

## Vol 10 Leadership, Long-Term and RV Volunteer Application



This application is for anyone desiring to serve four weeks or more with MDS, including leadership volunteers, RV volunteers, and those serving without a leadership assignment.

### *Mennonite Disaster Service Vision and Mission*

*We strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those affected by disasters.*

*We respond to disasters, rebuild homes, and restore hope by organizing and empowering volunteers in the U.S. and Canada.*

## Volunteer assignments with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS)

MDS volunteers serve as a way of modeling their lives after Jesus, who showed us the way of peace and served those around him who were in need. Leadership, Long-Term and RV volunteers are Christians who are active participants in a church and are in agreement with the shared convictions of MDS stated at the end of this application.

**Traditional Projects:** The majority of volunteers spend an average of one week serving with MDS on a volunteer crew. Weekly volunteers rely on leadership volunteers who serve four weeks or more, coordinating the work and connecting them with clients. As an MDS long-term volunteer, you may become involved with a variety of tasks including clean up, carpentry, administrative and office duties, volunteer hosting, food preparation and leadership. You will become part of a volunteer team serving together to help get people back home after a disaster.

**RV Projects:** The RV Program is designed for volunteers age 55+ who stay in their own RVs and serve four days weekly, six hours daily for a minimum of four weeks. For married couples, both husband and wife are encouraged to serve but one spouse may elect not to serve for personal or health reasons. RV volunteers prepare their own meals and need to have kitchen, toilet and shower facilities in their RV.

Please read the MDS Leadership Guide or MDS RV Guide to learn more about serving as an MDS Leadership or RV Volunteer.

## MDS volunteers build more than houses

MDS volunteers are known for repairing and rebuilding homes damaged by disasters, but the impact of MDS is more than just construction. MDS provides an opportunity for you to walk alongside disaster survivors, bringing the dignity and respect of God's love to their recovery. Both homeowners and volunteers often find that their lives are changed, and their faith is strengthened through this experience of serving together. Volunteers become the hands and feet of Jesus.

## Information for you to know...

- Completing a long-term application form and participating in an interview does not guarantee placement on an MDS project site.
- Travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the current MDS policy and a small stipend will be provided.
- Volunteers are responsible for their own medical insurance. MDS is not responsible for medical coverage related to accidents or personal injury.
- Long-term volunteers must be at least 18 years old.
- MDS does not allow pets on projects. If an RV site allows pets, RV volunteers may bring pets that can be left alone in the RV.

### MDS National Office

583 Airport Rd.  
Lititz, PA 17543

Tel:(717)735-3536  
Fax:(717)735-0809  
[volunteer@mds.org](mailto:volunteer@mds.org)  
(800)241-8111

### MDS Canada Office

200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd  
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1

Tel:(204)261-1274  
Fax:(204)261-1279  
[mdscanada@mds.org](mailto:mdscanada@mds.org)

Submit a head shot  
photo for an MDS  
ID Badge

Email a digital  
photo with your  
application to  
[volunteer@mds.org](mailto:volunteer@mds.org)

After completing  
this application,  
please send it to  
the MDS office in  
your country.



Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name Preferred Name

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: Home \_\_ Mobile \_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a current drivers license? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Are you willing to drive an MDS vehicle on the project site? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Are you able to get a Dr's note to drive an MDS vehicle if you are over 75? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Do you have valid health coverage through your time of service\*? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Please list any health or dietary restrictions you have: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a preferred method of transportation to a project? Drive\_\_ Fly\_\_ Bus\_\_ Train\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

Check if you would like to receive Behind the Hammer \_\_\_\_\_ Bi-Weekly Update \_\_\_\_\_

Availability

Date Available \_\_\_\_\_

Intended length of service \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about MDS? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever served on an MDS project?  
 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Work History

**Please list most recent work and service.**

**Employer** \_\_\_\_\_

Duties \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Employer** \_\_\_\_\_

Duties \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_

RV Info

**If you are bringing your own RV:**

Length of RV \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Slides \_\_\_\_\_ Kitchen/Toilet/Shower? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Type: Class A \_\_\_ Class C \_\_\_ Travel trailer \_\_\_ 5th wheel \_\_\_ Is 30 amps sufficient? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Faith Journey

Please record a summary of your faith journey. You may attach an additional sheet, if necessary.



