

## **Raker FAQs**

**What is the Rake-a-Thon?** The Rake-a-Thon is a fun, family-friendly event for people of all ages that raises funds and awareness to build affordable housing in our community.

Neighbor: A homeowner in the Charlottesville area who has contacted Habitat to have their lawn raked by volunteers during the Rake-a-Thon event.

Raker: Volunteer who is part of a team to rake Neighbors' yards

Team Leader: The main contact for a raking group and team coordination. This person is responsible for delivering the Neighbor Packet on the day of the event and overseeing their Raker Team.

**Where and what time do we meet?** Rakers need to coordinate rides among their team and meet at their first assigned lawn. The Team Leader will have the lawn assignments.

**What's the schedule for the day?** Teams should arrive at their first lawn by 9:00am. The Team leader will have a copy of the rest of the day's raking schedule. Most teams will rake 2-3 lawns.

**Do I need to bring my own rakes, materials?** If you have rakes or other leaf-removal supplies, please bring them!!! We will have rakes to borrow if you need one, but please bring personal supplies you may have.

**Do Neighbors have spare tools for Raking Groups to use?** Maybe, but whatever spare tools they offer cannot leave their property. Please have the utmost respect for their property.

**What should I wear/bring?** Plan to wear warm clothes you don't mind getting dirty and wear closed-toed shoes. Bring gloves as it will likely be cold! ALL volunteers should bring water.

**Will transportation be provided for volunteers?** No, Raking Teams and their Team Leader are responsible for organizing transportation.

**Can I bring kids?** Yes! This is a family-friendly event. All volunteers need to fill out a liability form with us (unless you have volunteered at a Habitat event within the last year). All youth (under 18) must have a parent fill out a liability form and bring it with them.

**Will the lawns we rake (if multiple) be in the same part of town?** Yes! We're splitting up all volunteers into color-coded teams based on a particular area of town where you will be working. Do not expect to travel more than 25 minutes to your first home or more than 10 minutes between each home where you rake.

**Will my team be working with other teams?** Yes, most likely. Many hands make light work.

**Will the Neighbor be home when I arrive at their house?** Not necessarily. Your Team Leader will receive an information packet giving you details on your particular houses. If they are not

there, please leave the packet in a secure area protected from weather that they can find or see easily. Do not place in the mailbox.

**What do we do with the leaves if the Neighbor is not home to give instructions?** Each Team Leader Packet will have the Name, Address, Contact, spare tools, and raking instructions. If a Neighbor is not home and the raking instructions are not clear, please use your best judgment to not impede vehicle parking, block sidewalk traffic, damage or smother landscaping etc. When in doubt, please bag the leaves.

**What if a homeowner who is not my assigned Neighbor asks us to rake their lawn?** Habitat has only partnered with the Neighbors that each Raking Team has been assigned. Please kindly decline, but ask them to contact Habitat to be included in the event next year!

**What will the funds we raise go towards?** Proceeds will support new home construction in [Southwood](#).

**Who will handle the money, how will that take place?** Neighbors are encouraged to donate online the day of the event. The Team Leader will have a packet for the Neighbor, and they will be briefed on the procedure for collecting and returning any donations.

**What number should I call in case of an emergency?** Please call 911 in case of a serious emergency. Garrett Trent (704-877-7732) and Amy Allamong (434-218-9900) will be on call throughout the day.

**What if I need to go to the bathroom?** Most of the Neighbors will be home during the time when you are raking your yard. They will have been instructed that Rakers may need to use their restrooms. Make a gas station pit stop if needed!

**What do I do in case of bad weather?** Assume that we are on for raking unless you hear otherwise from your team leader.

**How should I send pictures/video of the event to Habitat?** We encourage all teams to take pictures! Please use **#habitatrakeathon** for social media! Please direct all pictures to [esuffa@cvillehabitat.org](mailto:esuffa@cvillehabitat.org).

**Who is participating in the Rake-a-Thon?** We are partnering with local schools, churches, UVA, and civic/social groups as well as some individual Habitat supporters! This year we hope to have 400+ volunteers participating!

**What do I do when all assigned lawns have been completed?** Your Team Leader has been prepped on what to do at the end of the event. Any borrowed rakes and Neighbor donations should be returned to the **Habitat Office located at 967 2nd St. SE.**

**We look forward to seeing everyone at the Habitat for Humanity Rake- a-Thon!**