

Leadership, Long Term and RV Volunteer Application



This application is for anyone desiring to serve four weeks or more with MDS, including project leaders, RV volunteers, and those serving without a leadership assignment.

Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christian love to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States.

While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, this service touches lives and nurtures hope, faith and wholeness.

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. Long-term 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 work crew. Weekly volunteers rely on project leaders 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 secretarial duties, volunteer hosting, food preparation and project leadership. You will become part of a volunteer team working 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 work four days weekly, six hours daily for a minimum of four weeks. For married couples, both husband and wife are encouraged to work but one spouse may elect not to work 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 Volunteer Guide](#) before completing the application to know more of the MDS guidelines and expectations. The Volunteer Guide can also be found at www.mds.mennonite.net/resources/.

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 working together. Volunteers become the hands and feet of Jesus.

Information for you to know...

- Completing a long-term application form and participating in an interview 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.
- 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 19 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.

MDS Binational Office

583 Airport Rd.
Lititz, PA 17543

Tel: (717) 735-3536
Fax: (717) 735-0809
mdsus@mds.mennonite.net
(800) 241-8111

MDS Canada Office

200-600 Shaftesbury Blvd
Winnipeg, MB R3P 2J1

Tel: (866) 261-1274
Fax: (204) 261-1279
mdscanada@mds.mennonite.net

Attach
photo here

(If you email this
application, attach
separate photo)

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

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Personal Information	Name _____ (exactly as it appears on your passport)
	Mailing Address _____
	City _____ Province/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
	Primary Phone _____ Business Phone _____
	Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____
	Birth date _____ Citizenship _____
	Do you have a current drivers license? Yes ___ No ___
	Do you have health coverage that will extend through your time of service?* Yes ___ No ___
For volunteers crossing the US/Canada border, please complete the following: Passport No _____	
Birth Place _____ Date of Issue _____ Date of Expiration _____	
	mm/dd/yyyy mm/dd/yyyy

Emergency Contact	Full Name _____	Church Attendance	Congregation _____
	E-mail _____		How long attended _____
	Home Phone _____		Denomination _____
	Daytime Phone _____		Conference _____
	Cell Phone _____		

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
	- Framing	- Painting	- Community Development
	- Finish Carpentry	- Roofing	- Administration
	- Electrical	- Cooking	
	- Plumbing	- Working with youth	Other Skills
	- Masonry	- Managing People	_____
- Drywall Hanging	- Pastoral Care/Counseling	Indicate any second languages:	
- Drywall Finishing	- Accounting/Bookkeeping	_____	
- HVAC	- Computer/Office work		
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: _____			

Personal References	Reference #1- Pastor, associate pastor, youth pastor or other church leader familiar with applicant	
	Name _____	Phone _____
	Relationship _____	E-mail _____
	Reference #2- MDS church contact person, recent employer or non-family member familiar with applicant	
	Name _____	Phone _____
	Relationship _____	E-mail _____

*MDS is not responsible to provide health or accident coverage to volunteers

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Availability	Date Available _____	Work History	Please list most recent work and service
	Intended length of service _____		Employer _____
	How did you learn about MDS? _____ _____		Duties _____
	Have you ever served on an MDS project? Yes ___ No ___		Start Date _____ End Date _____
			Employer _____
	Duties _____		Start Date _____ End Date _____

RV Information	If you are bringing your own RV
	Length of RV _____ Number of Slides _____ Kitchen/Toilet/Shower? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Type: Class A Class C Travel trailer 5 th wheel Is 30 amps sufficient? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Story of Faith	Please record a summary of your faith journey. You may attach an additional sheet, if necessary.
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Affirmation	<p>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 three years unless you request otherwise. MDS may conduct a background check and contact all references listed on this application.</p> <p>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 work 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.</p> <p>The information on this application is accurate and complete and I consent to the release, use and storage of this information as outlined above.</p> <p>Applicant Signature _____ Date _____</p> <p>_____ Check here if you do not wish to receive MDS publications and mailings.</p>
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Volunteer Agreement of Expectations



Long-term MDS volunteers agree to:

- Nurture your relationship with God while on assignment through participation in daily group devotionals, weekly Bible study and Sunday church attendance.
- Work 40-45 hours/week (RV volunteers work 4 days per week, 6 hours per day).
- Use safety equipment when provided on work sites.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and illegal substances 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.

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 signature _____ Date _____