



Rake-a-Thon

2026 Raker FAQs

What is the Rake-a-Thon?

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/coordinator for a raking team. This person is responsible for delivering the Neighbor Packet on the day of the event and overseeing their Raker Team.

What's the schedule for the day?

Rakers coordinate rides among their team to meet at their first assigned lawn by 9:00am. The Team leader will have a copy of the team's raking schedule (most teams will rake 2-3 lawns).

Do I need to bring my own rakes, materials?

If you have rakes or leaf-removal supplies, please bring them! If not, we've got you covered. Let your team leader know what supplies you have/don't have, and we will coordinate to get you what you need.

Do Neighbors have spare tools for Raking Groups to use?

Maybe, but any spare tools they offer cannot leave their property. We want to have the utmost respect for their property!

What should I wear/bring?

Plan to wear closed-toed shoes and warm clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. 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 their Neighbor Packet in a secure area protected from weather where they can find it easily. Consider leaving it between a storm door and the real door! *Do not place it in the mailbox*

What do we do with the leaves if the Neighbor is not home to give instructions?

Each Team Leader Packet will provide 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 to whom each Raking Team has been assigned. Please kindly decline, but ask them to contact Habitat to be included in the event next year!

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 also 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. Heather Mansell (434-257-0300) will be on call throughout the day.

What if I need to go to the bathroom?

Most of the Neighbors will be home while you are raking your yard and will have been instructed that Rakers may need to use their restrooms. Gas station pit stops are a viable alternative!

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 tag us @charlottesvillehabitat on instagram! Please direct all pictures to volunteer@cvillehabitat.org or text them to (434) 257-0300

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 500+ volunteers participating! Feel free to invite your friends to participate, the more the merrier!

What do I do when all assigned lawns have been completed?

Any borrowed rakes and Neighbor donations should be returned to the Habitat Warehouse (1801 Broadway Street, Charlottesville, VA 22902) by 2:00pm on the day of Rake-a-thon. **Please do not hold on to your equipment and donations past that time.**

Habitat will be having two lunch fundraisers on the day of Rake-a-Thon at Dino's Wood-Fired Pizza & Grill in the Dairy Market and Asado Wing & Taco Company on the Corner! We highly encourage all Rake-a-Thon volunteers to grab lunch at either location after finishing up their morning of raking. Please note that the Asado fundraiser will only be from 1-3 pm. Volunteers may show lunch flyers (distributed via email to team leaders) to restaurant staff upon arrival to participate in the fundraiser.

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