Habitat for Humanity®

Global Village Program

Becoming a Global Village team leader - United States

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Global Village team leader for teams coordinated by Habitat's U. S. headquarters.

The following information applies to leading teams from the United States. If you are currently located in another country, please contact gv@habitat.org for additional contact information. Please review the below information and carefully consider the geographical area (Africa/Middle East, Asia/Pacific, Europe/Central Asia, Latin America/Caribbean or United States/Canada) where you are most interested in leading a GV team.

Like GV trip participants, team leaders come from all walks of life, backgrounds and experiences. The common thread is a desire to help others, a passion for travel, the time to organize and lead a team and dedication to the Habitat mission and ministry.

Basic requirements

For GV participants, the team leader is a direct representative of Habitat and the GV program. Therefore, it is crucial that every team leader be well-versed in the mission and ministry of Habitat and the philosophy and purpose of the GV program. Team leaders must possess the skills and experience necessary to be competent leaders to their region of interest.

All team leaders must be trained by the GV staff and once accepted to the team leader program will be required to register and complete three e-courses offered by Habitat Learns on the foundation, vision and mission principles of Habitat.

Each prospective team leader must:

- Have a participant application and eight-digit Habitat identification on file. (If you have not yet completed a participant application, please do so at habitat.org/gv/how_to_apply.aspx.)
- Be approved by the HFHI GV staff.
- Complete and submit to HFHI a GV team leader application.
- Complete first aid and CPR certification prior to leading the trip. (To sign up for a course, try contacting your local Red Cross chapter.)
- Have significant international travel experience (with the exception of those leading teams within the United States).
- If leading a team to Latin America, be a fluent Spanish speaker or have at least one fluent Spanish-speaking team member recruited for every five team members.
- Be at least 24 years old and meet all minimum requirements for becoming a GV team leader.
- Understand and agree to all the above as well as acknowledge that it is at the discretion of the GV staff to approve or decline team leader applications based upon references, requirements, and experience. Interest in leading does not automatically guarantee acceptance.

Those interested in leading open-registration teams (open to the public and posted on the public site) must:

- Have participated in at least one prior GV trip.
- Be recommended by a GV team leader and/or an GV volunteer engagement specialist.

Leaders of closed-registration teams (a team that will not be recruiting online, i.e. a church or school group) without previous GV experience, but appointed by their group, may be permitted to lead if they meet all other requirements for team leaders.

Application process

1. Fill out and submit the team leader application and fax it to 267-295-8714 or scan and send to TL@habitat.org.
2. Once your application has been received and reviewed, you will be contacted by a GV staff member to set up an interview.

3. An initial interview will be completed. If you are pre-selected, your application will be forwarded to the appropriate volunteer engagement specialist. You will then be provided with the GV volunteer engagement specialist's contact information and instructed to follow-up to schedule a final interview.
4. If approved, the volunteer engagement specialist will invite you to attend a team leader training.
5. Once trained, you will work with a GV support team to begin planning your trip. (Some team leaders may begin planning before attending the training, but all leaders must attend before departing on their trip.)

Global Village team leader training

Once approved, a team leader will be invited to and must attend a GV team leader training. Team leaders trained by other sending programs will need to attend training in the United States before being able to lead U.S. teams.

Attending the training early in the process better prepares the leader for the tasks ahead. There is a registration fee to attend a team leader training and attendees pay their own travel expenses.

Presented by the HFHI GV staff, these interactive trainings are two-day events held on a Friday and Saturday in various locations across the continental United States. Pre-training requirements include e-courses offered by Habitat Learns (habitatlearns.org). You will need to register, complete and present your certificates at your training event for the "Foundations of Habitat for Humanity" series:

- Beginnings of Habitat for Humanity
- Vision And Mission of Habitat for Humanity
- Applying Mission Principles
- Organizational Structure of Habitat for Humanity

To take these courses, please visit habitatlearns.org. Create an account by selecting the Courses link to the left, then select the "Foundations of Habitat for Humanity" links on the right. In addition to the "Foundations" series, we encourage you to take advantage of the many other resources surrounding Habitat and housing issues worldwide available on this site.

Please note that the initial approval process may take two to three months. You should not begin planning a trip until your application has been approved and an invitation to a team leader training event has been extended.

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