

Individual Volunteer Opportunity for Employees: Become a Trained Disaster Volunteer

Information for Members

About the Opportunity

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

Disasters won't stop during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic—so as we head into hurricane and wildfire season this fall, our goal remains to provide anyone in need after a disaster with comfort and support. The Red Cross is proud to have a network of partners working with us as we prepare.

As part of our proactive preparedness efforts for the fall 2020 disaster season, we are reaching out to our trusted partners, including our ADGP and Disaster Responder Program members, to **ask for your help building our capacity of trained disaster volunteers—specifically, shelter workers and health services workers**—in order to sustain larger operations and prevent the need for people to take flights during this pandemic environment.



In the event of a disaster, for on-the-ground needs, the Red Cross will prioritize the participation of trained volunteers located within driving distance of the disaster operation. Individuals residing in states or territories that typically see hurricanes or wildfires—**Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, the Chesapeake Bay area (Virginia, Maryland, DC and Delaware), New York, New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, California, Pacific Islands (Hawaii and Saipan) and U.S. Virgin Islands**—are especially encouraged to register to become a trained volunteer.

This would be an individual (non-coordinated) opportunity for your employees to pursue on their own as interested. As a trained Red Cross volunteer, they would become part of our official volunteer pipeline and contacted directly by the Red Cross for disaster services now and in the future, depending on need.

More information about safety precautions onsite, volunteer requirements, needed opportunities and required training, and how to promote this internally can be found in this document. Thank you for your support!

Safety Precautions

As a humanitarian organization, the Red Cross places top priority on the health and safety of our employees, volunteers, blood donors and those who receive our aid and services. Our commitment to public health is unwavering—both during this global COVID-19 pandemic and year-round.

The coronavirus pandemic puts additional stress on families seeking shelter, which is why we have plans in place to reduce risks—such as social distancing protocols, face coverings, health screenings, prioritizing individual hotel rooms, and opening more shelters that can support fewer people than normal.

We are continuously adapting our guidance and protocols in reaction to this public health threat, while ensuring that our services endure. The safety of our workforce and the communities we serve continues to be our priority. The Red Cross follows CDC guidance, and we work closely with local health officials to safely provide help and hope when disasters strike.

Volunteer Requirements

Trained Red Cross volunteers must typically have these qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Be in good health and able to work in stressful conditions.
- Be registered in the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection System.
- Complete minimum disaster volunteer training requirements (dependent on positions).

Additional qualifications are required for health services workers, with positions requiring professional licensure (RN and LPN/LVN) and ancillary roles available for Certified Nursing Assistants, Certified Home Health Aides, student nurses and medical students.

For this upcoming fall disaster season, we are particularly looking for volunteers that reside in (or live within driving distance from) these states or territories that typically see heightened fall disaster activity: Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, the Chesapeake Bay area (Virginia, Maryland, DC and Delaware), New York, New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, California, Pacific Islands (Hawaii and Saipan) and U.S. Virgin Islands.

Volunteer Opportunities & Training Requirements

Active disaster relief operations bring the Red Cross mission of alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies to life. While it's not easy work—serving as a trained volunteer on a disaster operation can be fluid, challenging, exhausting, and unrefined—it's enormously rewarding and will provide your employees with the opportunity to make an important difference to individuals during their time of great need.

We are specifically looking for individuals willing to serve as trained **shelter workers** or **health services workers**. Both associate and supervisory level volunteer positions are available for these opportunities.

- **Shelter workers** support families staying in a Red Cross or partner-managed emergency shelters. Responsibilities may include staffing different areas including reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information collection and other vital tasks.
- **Health services workers** work in emergency shelters to help assess people's health and provide hands-on care in alignment with their professional licensure. We also need volunteers who can provide care as delegated by a licensed nurse in shelters; this could include assisting with activities of daily living, personal assistance services, providing health education and helping to replace medications,

durable medical equipment or consumable medical supplies. Daily observation and health screening for COVID-19-like illness among shelter residents may be required.

- We have volunteer roles for individuals with RN, LPN, LVN, APRN, NP, EMT, paramedic, MD/DO and/or PA with an active, current and unencumbered license.
- Ancillary roles are available locally for Certified Nursing Assistants, Certified Home Health Aides, student nurses and medical students. RNs supervise all clinical tasks.

Below are the registration pathways and training requirements prospective volunteers would experience. This is for **NEW** volunteers only.

