Depart GHB 7am – Depart Nassau after 12pm

#### **Leadership Team (11 Weeks):**

May 22	Arrive Nassau by 1:45 Arrive Governor's Harbour (GHB), EL by 4:30pm
Aug 9	Depart GHB 7am – Depart Nassau after 12pm

(You will note on your application which session you would like to serve with us.)

## Expectations:

Each week of the summer, we have volunteers come to serve with BMH. Our Summer Staff are present to minister and serve the weekly volunteers while connecting with the community. We love to have our staff use their God given gifts and talents to enhance the ministry. We will empower you to use your gifts by leading worship, teaching bible study, working in the office or out on a work site, repairing things around Camp, creating videos, snapping photos, etc. This means every person's Job Description will be unique. On top of using your individual gifts we will also expect that you share in daily chores around Camp such as assisting with laundry, kitchen duties, getting water, assisting in the garden, cleaning vehicles, and leading evening activities amongst a host of other tasks that are needed to ensure the ministry runs smoothly for our volunteers and staff.

### **BMH Expects all Summer Staff to:**

- Must be at least 19 or one year out of college, preferably living away from home
- Be able to attend Staff Training, Orientation and Debrief
- Show Christ's love to all they encounter
- Follow the rules and regulations of BMH
- Have honest, proactive communication about your needs
- Be an active part of the BMH team

### **Summer Staff can Expect BMH to provide:**

- A safe place to learn, serve and grow
- An opportunity to explore and utilize the gifts God has given you
- Conversations about ministry, mission, and God's work
- A eye opening and life-changing experience

### **Environmental Expectations:**

It is HOT and BUGGY in The Bahamas! You are going to sweat a lot and if you're not careful you will become dehydrated and sunburned. You must take care of your body while you are here. If hot, buggy and sweaty are not adjectives that you would like to use to describe your summer experience, this might not be the place for you to serve. This warning is not to scare you away, simply to be realistic with the environmental conditions that you will face on a daily basis if you are selected. There is also a beautiful ocean and sea that are incredible and also must be respected for their beauty and danger.

Eleuthera is a very quiet island with probably not much going on in regards to social interaction as compared to your hometowns. Even the small ones. You will have your hands full with tasks and opportunities in regards to the ministry and community interaction but you will also have days off and down time that you will be expected to 'entertain' yourself and be okay with being by yourself as the rest of the staff works through their schedule. This experience will give you the opportunity to grow in your faith within the larger community and while you spend time alone. Embrace the solitude and be open to what God has in store for you.

### **Travel to and from The Bahamas:**

Summer Staff is responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Eleuthera. You will need to fly into Governor's Harbor Airport (GHB) on the island of Eleuthera. If accepted as a staffer, our Volunteer Coordinator will work with you to arrange air travel and have a staff member pick you up from GHB to take you to Camp Symonette.

### **Financial Support and Budgeting:**

BMH Summer Staff is not a paid position. However, we have systems in place to assist you in raising your own financial support if you need it to cover your financial obligations while in The Bahamas or back home. We have faith that your family, friends, home church and community will partner with your efforts in The Bahamas by supporting you financially.

### **BMH will provide:**

- Island transportation related to the ministry
- Housing
- Meals while hosting volunteer teams
- Cell phone Access for ministry communications
- Shared ministry computer for ministry work and personal communications (You may also bring your own)

### **What you will need to provide as Summer Staff:**

- Transportation to and from Eleuthera
- International Evacuation Insurance ([www.umvimej.org](http://www.umvimej.org))

- Food on the weekends when no groups are at Camp (Saturday lunch thru Sunday lunch) and during Prep Week
- Personal supplies such as laundry detergent, international calling plan, personal items, snacks, etc. and laptop, if you want to bring it

**Estimated Summer Cost:**

+ \$300-\$400 spending money

+ \$500-\$600 plane ticket

\$800-\$1000 Total

## **Housing:**

BMH will provide safe and secure accommodations for you to stay in while you are serving in The Bahamas. Please be prepared to share living space with other Summer Staff and possibly volunteers. In the case of disaster or new programming, volunteers and staff may be asked to stay on different islands and in different housing situations. Prime yourself to be flexible and ready to go wherever your hands of service are needed most.

