

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Lifestyle Considerations: *Please read the following information very carefully. It is extremely important for you to understand the responsibilities and lifestyle expected of a disaster relief volunteer.*

The unique and special nature of Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) requires all volunteers associated with TBMB to manifest conduct and actions that project an image consistent with the expressed purpose and mission of TBMB. Conduct or actions that are perceived as inconsistent with the belief and values of Tennessee Baptists are unacceptable. Examples of such conduct are involvement with alcohol, illegal drugs, harassment of any kind, or sex outside the marriage relationship between a man and a woman.

Disaster Relief Volunteer's Responsibility

As a volunteer in Disaster Relief with Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB), I understand that during my service with TBMB, I am expected to recognize and abide by the following:

1. TBMB is a Christian organization. Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that would honor Jesus Christ. Volunteers are expected to treat each other, those they work with, and those that they are ministering to with respect and care. Volunteers must be careful not to use words and actions that would disrespect others. They must respect the property of others. Failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the ministry site.
2. Volunteers in Disaster Relief must be prepared physically, spiritually and mentally to serve in the chaos of a disaster event.
3. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs is strictly forbidden to, from, and during the disaster response.
4. Volunteers are responsible for bearing their own expenses during the ministry. This may include: travel to and from the ministry site, food, lodging, and incidental expenses.
5. Volunteers are responsible for having their own Medical Insurance. No insurance of any kind is provided to volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to purchase special trip insurance for each deployment of any physical or mental limitations to service.
6. Volunteers may not attempt to charge for any work done or seek to enlist personal jobs in the future.
7. Volunteers must be careful not to promise future help or assistance to individuals or groups.
8. Volunteers must have appropriate clothing for the ministry site. Generally, this means long pants or ¾-length pants for women, closed toed shoes (no flip flops or sandals). Work boots are best. All clothing must be conservative and respectful of community norms (no tank tops, halters or strapless tops).
9. Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves in a safe manner including the prudent use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Volunteers must attend any required safety briefing and inform team leader of any physical limitations or illness that may impact their work or the work of their team.
10. Maintain current (1) address and phone number, (2) availability status, (3) skills and abilities with team leader and Disaster Relief office.
11. Assist with unit preparation, training events, and non-emergency use of the unit, as personal availability and ability allow.
12. Authorize background checks and screenings, update training, and pay a credentialing and training fee every three years to remain active, as required.

FYI – Please be aware that under the laws of Tennessee, liability for a trailer being pulled by a vehicle is the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle, regardless of the trailer's ownership. This may or may

not be true in other states.



*(The following is a template of the release that Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers sign as a part of their application process. It is provided as an example and reference purposes only. Specific language may have been updated on the original form.
Only the original signed form is legally binding.)*

RELEASE

Warning: By signing this release you are waving and releasing legal rights which you may have.

Volunteer Status

I desire to volunteer with Tennessee Baptist Mission Board (TBMB) to provide volunteer services and engage in the activities related to this ministry. I hereby agree to donate and offer my personal services and labor, free of charge. I understand and agree that I will not be acting as an employee of and I will not be entitled to any wages, compensation, or benefits associated with my service from TBMB. I understand that neither TBMB nor any other Releasee under this agreement assumes any responsibility or obligation to provide financial or other assistance to me.

Ministry Description

I understand that Tennessee Baptist Mission Board through Tennessee Baptist Disaster Relief sends personnel and equipment into areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters. Routine ministries include preparation and service of meals, tree cutting and removal, flood clean up and sanitation, child-care, roof repair, ash-out, shower and laundry services, light construction, construction rebuild, and other similar work. Volunteers will normally be housed in gymnasiums and churches, sleeping on the floor, and working in extreme conditions, with various degrees of sanitation, electricity, and other normal living conditions available.

Potential Risks

I understand that my participation in this ministry may involve risk of injury to myself and even my death. I understand these risks may include, but are not limited to, risks associated with travel, transportation in commercial and other vehicles, moving and lifting heavy objects, working with and around dangerous equipment, cooking and serving food, and working and living in environments which may be toxic and without power, normal sanitation, and access to immediate medical care.

Assumption of Risk

For and on behalf of myself, my heirs, administrators, executors, and next of kin and in consideration of my being allowed to participate in this ministry, I hereby expressly and specifically assume all the risks of injury and harm associated with my participation.

Release

I do further hereby release and discharge from liability and agree to defend, indemnify, and forever hold harmless all other volunteers engaged in any Disaster Relief or Construction Rebuild project that I participate in, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, The Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention and those corporations of which the Southern Baptist Convention is the sole member, Southern Baptist state conventions and associations, the churches which are in friendly cooperation with these Baptist state conventions and associations, and the members, volunteers, employees, servants, agents, officers, and directors of all these entities, herein collectively referred to as Releasees, from any and all causes of action arising from or relating to my participation in these services, including but not limited to travel, lodging, transportation, or on account of first aid or other medical treatment rendered by Releasees, for damages or injuries I may suffer including but not limited to claims for personal injury, disability, sickness, loss of limb or life, **even if said claims arise from injuries or illnesses or other damages caused by the sole negligence or fault of one or more of the Releasees.** Notwithstanding anything which may appear to the contrary, this agreement shall not be understood, however, to release the intentional acts or gross negligence of the Releasees.

I understand that I am solely responsible for my personal effects and property and that no one will provide security for any of my items and I will hold the above Releasees harmless in the event of theft or loss resulting from any source or cause.

TMB Tennessee Baptist
MISSION BOARD

