Eight Days of Hope XXI – Avoyelles Parish, LA
January 16 to January 23, 2027
Frequently Asked Questions

What is EDOH XXI all about?

EDOH XXI is coming to Avoyelles Parish, LA, after the remnants of Tropical Storm Arthur dropped over 2 feet of water in 48 hours, causing massive flash flooding across the state. In Avoyelles Parish alone, over 200 homes were impacted by the rapidly rising waters, displacing many as they work to rebuild. Our Rapid Response team served the area from June 27 to July 11, 2026, where we quickly fell in love with the community and those in need of hope! We are humbled to return to help Avoyelles Parish as they continue to rebuild.

What is the cost to attend?

It is free! We provide food and lodging. We just ask that you show up ready to love and serve the Avoyelles Parish community.

We rely on churches, businesses, individuals, and our volunteers for donations. A typical budget for an Eight Days of Hope outreach can be anywhere between $500,000 and $750,000. 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.

Where is the headquarters for EDOH XXI?

Our headquarters for this event is Alexandria Mega Shelter, located at 8125 U.S. Highway 71 S., Alexandria, LA 71302. Men’s and Women’s lodging, as well as RV spots and tent camping, will be held at this location.

What are the sleeping arrangements?

Volunteers will be assigned lodging after they arrive at our Headquarters. Similar to 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. Men's and Women's lodging will be at the same location at our headquarters.

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 have RV and tent spots available for free at the headquarters.

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

Here is a list of hotels in the area. We hope to provide additional information around November 15 if we are able to secure a discounted rate.

Holiday Inn Alexandria
701 4th St
Alexandria, LA 71301

Candlewood Suites Alexandria
2344 North MacArthur Drive
Alexandria, LA 71303

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Alexandria
2340 North MacArthur Drive
Alexandria, LA 71301

Hampton Inn & Suites
3820 Alexandria Mall Drive
Alexandria, LA 71301

Can I bring my RV?

Yes. We are providing RV spaces on a first-come, first-serve basis at our headquarters and lodging location. Please indicate that you would like to bring an RV when you register. More information on parking will be sent out prior to the outreach. *The deadline to request an RV space is January 1, 2027.*

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 underwrite this cost.** With a donation of $5,000, 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 or for half a meal!

What kind of work will we be doing?

The primary work will be the rebuilding of damaged homes due to wind damage, fallen trees, and houses impacted by flooding. This includes demolition, electrical wiring, insulation, flooring, drywall, carpentry, painting, flooring, and more. 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 Avoyelles Parish 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 volunteer (under the age of 18) who comes with an adult who is **not** their parent must bring a notarized Parental Consent form signed by one of his/her parents. Please note: **there will be no exceptions to this rule.**

These forms can be found on our website on the EDOH XXI event page. We are asking for one adult chaperone per four youth. This is needed for separate lodging arrangements as well. Please remember that there will be unique sleeping arrangements separated in different locations by gender.

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?

Yes, we will provide transportation to and from the Alexandria International Airport (AEX) only. This airport utilizes Delta, American Airlines, and United. Please fill out the transportation portion of the registration form when you register online if you need to be picked up and dropped off at the airport. At this time, we do not provide any additional transportation to and from lodging sites and headquarters, but there are many volunteers who happily assist. If you plan to fly in, please arrive during check-in hours of 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January

15, or from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m. on all remaining days. Airport pickups end on Thursday, January 21. Dropoffs run through Saturday, January 23.

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

No, each volunteer over 18 needs to fill out a volunteer form by making a ConnectHope profile. Separate emails are required for each volunteer over 18.

For volunteers ages 16-17, creating and using an individual ConnectHope profile is allowed but not required. If a youth decides to do so, they must have their own email address. The minimum age to create a profile and register for events is 16. *Please note: 16- and 17-year-old still require a parent, legal guardian, or adult chaperone to attend. If they attend without their parent, a notarized parental consent form MUST be completed.*

For volunteers under 18 who do not create their own profile, parents/chaperones will register minors under their ConnectHope profile when registering for the EDOH XXI event.

Please refer to this video for a brief overview of ConnectHope: https://eightdaysofhope.com/connect-hope/.

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 30 minutes together with a special time of worship and devotion before we head out to the job sites. Lunch will be delivered to your job site. 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! Sunday is the only day where we deviate from this schedule. We will not begin work until 11:00 am or after depending on local church service times.

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

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 note that on your registration form. We will need additional support in this area.

If we volunteer for the first day, Saturday, January 16, when should we arrive?

The volunteer check-in area will open at 3:00 pm on Friday, January 15 at Alexandria Mega Shelter, located at 8125 U.S. Highway 71 S., Alexandria, LA 71302. The first meal we will provide will be dinner on January 15 at 5:30 pm followed by orientation. The last meal provided will be

lunch on January 23. 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, January 15, 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 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please plan to arrive between these times. The last day to check in is Thursday, January 21. **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 XXI?

Yes. To serve in Avoyelles Parish, you must volunteer by Sunday, January 3, 2027.

Is Eight Days of Hope on social media?

Yes, Facebook – Eight Days of Hope; Instagram – 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 (We will provide you with event t-shirts to wear while you are serving with us)
- 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 XXI?

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 many doors for us to encourage people in the name of Jesus Christ!

We cannot wait to love and serve those in need with you soon!