## **Communication:**

The main way to communicate with friends and family at home is via the Internet and Skype. US cell phone plans are very expensive to use in The Bahamas (\$2/minute). There is Wi-Fi at Camp and works 90% of the time. If you are asked to go to another island we cannot always promise that there will be Internet access. Be aware that living in the islands means the Internet is not always working and can go out for an hour or a couple of days with no notice...or explanation.

## **BMH Contacts:**

**Bahamas Line:** 1-242-823-6891

Website: [MethodistHabitat.org](http://MethodistHabitat.org)

Email: [MethodistHabitat@gmail.com](mailto:MethodistHabitat@gmail.com)

**United States Line:** 1-412-926-0498

Skype: [MethodistHabitat](#)

### **Bahamas Mailing Address**

Bahamas Methodist Habitat - Camp Symonette P.O. Box # EL-25803

James' Cistern, Eleuthera, Bahamas

### **United States Mailing Address\* (USE THIS ADDRESS)**

Bahamas Methodist Habitat - GHB

Agape Flights Acct# 28384

To: Stephanie Gottschalk c/o YOUR NAME

100 Airport Avenue,  
Venice, FL 34285

\* Family and Friends who are sending mail or care packages during your stay need to send them to the Agape address. Please be sure to note that it takes on average 3 weeks or longer to get mail.

## **The History of BMH:**

BMH has been the Disaster Management Outreach ministry of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church (BCMC) since its response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992. On a year round basis, BMH recruits volunteer teams from different denominations, age groups, skill levels, and backgrounds to serve low-income families in The Bahamas. These teams can expect to interact with those who call these islands home on their worksite and in the community through sports, bible studies, cultural exchange opportunities, and worship services.

We are dedicated to loving God and serving those who have been affected by all types of natural disasters as well as substandard housing conditions. We take on projects ranging in size from painting bedrooms to building new homes. Our goal is to improve the living condition and lifestyle for those in need. We accomplish this by offering transformative experiences for volunteers and homeowners alike by sharing and receiving the Love of Christ. Our hope is that volunteer teams will go into the world with an inspiration for creating ways to be involved in their own community and homeowners will come through the experience with safe living conditions, renewed motivation and hope.

BMH is based out of Camp Symonette in James Cistern, Eleuthera, and we extend our services to Abaco, Andros, Grand Bahamas, Cat Island, Current Island, New Providence (Nassau), and Ragged Island. We have also served in the Turks and Caicos, Haiti and the United States in the past four years.

## **Thank you:**

It is with great excitement that we send these 2018 Applications out and we look forward to receiving them back soon so we can begin to plan for our staffing summer 2018. We thank you for being such great supporters of BMH and making yourself available to serve with us as we relieve disaster and promote community throughout The Bahamas. We will strive to coordinate an opportunity for you to use your God given gifts and talents to serve our volunteers and homeowners by fostering experiences that will empower them to reach out into the world and change one loving moment and action at a time. Thank you once again and we await your completed application and references with anticipation and hope.

If you have further questions, please contact Rev. Stephanie Gottschalk via email or phone.



# BMH Summer Staff Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a student? Yes No What year? \_\_\_\_\_

School name & location: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of study \_\_\_\_\_

What is your home church name? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member? Yes No How long? \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs

Name of Senior Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been to Eleuthera before? If so when? \_\_\_\_\_

**Which session of the summer are you interested in serving?**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Summer Session: May 22 – July 10 (7 weeks)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Summer Session: July 11- Aug 8 (4 weeks)

\_\_\_\_\_ Leadership Staff: May 22 – Aug 9 (11 weeks)

Do you have any date restrictions or issues? Please explain:

  

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**Emergency Contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to submit to the leadership of BMH and to the rules that have been established for the appropriate conduct of summer staff? Yes No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions (Cont.)**

