

Long-term volunteer application



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

Binational Office

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Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network through which various constituencies of the Anabaptist church can respond to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States.

While our main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this activity becomes a means of touching lives and helping people regain faith and wholeness.

Some information about volunteer assignments with MDS

The majority of volunteers spend an average of one week with MDS. The success of this short-term program relies on the long-term volunteers who provide leadership at the project site.

Long-term volunteers serve for one month or longer and play the critical role of connecting short-term volunteers with clients. Long-term volunteers build trust in the community as they meet clients, partner with other organizations and make regular trips to the lumberyard and grocery store.

Although helpful, you do not need to have any specialized skills prior to working with MDS. Your open mind and dedicated spirit will enable you to learn as you go. As an MDS volunteer, you may become involved with a variety of tasks including clean up, carpentry, administrative and secretarial duties, volunteer hosting, food preparation, and project leadership.

Leadership, administrative and hosting positions are 1+ month terms. Whether you are a crew leader, a cook or a project director, you must fill out an application to become a long-term volunteer.

MDS volunteers build more than houses

MDS volunteers are known for repairing and rebuilding homes damaged by disasters but it takes more than construction skills to serve with MDS. As a long-term volunteer, you will see that MDS also draws on your ability to relate to people. The homes that MDS repairs are owned by people. They laugh and they cry. They have good days and they have bad days. They share your basic needs as a person. MDS provides an opportunity for you to walk alongside the needs of these disaster survivors, bringing the dignity and respect of God's love to their recovery.

Do everything you can to preserve the sufferer's dignity and sense of worth. Remember the truth, "it is easier to give than to receive." Respect personal property and rights of ownership. Be a sensitive listener. Don't be judgmental. Grief is a natural reaction to loss, even the loss of possessions. Be friendly and optimistic, but not so light-hearted as to imply the situation is not serious. Be careful about giving simple answers to the very complex confusion and grief that follow disaster. Treat the disaster survivors as equals.

MDS volunteers are representatives of a peace church

Mennonites believe in giving ultimate loyalty to God rather than to the nations in which they live, or to the military. Mennonites believe that Jesus, when he lived on earth, revealed a way for people to live peacefully and nonviolently – Jesus lived a life of service, focusing his energy on ministering to those in need. This ministry continues in the efforts of many Mennonites, who by adult baptism, have publicly committed to model their lives after the life of Jesus.

Attach
photo here

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

Long-term volunteer application

Personal Information

Name: (first) _____ (last) _____
(as it appears on your passport)
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Business Phone (____) _____
 Cell Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____
 Birth date _____ Citizenship _____
 Drivers License _____ State/Province Issued _____
 Expiration _____ SIN/Social Security # _____
 Do you have health coverage that will extend through your time of service? Yes ___ No ___
 If yes, who is your insurance provider? _____ Phone (____) _____
 Mailing Address _____

Emergency Contact

Name: (first) _____
 (last) _____
 Home Phone (____) _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____
 Province/State _____ Postal Zip/Code _____

Church Attendance

Congregation _____
 How Long Attended _____
 Denomination _____
 Conference _____

Areas of Experience

Circle 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 - Framing	1 2 3 4 - Painting	1 2 3 4 - Computer/Office Work
1 2 3 4 - Finish Carpentry	1 2 3 4 - Roofing	1 2 3 4 - Community Development
1 2 3 4 - Electrical	1 2 3 4 - Cooking	1 2 3 4 - Administration
1 2 3 4 - Plumbing	1 2 3 4 - Working with youth	Other Skills _____
1 2 3 4 - Masonry	1 2 3 4 - Managing People	_____
1 2 3 4 - Drywall	1 2 3 4 - Pastoral Care/Counseling	Indicate any 2nd languages:
1 2 3 4 - HVAC	1 2 3 4 - Accounting/Bookkeeping	_____

Are you licensed in any of the above trades? _____

Personal References

Reference #1:

Examples: Pastor, associate pastor, youth pastor or other church leader familiar with applicant

Name: (first) _____ (last) _____ Phone: (____) _____
 Relationship _____ E-mail _____

Reference #2:

Examples: MDS church contact person, recent employer or other non-family member familiar with applicant

Name: (first) _____ (last) _____ Phone: (____) _____
 Relationship _____ E-mail _____



Assignment Preference

Date Available _____

Intended length of service _____

Preferred* location _____

Referred by _____

What type of work would you prefer*?

(select three skills from previous page)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

*Preferences cannot be guaranteed

Work History

Please list most recent work and service

Employer _____

Duties _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Start Date _____ End Date _____

Employer _____

Duties _____

Phone (____) _____

Start Date _____ End Date _____

May MDS contact these employers? Yes No

Story of Faith

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

Affirmation

Privacy Statement: *MDS requires the above information to process your volunteer application. Your information will be distributed to and used by MDS office personnel, Board members, and project leaders for the stated purpose and for statistical records. Your application will be kept on file for 3 years unless you request otherwise. MDS may conduct a background check and contact all references listed on this application.*

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 _____

___ Check here if you do not wish to receive MDS publications and mailings.

Volunteer agreement of expectations



**Mennonite
Disaster
Service**

MDS volunteers serve in a spirit of cooperation

Disaster situations mean work and living conditions will not be “like home.” MDS expects volunteers to foster a team-like atmosphere while respecting the authority of project leaders. Project leaders are often forced to make decisions under pressure. Share your suggestions and cooperate in every way possible. Be prepared to do any job requested with flexibility, patience and love.

Long-term MDS volunteers agree to:

- nurture their relationship with God while on assignment through participation in weekly Bible study, daily group devotionals and Sunday church attendance.
- use safety equipment when provided on work sites.
- keep MDS projects free of non-prescription drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- take questions, suggestions or concerns to the project directors.
- respect the final decision-making authority of project directors.
- inform the project directors of plans to take evening/weekend trips, providing itinerary and phone numbers when possible.
- cultivate an acceptance of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- cultivate an awareness of the diverse beliefs of those who work on MDS so as to maintain sensitivity and flexibility between Mennonite, Amish, Brethren in Christ and other volunteers. Respect project director’s authority regarding modesty of dress.

Applicants understand that:

- completing an MDS long-term application form and participating in an interview does not guarantee placement on an MDS project site.
- volunteers are expected to work 40-45 hours/week and may be asked to work more.
- volunteers from the US are encouraged to bring and use their personal tools, understanding that MDS has a tool replacement policy for personal equipment damaged on site. (Canadians should not bring their own personal tools as it is difficult to take them across the border and MDS does have tools at each site that can be used.)
- round-trip travel expenses will be covered by MDS for long-term volunteers and a stipend will be provided.
- due to insurance regulations, volunteers must be between the ages of 19 and 75 in order to drive MDS vehicles. Volunteers over 75 years of age may drive with a signed medical release.
- MDS vehicles are available for licensed long-term volunteers to use at the going rate of what MDS reimburses for mileage, if the volunteer receives advance permission from project director.
- volunteers are responsible for their own medical insurance. MDS is not responsible for any accidents or personal injury.
- volunteers must be 19 years old or at least 1 year past high school.

I (print name) _____ understand and commit to observing the expectations as outlined above while on assignment with MDS.

Applicant signature _____ date ___/___/___