

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 & 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.

MDS US Office
583 Airport Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543

Tel: 717-735-3536
Fax: 717-735-0809
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

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 the MDS RV Guide for detailed information.

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 the application process 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 each week.
- 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.

Your Checklist:

Complete the following pages of this application and return them to your country's office using the information listed above.

Submit two reference forms (provided from MDS).

Submit a Background check via online or a paper form.



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 driver's 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 Volunteer 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 Statement

Please describe your faith in God and your relationship to a local church. You may attach an additional sheet, if needed.



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	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
Able to lift heavy items	Finish Carpentry	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	Other Skills: _____
Drywall Hanging	Pastoral Care/Counseling	Indicate any second languages:
Electrical	Plumbing	_____

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 _____

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 #MDSResponds.

initials (required)

Media Release: I give permission for Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) to use my name and likeness without compensation in any photography and printed, video, electronic or other communication. I understand that MDS may share communications I am featured in with partners and affiliates to promote and further the work of MDS. I understand that MDS is not responsible or liable for the content of digital accounts which it does not own and/or operate. I release all offices of MDS from and against any claim brought by me arising from the use of my name or likeness by the MDS system.

yes no (you are responsible to connect with the project leadership if you do not want photos taken)

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.

initial (required)

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's 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.
- Firearms, alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and illegal substances are not permitted 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 16th 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's Signature _____ Date _____