

VOLUNTEERING WITH SAMARITAN'S PURSE IN WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

IMPORTANT PRE-TRIP INFO

Thank you for partnering with Samaritan's Purse as we minister to families whose homes were damaged during recent floods. Far beyond the physical help you will extend to the homeowners, the spiritual and emotional support you offer to them is even more important. Our response to this flood includes mud outs, and debris cleanup. We hope your volunteer experience is rewarding and life-changing.

SITE INFORMATION

Sonlight Community Church
8800 Bender Road
Lynden, WA 98264
Phone Number: 360-305-2175

Staff:

Kristin Holben, Jaime Keoshian & Spence Holben

WHAT TO EXPECT ONSITE

ARRIVAL: Arrive at the site at your scheduled time or no later than 8:00 PM. Sunday check-in times are 5:00 PM or 8:00 PM only. Please call the site if your arrival time changes.

PARKING: Parking is available for volunteer vehicles. Please inquire with the HQ Volunteer Coordinator regarding space availability for trailers and RVs.

TRANSPORTATION: Volunteers must provide their own transportation to the site and must also have their own transportation to and from the worksite each day. If flying, a rental car is required.

LODGING/MEALS:

- Volunteers are housed in a local church.
- **Bring no larger than a twin size air mattress/ cot, and bedding.**
- There are separate sleeping quarters for men and women.
- Do not leave any valuables in your room.
- Showers are available in the Samaritan's Purse shower trailer.
- All meals are provided. Please note: We may not be able to accommodate special dietary needs.
- Volunteers will not have access to laundry facilities. Bring enough clothes for the duration of your stay.

DAILY SCHEDULE

6:30 AM – Breakfast & Devotions
8:00 AM – Depart for work site
6:00 PM – Dinner & Share Time
9:00 PM – 10:00 PM Quiet Time & Lights Out

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION: All volunteers must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test (administered by a provider) 72 hours prior to arrival. Please do not use an over the counter test. This must be presented to staff upon check-in at the site and will be required regardless of vaccination status.

ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS & TOBACCO:

- Please do not use tobacco products (including e-cigarettes), alcohol, or drugs (or other substances) while serving with Samaritan's Purse. Those who cannot abide by this policy will be asked to leave.

ANIMALS:

- Accommodations will be made for ADA Service Animals, if possible. Please Note: Each project site will be evaluated for suitable and safe work for volunteers with service animals. Inquire with the IHQ Volunteer Coordinator.
- We are unable to accommodate pets or comfort animals that do not provide an ADA service.

CANCELLATIONS & UPDATES

Please Note: Due to the nature of disaster relief our schedule must remain fluid. Your trip may be cancelled if work finishes earlier than expected. We appreciate your flexibility.

Updates or Changes: If you need to make any changes to your trip dates or team numbers, please call the HQ Volunteer Coordinator at 828-262-1980 to discuss.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Review Volunteer Policies and Guidelines online at: <https://www.spvolunteer.org/faq>

Each volunteer/ team member, including youth, should complete all Volunteer Forms online at <https://www.spvolunteer.org>. A clear Background Check is required prior to arrival. **Volunteers without completed forms or an approved background check will not be allowed to stay onsite.**

Review Safety Guidelines online at <https://www.spvolunteer.org/safety>

Each team member should be current on their Tetanus Vaccination.

Volunteers **must** be 14 years of age or older. Please review the Youth Policy Guidelines for policies regarding youth. If a team includes Youth, a completed Youth Volunteer Release and Waiver of Liability must be provided for all youth attending and notarized if the parent is not attending. The team leader must complete the Youth Policy Covenant, for all youth groups. Review full Youth Policy at: <https://spvolunteer.org/youth-release-waiver>

WHAT TO PACK – CHECK LIST

The following is a suggestion, but is not comprehensive. We discourage you from taking excessive cash or personal valuables due to risk of damage or theft. Samaritan's Purse doesn't provide insurance for lost or damaged property.

Climates vary from site to site; therefore, you may want to check the weather forecast for the location where you are serving.

- Bible (Journal will be available)
- Twin** Size Air Mattress / Cot (no larger)
- Pillow/Twin Size Sheets/Blanket or Sleeping bag
- T-shirts (2 Samaritan's Purse t-shirts will be provided)
- Long Pants
- Long sleeve shirts (as needed)
- Hat (1 Samaritan's Purse hat will be provided)
- Sturdy work shoes (Boots, Tennis Shoes, Rubber Boots)
- Clothing to wear at base camp (appropriate length shorts)
- Shoes to wear at base camp
- Jacket or Coat
- Rain Gear
- Pajamas (appropriate for communal sleeping)
- Small Backpack (to carry to worksite)
- Trash Bag (for contaminated clothing)
- Water Bottle
- Earplugs and/or Sleeping mask
- Bath Towels
- Shower Shoes
- Toiletries and Shower Caddy
- Medications
- Cell Phone & Charger
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Small Flashlight & Batteries
- Snacks (for special dietary needs)

Inappropriate to Wear:

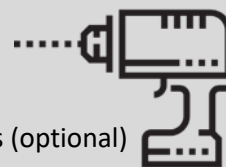
- Shorts at Worksite
- Sandals and Flip-Flops at Worksite
- Shirts that are tight/revealing or contain inappropriate language or design
- Tank Tops at Worksite
- Partial clothing when travelling from sleep areas, bathrooms, or showers (you should be fully dressed before exiting any of these areas)



TOOLS

To Bring:

- Work Gloves
- Safety Glasses
- Tool Belt & Small Hand Tools (optional)



If you bring your own personal chainsaw (with chain brake), please bring your own PPE:

- Chaps
- Hard Hat
- Eye Protection
- Ear Protection
- Leather Gloves



STAY INFORMED

Facebook: [facebook.com/SamaritansPurseUSDisasterRelief](https://www.facebook.com/SamaritansPurseUSDisasterRelief)

Volunteer Opportunities: www.spvolunteer.org

Samaritan's Purse Website: www.samaritanspurse.org