

Disaster Volunteerism Guidance for Corporate Partner Employee

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:

Coordinated Deployment Opportunities: Our greatest need is for deployable volunteers who can move into the impacted areas, and we are offering coordinated deployments for our ADGP members. We are also serving Spanish-speaking communities, and volunteers with Spanish-speaking skills are desired.

- Partners need to express interest at least a week prior to a scheduled deployment.
- Review the [Corporate Partner Coordinated Guidance](#). This resource provides step-by-step guidance in promotion, recruitment, preparation for deployment, travel to the operation, training and what to expect on the operation.

Deployment Criteria:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be in good health and able to work in stressful conditions.
- Commit to travel for seven day minimum/14 day maximum full-time support (average daily shift is 10 hours).
- *Be registered in the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection System. This registration is essential, since all logistics will be coordinated for your employees using information in this system. It includes a background check or a completed Corporate Partner background exemption letter.

- *Complete minimum disaster volunteer training requirements. There are five required online training courses totaling three hours 35 minutes and one recommended online training that is 90 minutes.

Resources:

- [Member Deployment Guide](#)
- [Employee Deployment Guide](#)
- [Deployment: What to Expect Deck](#)

Disaster Event-Based Volunteers (DEBV): Employees within 60 miles of their zip code can create a Volunteer Connection profile and search for DEBV shifts. DEBVs will support shifts that are an average of four to eight hours and are trained on-site for the operational role. Typical volunteering centers around mobile feeding, shelter, client assistance and operation-specific needs that leverage volunteers to increase the operational capacity. Volunteers must be registered in Volunteer Connection to partake in these shift-based opportunities.

Resource: [DEBV Guide](#)

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