



Understanding Sweat Equity

The term “**sweaty equity**” refers to the physical effort that you, your family, and your friends contribute to the construction of your home and/or other Partner Family homes. Families who partner with Thomasville Habitat are required to put in a **minimum of 250 hours per applicant** of Sweat Equity (SE). This is a minimum requirement. In the event that a family has completed 250 hours of Sweat Equity (SE), per adult, prior to the completion of their house, the family shall continue to work on their house until such time as it is complete. The 250 hour requirement is a minimum. Habitat expects partner families to contribute as many hours to the completion of their house and/or other Habitat houses as possible.

SE is designed to meet three important goals:

1. **Sweat Equity builds partnership.** SE provides opportunities for meaningful interaction between partner families, affiliate representatives and Habitat volunteers. Habitat for Humanity is not only about building houses; our mission extends to uplifting families and building community. The best way for partner family and volunteers to get to know one another is to work alongside each other.
2. **Sweat Equity builds a sense of pride.** Habitat for Humanity is not a charity or a give-away program. We offer “a hand up rather than a handout”. Habitat for Humanity works with, rather than for, families in need to build their own homes and a brighter future.
3. **Sweat Equity builds skills and knowledge.** The sweat-equity program is designed to offer new homeowners a wide variety of opportunities to gain skills and knowledge that will help them successfully adapt to their new home. On the building site, partner family members will gain a real understanding of the construction of their home and maintenance issues that they will face after occupancy.

Guidelines for Fulfilling Sweat Equity Hours:

- Each family will be given a Sweat Equity tracking sheet. You are to keep accurate records of hours worked, including name of worker, date, number of hours, and work performed. It is important for partner families to keep these sheets up to date and on hand.

- Friends and family can help contribute to your requirement of 250 hours per adult. Each of them and yourself are required to sign an insurance waiver form before starting your sweat equity hours.

A minimum of 40 hours, per applicant, of Sweat Equity must be completed each month. Your hours will be recorded by the Family Support Director per your weekly conversations and your monthly meetings. If you fail to complete the minimum hourly requirement at the end of the first month, you will be issued a warning. If you fail to complete the minimum hourly requirement at the end of the second month, you will be put on probation. If by the third month your hours are not completed, the house will be given to a new family and you will be put at the bottom of the waiting list.

- . You may elect to reapply for the Habitat housing partnership program at such time you are able to comply with the sweat equity provisions and policies.
- If physical work cannot be performed by one of the adults in the family, then Habitat will come up with a way to help you earn your sweat equity hours. These physical constraints need to be submitted to Habitat with your signed copy of your Acceptance letter