Areas of Experience

**Select the number that corresponds to your level of experience with each skill:**  
 1: I have no experience 2: I have limited experience and would need supervision 3: I am experienced and could perform this skill without supervision 4: I could demonstrate, instruct and supervise unskilled volunteers in this area

1 2 3 4	Able to lift heavy items	1 2 3 4	Finish Carpentry	1 2 3 4	Roofing
	Accounting/Bookkeeping		Flooring Installation		Skid Steer Operator
	Administration		Framing		Working with Youth
	Cabinet/Countertop Installation		General Home Repair		
	Chainsaw Operator		HVAC		
	Computer/Office Work		Managing People		
	Cooking		Masonry		
	Drywall Finishing		Painting		
	Drywall Hanging		Pastoral Care/Counseling		<b>Other Skills:</b> _____
	Electrical		Plumbing		<b>Indicate any second languages:</b> _____

In the last 10 years, were you licensed in any of the above trades? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there work you can't do due to physical limitations? If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact

**Please list someone who will not be serving at the project with you.**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Info

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

How long attended \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Conference \_\_\_\_\_

**Media Awareness Statement:** Many volunteers like to take photos at project sites to share on social media. While MDS supports and even encourages sharing positive pictures of your volunteer experience, it is important for volunteers to respect the wishes and preferences of others. Please ask for permission of others in the photo before you take the picture and also ask for permission before you share. If you do post and share, please include the hashtag of #MDSResponds.

**Privacy Statement:** MDS requires the above information to process your volunteer application. Your information will be distributed to and used by MDS staff and project leaders for the stated purpose and for statistical records. Your application will be kept on file for five years after you serve unless you request otherwise. If you have not served for three years then you will be asked to complete a new application. MDS may conduct a background check and contact references.

**Statement of Agreement:** By completing this form I understand that I would be a volunteer and not an employee of MDS. I understand that I will not receive financial compensation for the service performed and that I am not eligible for any MDS benefits including but not limited to workers compensation and unemployment compensation. MDS does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide financial assistance for medical, health or liability for any injury that may arise out of my activities with MDS. I acknowledge that the activities with MDS may be hazardous and entail risks of injury, illness, death and property damage. I agree to release and hold MDS, together with its employees, agents, directors, volunteers and board harmless from any claims or demands which may arise out of my activities with MDS. I further release and hold harmless any property owner whose property I am on as part of my activities with MDS.

The information on this application is accurate and complete and I consent to the release, use and storage of this information as outlined above.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Volunteer Agreement of Expectations



## Long-term MDS volunteers agree to:

- Nurture your relationship with God while on assignment through participation in daily group devotionals and church attendance.
- Serve at least 40-45 hours/week (RV volunteers serve 4 days per week, 6 hours per day).
- Use safety equipment on job sites.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and illegal substances while serving with MDS.
- Respect people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, both in the communities where MDS serves and among the diverse MDS constituents.
- Respect the authority of the MDS Project Director. Inform the Project Director of plans to take trips during scheduled time off.
- Abide by the MDS dress code while on MDS projects. Dress code can be found in the Volunteer Guide.
- Embrace MDS Core Values: Faith in Action, Caring Relationships, & Working Together.

## Shared Convictions

By the grace of God, we seek to live and proclaim the good news of reconciliation in Jesus Christ. As part of the one body of Christ at all times and places, we hold the following to be central to our belief and practice:

1. God is known to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Creator who seeks to restore fallen humanity by calling a people to be faithful in fellowship, worship, service and witness.
2. Jesus is the Son of God. Through his life and teachings, his cross and resurrection, he showed us how to be faithful disciples, redeemed the world, and offers eternal life.
3. As a church, we are a community of those whom God's Spirit calls to turn from sin, acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, receive baptism upon confession of faith, and follow Christ in life.
4. As a faith community, we accept the Bible as our authority for faith and life, interpreting it together under Holy Spirit guidance, in the light of Jesus Christ to discern God's will for our obedience.
5. The Spirit of Jesus empowers us to trust God in all areas of life, so we become peacemakers who renounce violence, love our enemies, seek justice, and share our possessions with those in need.
6. We gather regularly to worship, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and to hear the Word of God in a spirit of mutual accountability.
7. As a world-wide community of faith and life we transcend boundaries of nationality, race, class, gender and language. We seek to live in the world without conforming to the powers of evil, witnessing to God's grace by serving others, caring for creation, and inviting all people to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

In these convictions we draw inspiration from Anabaptist forebears of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, who modeled radical discipleship to Jesus Christ. We seek to walk in His name by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we confidently await Christ's return and the final fulfillment of God's kingdom.

*Adopted by Mennonite World Conference General Council, Pasadena, California (USA), March 15, 2006*

*Adopted by MDS Board of Directors and Delegates Feb 10, 2011*

I (print name) \_\_\_\_\_ understand and commit to observing the expectations as outlined above while on assignment with MDS and I affirm the shared convictions.

Applicant signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_