



Eight Days of Hope XVIII – Lake Charles, LA

December 3rd - 10th

Frequently Asked Questions

What is EDOH XVIII all about?

In 2020 and 2021, Lake Charles was devastated by three separate hurricanes, an ice storm, and more flooding. These storms leftover 40,000 homes damaged and many more without power for weeks. **This is where we come in!** Eight Days of Hope is serving the Lake Charles community from December 3rd – 10th. Our goal is to use the gifts that God has given us to bless others and share the love of Jesus! In August of 2020, our Rapid Response Ministry spent five weeks serving right after the Hurricane Laura, and now we get a chance to **GO BACK** and help families with their rebuilding projects!

What is the cost to attend?

It is free! We provide the food and lodging. We just ask that you show up with a willing heart to serve. We rely on churches, businesses, individuals, and our volunteers for donations. A typical budget for an Eight Days of Hope event can be anywhere between \$700,000 and \$850,000. Please consider donating to help these families rebuild! You can donate online at www.eightdaysofhope.com by clicking on the “Donate” button or mail a check to P.O. Box 3208, Tupelo, MS, 38803.

What are the sleeping arrangements?

Lodging will be provided at the Lake Charles Civic Center at 900 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601. **We will also be headquartered at this location.** Like our previous trips, we will segregate by gender. You will have the space to set up your own air mattresses, cots or foam pads that you bring from home. You may also bring a tent and camp outside if you prefer. There will be gender segregated showers and restrooms available. If you are coming as a family and desire to be housed together, we suggest you bring a tent, RV or pursue hotel accommodations. We will have tent and RV spots available for free, location to be determined.

If we want to book a hotel does Eight Days of Hope recommend any hotels in the area?

There are many hotels in the area. We recommend the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Lake Charles, Hampton Inn Lake Charles, Staybridge Suites Lake Charles, and Comfort Inn Lake Charles.

Can I bring my RV?

Yes!

Can I bring my pet?

No. We are sorry, but bringing pets is not allowed for health and safety reasons. Please respect this rule. Our host facilities have strict rules regarding pets.

Do I have to bring my own food?

No. We will provide all meals. **We are looking for churches and businesses willing to help underwrite this cost.** With a donation of \$4,000, a church or a business can supply the food necessary for one meal. Please email us at info@eightdaysofhope.com for more information. You can also elect to sponsor food for one entire day. Please consider doing either of these as the food costs for 2,500 - 3,000 volunteers will exceed \$90,000!

What kind of work will we be doing?

The primary work will be the rebuilding of damaged homes due to flooding and wind damage. This includes roofing, electrical wiring, insulation, flooring, drywall, carpentry, and painting. We are also in need of people who have mechanical and plumbing skills. Beyond home restoration there are many support jobs which include data entry, transportation, laundry, cleaning, and lunch delivery service. There is something for everyone's skill set!

Should we bring tools?

Yes! Please bring any tools that you can, especially those that you would anticipate using. Be sure to label them before you arrive! Air compressors, ladders, drills, drywall tools, paintbrushes, etc. are all needed. Eight Days of Hope has outfitted multiple tool trailers and will be bringing them to Lake Charles to supplement any tools you may not own or bring.

Can we bring our youth group or our children?

Yes, Eight Days of Hope is family-friendly! Every youth group volunteer (under the age of 18) that comes with an adult that is not their parent or legal guardian **MUST** bring a notarized Parental Consent form signed by one of his/her parents. This form can be found on the EDOH XVIII event page on the website. *For every four youth, please bring one adult chaperon.* There are unique sleeping arrangements separated by gender. Please have one adult of each gender present to monitor your youth group in the sleeping areas.

Families bringing their children will work side-by-side at the jobsites. For families wishing to lodge together, please consider a hotel or utilize our RV and tent spaces.

Do we have to stay for all eight days?

No. For this outreach, we are asking each volunteer to come for at least three full days. Please honor this request.

Is transportation provided from the area airport?

For our out-of-towners, we will provide transportation from the Lake Charles airport only. We will not be able to pick you up from the Lafayette airport. When booking a flight, please make sure your arrival and departure times fall between 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. If you arrive before 8:00 am, please know you will have to wait until then to be picked up. If you arrive after 8:00 pm, you will need to secure a hotel for the night. Please email info@eightdaysofhope.com to provide us with your transportation details.

If we are coming with a group or as a family, can we fill out one volunteer form?

No, each volunteer needs to fill out a volunteer form at eightdaysofhope.com and include an email address. In the organization section of the volunteer form please make note that you are coming with a group and include the name of the group, so we can try to lodge you at one site. All of the members of this group can use one email address for communication purposes.

Every member of a family needs to register separately unless they are under the age of 18. **A parent that registers, can register his/her children under the age of 18 on their volunteer form.** If you use one email address to register multiple volunteers, you will get a single confirmation to that email address.

What will be a typical day serving with Eight Days of Hope?

Breakfast will start around 5:45 am and conclude around 7:00 am. We will spend 25 minutes together with a special time of worship and devotion before we head out to the work sites. Lunch will be provided at the jobsites. Dinner will begin at 5:30 pm and conclude at 7:00 pm. We invite the families we are serving to dinner, and they get to share their stories. It is a very special time! An optional devotion and worship time will follow. Sunday is the only day where we deviate from this schedule. We will not begin work until 11:00 am or after depending on church service times.

Will there be any medical support at Eight Days of Hope XVIII?

Yes. We will have at least one Registered Nurse onsite. If you are a medical professional and would like to be added to our list of medical resources, please make a note in the Comments section of your registration form. We will need additional support in this area.

If we volunteer for the first day, Saturday, December 3rd, when should we arrive?

The volunteer check-in area will open at 3:00 pm on Friday, December 2nd. On Tuesday, November 1st, you will receive detailed instructions with information on where you are to go to check-in and what to bring. The first meal we will provide will be dinner on December 2nd. The last meal provided will be lunch on December 10th. Remember that we ask that you serve for a minimum of three days. Please honor that request.

What times can we arrive to “check-in” to Eight Days of Hope?

On Friday, December 2nd, the check-in area will be open from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm. On all other days, the check-in area will be open from 6:30 am to 8:00 pm. Please plan to arrive between these times. The last day to check in is Thursday, December 8th. **If you arrive after 8:00 pm on any day, you will need to find a hotel for the night and check-in the next morning.**

Is there a cut-off date to volunteer for Eight Days of Hope XVIII?

Yes. You can volunteer until December 2nd.

Is Eight Days of Hope on social media?

Yes, Facebook – Eight Days of Hope; Instagram – eightdaysofhope; Twitter - @eightdaysofhope; YouTube – Eight Days of Hope. Please use the hashtag #EDOH when you use social media.

What should I bring?

Please bring the following items:

- Clothes you can work in

- Work Gloves
- Work Boots
- Bedding (linens, pillow, blanket, air mattress, cot, etc.)
- Towel and Toiletries
- Bible
- 1 Case of Water per person

What else can we do to prepare for Eight Days of Hope XVIII?

Please pray that God would be glorified by our actions. Pray for safety both while we work and for travel mercies for the volunteers. Pray that God sends the people He wants to be a part of this outreach. Pray that God will not only allow us to restore homes, but that He opens up many doors for us as we encourage people in the name of Jesus Christ!

See you in Lake Charles!