**Be completely honest in all your answers. We want to know the real YOU.  
Do not impress us with your words, just your honesty.**

**General Self Evaluation:**

**How do you rate yourself in these areas? (1 = poor / 5= excellent)**

Ability to take direction	1 2 3 4 5	Teachable attitude	1 2 3 4 5
Ability to take initiative	1 2 3 4 5	Flexibility/adaptability	1 2 3 4 5
Reliability & responsibility	1 2 3 4 5	Ability to handle stress	1 2 3 4 5
Spiritual leadership ability	1 2 3 4 5	Ability to work with others	1 2 3 4 5
Ability to relate to others	1 2 3 4 5	Ability to delegate responsibility	1 2 3 4 5

**Detailed Response Questions (Returning Staff please see questions below):**

1. Why do you sense God directing you toward this ministry opportunity and what do you desire to gain from the experience?
2. Please describe your past Mission/Service experiences, internationally and locally.
3. Please list your specific strengths and weaknesses (gift, talents, spiritual and other) and how you hope to use them during your time of service with BMH.
4. List ways that you have proven flexible, adaptable and culturally sensitive in your life; these are three attributes which are essential to ministry at BMH.
5. Please state any concerns you have about serving with a ministry in another country, and how you will deal with those concerns while here.
6. If you could do anything without anybody knowing (and nobody would get hurt), what would you do?

**Returning Staff Detailed Response Questions:**

1. What was the most important thing you learned from your experience at BMH?
2. How have you continued to grow spiritually and as a leader throughout the year (give examples)?
3. What ideas/dreams do you have this summer for BMH and/or the Summer Staff Program?
4. Why do you feel God is calling you to return this summer?
5. What areas in the ministry would you like to work in this summer?

Please e-mail your completed application and any additional questions to: [MethodistHabitat@gmail.com](mailto:MethodistHabitat@gmail.com)

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**References:**

**Please provide the names of two people who know you well and would be willing to recommend you to serve with BMH. We suggest a spiritual leader (mentor, small group leader, pastor), past employer and a co-worker. (No family members please)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward the attached Reference Questionnaire and ask them to Complete and Return the form to BMH at [MethodistHabitat@gmail.com](mailto:MethodistHabitat@gmail.com)**

# Summer Staff Reference Information

Dear BMH Candidate Reference,

Thank you for taking the time to share your stories, support and love for our Summer Staff Candidate. We look forward to reviewing your thoughts and may call on you for further information regarding your candidate. We thank you again.

**Candidate Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address / P.O. Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_ **How long have you known the Candidate?** \_\_\_\_\_

## **General Evaluation:**

### **How do you rate the Volunteer Candidate in the following areas? (1 = poor / 5 = excellent)**

Ability to take direction	1 2 3 4 5	Teachable attitude	1 2 3 4 5
Ability to take initiative	1 2 3 4 5	Flexibility/adaptability	1 2 3 4 5
Reliability & responsibility	1 2 3 4 5	Ability to handle stress	1 2 3 4 5
Spiritual leadership ability	1 2 3 4 5	Ability to work with others	1 2 3 4 5
Ability to relate to others	1 2 3 4 5	Ability to delegate	1 2 3 4 5

## **Detailed Response Questions:**

1. Please give an example of a time in which you witnessed the candidate problem-solve in a stressful environment.
2. Please list three strengths and three weaknesses (spiritual and other) of the candidate and how these would be applicable for their service at BMH.
3. What aspect of the candidate's relationship with Christ will be the biggest asset to their time at BMH?
4. List ways that you are aware of that candidate has proven flexibility, adaptability and cultural sensitive.
5. In your opinion; why might the candidate **not** be a good long-term volunteer choice?
6. On a scale of 1 to 10, please rate candidate's ability to be a long term volunteer with BMH, and please be specific in justifying your answer.

**Please e-mail completed answers with "Candidate's Name / Reference" as the Subject to  
[MethodistHabitat@gmail.com](mailto:MethodistHabitat@gmail.com). Thank you for your support and interest in BMH.**