

Disaster Event Based Volunteer Engagement



Disaster event-based volunteering (DEBV)

October 2025

Volunteering With the American Red Cross:

When disaster strikes, the American Red Cross responds immediately — sending trained staff and volunteers to provide food, shelter, relief supplies, emotional support, recovery planning and other assistance to those affected.

Major disaster operations that last for weeks or even months may need the help of thousands of volunteers over time to deliver critical services.

Given the difficult and evolving nature of major disasters, active disaster relief operations are unlike any traditional volunteer efforts often experienced by our corporate partners and their employee volunteers.

Where traditionally we offer our corporate partners more controlled and choreographed experiences, active relief operations are truly the Red Cross in its most essential mission of sheltering and feeding people immediately after a disaster. They are often challenging, exhausting, and unrefined. During major disasters, needs on the ground are evolving — and as a result, volunteer needs and assignments may also be fluid.

Operational Priority Disaster Volunteer Engagement:

Disaster Event-Based Volunteer (DEBV) Opportunities

DEBVs support operational shifts averaging 4–8 hours and receive on-site training for their roles. Volunteers assist with mobile feeding, sheltering, client services, disaster assessment and other operation-specific tasks that expand the Red Cross's capacity during disaster response. Reside within a 60-mile radius of the impacted area.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- In good health and able to work in high-stress environments
- Have a completed profile in Volunteer Connection
- Able to stand or walk for up to 2 hours at a time

Individual Registration:

- Employees can preview available DEBV shifts in Volunteer Connection including date, time, location, and logistics.
- Once a suitable shift is identified, complete your profile and register which will include a background check.
- Shifts are updated regularly and may fill quickly—check back often for new opportunities.

Group Registration: Group opportunities may not be available for all disaster operations.
When available:

- Details will be shared with your relationship manager
- Shifts are typically scheduled 7–14 days in advance
- A group registration form must be completed, and all team members must have profiles in Volunteer Connection
- Shift logistics may change based on operational needs

Any updates to group information must be communicated to your relationship manager and the assigned operational lead.

Volunteer Connection

Volunteer Connection is the enterprise-wide volunteer management system used to engage, match, train and deploy volunteers to respond to community needs and deliver the Red Cross mission. This system offers volunteers an attractive and interactive registration and an on-going, rewarding experience.

Volunteer Connection allows volunteers to:

Manage Involvement	Build your Red Cross Volunteer Record	Stay Informed
• Learn about volunteer opportunities • View calendar of events and sign up for volunteer shifts	• Maintain volunteer/member profile • Record your volunteer hours • Register for events, and disaster response shifts • Track deployments (if appropriate) • View training history	• Communicate with others • Learn about local Red Cross • Get news from National Headquarters

Email Templates

Individual volunteer opportunity template

Subject: Volunteer Opportunity: Support Disaster Relief Efforts with the Red Cross

Body:

In response to the recent **major disaster**, the American Red Cross is on the ground providing life-saving relief to those in need. We're calling on compassionate volunteers like you to step up and make a difference in your local community.

Whether it's **serving meals**, **offering shelter**, or **helping families with basic necessities**, your time and care can bring hope and healing to those affected. This is a meaningful opportunity to support your neighbors and be part of the recovery effort.

Key Details:

- Shifts average 6–8 hours and include on-site training
- Volunteers must live within a 60-mile radius of the impacted area
- All volunteers must be registered in the Red Cross **Volunteer Connection** system

Eligibility Criteria:

- At least 16 years old
- In good health and able to work in high-stress conditions
- Able to stand or walk for up to 2 hours at a time

How to Get Started:

- Review available shifts in [Volunteer Connection](#) (includes date, time, location, and logistics)
 - If you do not already have a Volunteer Connection profile, [Click Here](#) to create one.
- Register for a shift that works for you
- Shifts are updated regularly—check back often for new opportunities

Thank you for your willingness to support families in need. Your time and compassion make a real difference.

Group volunteer opportunity template:

Subject: Volunteer Opportunity: Support Disaster Relief Efforts with the Red Cross

Body:

Many of you have asked how you can help in the wake of the recent **MAJOR DISASTER**. One way to make a meaningful impact is by volunteering with the American Red Cross, which is actively supporting families and individuals affected in our area. We are seeking employees who are ready to volunteer to support their local community. Volunteers are needed to help with essential services like providing meals, offering shelter, and assisting people with basic needs. This is a chance to support your neighbors and help your community begin to recover.

Key Details:

- Shifts average 6–8 hours and include on-site training
- Volunteers must live within a 60-mile radius of the impacted area
- All volunteers must be registered in the Red Cross **Volunteer Connection** system

Eligibility Criteria:

- At least 16 years old
- In good health and able to work in high-stress conditions
- Able to stand or walk for up to 2 hours at a time
- Completed profile in Volunteer Connection

Volunteer opportunity:

- Date, time & location
- Overview of the volunteer shift

How to Get Started:

- Get supervisor approval
- Create a Volunteer Connection profile
- Share interest to **NAME by DATE:** VCN profile number, shift interested in and supervisor approval

Thank you for your willingness to support families in need. Your time and compassion make a real difference.