STEP	Shelter workers	Health services workers
1	<p>Individual registers at the link below in the Red Cross volunteer system and completes a background check.</p> <p>https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html</p>	<p>NOTE: licensure is needed for this activity - RN, LPN or LVN. Ancillary roles are available for Certified Nursing Assistants, Certified Home Health Aides, student nurses and medical students.</p> <p>Individual registers at the link below in the Red Cross volunteer system and completes a background check.</p> <p>https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html</p>
2	<p>After the individual registers and completes the background check, they will be placed in their Red Cross regional volunteer intake queue.</p> <p>From there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A volunteer screener will contact them and discuss the available positions. • The screener will ask a series of questions, such as their skills, availability and working in a COVID-19 environment. 	<p>After the individual registers and completes the background check, they will be placed in their Red Cross regional volunteer intake queue.</p> <p>From there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A volunteer screener will contact them and discuss the available positions. • The screener will ask a series of questions, such as their skills, availability and working in a COVID-19 environment.
3	<p>After the intake process is complete, the individual completes the appropriate training:</p> <p>Associate Shelter Worker – online training takes approximately 3 hours and includes COVID-19 safety training.</p> <p>Shelter Supervisor – online training takes approximately 6 hours and 30 minutes and includes COVID-19 training.</p>	<p>After the intake process is complete, the individual completes the appropriate training:</p> <p>Associate Health Services Worker – online training takes approximately 4 hours and includes COVID-19 safety training.</p> <p>Health Services Supervisor – online training takes approximately 6 hours and includes COVID-19 training.</p>

STEP	Shelter workers	Health services workers
4	<p>After training is complete, the individual will be placed in a queue of trained volunteers.</p> <p>If an event happens, the individual will receive notifications from the Volunteer Connection system asking if they would like to respond. If they say yes, they are given more instructions.</p>	<p>After training is complete, the individual will be placed in a queue of trained volunteers.</p> <p>If an event happens, the individual will receive notifications from the Volunteer Connection system asking if they would like to respond. If they say yes, they are given more instructions.</p>

Promote the Opportunity to Your Employees

Become a Trained Red Cross Disaster Volunteer!

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

At **COMPANY**, we are strongly committed to protecting the communities in which we live and work. As a proud member of the American Red Cross **Annual Disaster Giving Program (ADGP)/Disaster Responder Program** since **DATE**, **COMPANY** makes an annual contribution to the Red Cross to support disaster relief and emergency preparedness year-round.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, life's emergencies don't stop. As we head into what is expected to be a busy hurricane and wildfire season ahead, the Red Cross has alerted us to an urgent need for trained volunteer **shelter workers** and **health services workers** in hurricane and wildfire prone areas. **Visit the Red Cross website [here](https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html)** (<https://www.redcross.org/volunteer/become-a-volunteer/urgent-need-for-volunteers.html>) for more information and to register as a volunteer.

In the event of a disaster, the Red Cross will prioritize the participation of trained volunteers located within driving distance of any disaster operation to prevent the need for people to take flights. If you reside in one of these states or territories that typically sees heightened fall disaster activity—**Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, the Chesapeake Bay area (Virginia, Maryland, DC and Delaware), New York, New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, California, Pacific Islands (Hawaii and Saipan) and US Virgin Islands**—you are especially encouraged to apply.

While it's not easy work, volunteering with the Red Cross is enormously rewarding and will provide you with the opportunity to make an important difference to people during their times of great need. If you feel this is work you would like to do to help others, and can meet the requirements below, then you are the type of person the Red Cross is looking for:

- At least 18 years old.
- In good health and able to work in stressful conditions.
- Willing to register as a volunteer in the American Red Cross Volunteer Connection System.
- Complete minimum disaster volunteer training requirements (dependent on positions).

In this COVID-19 environment, the Red Cross is prioritizing the safety of its workforce and the communities. New protocols to help keep everyone safe in this environment, and the Red Cross follows CDC guidance, and is working closely with local health officials to safely provide help and hope.

This is not a COMPANY-sponsored activity; this opportunity is for you to pursue on your own as interested. As a trained Red Cross volunteer, you would become part of their official volunteer pipeline and contacted directly by the Red Cross for disaster services now and in the future, depending on need.

To get started and learn more, **visit the Red Cross website [here](#)** to register. A volunteer screener will contact you shortly to discuss available positions based on your interest. Thank you for your support of the Red Cross mission!

P.S. Not the opportunity for you? There are many other ways to you can volunteer to meet the needs of the Red Cross, including a wide variety of remote positions. Learn more at redcross.org/volunteer.